



Western North America Candidate

Elena Halvajian

Engineer

McLaren Engineering

Primary Location: United States

Running for 1st term



ABOUT THE APPLICANT:

I have always been fascinated with the technical side of entertainment - I feel like I grew up backstage helping with technical production in our community theater or stage-managing children's theater productions. In college, I worked in the scene shop building sets and trained as a technical director pursuing dual degrees in Theatre and Engineering. It didn't matter specifically which position I was in; I loved the production process and wanted to be part of it.

Now that I am out of school, I work as an entertainment engineer at McLaren Engineering Group doing mechanical and structural analysis for many entertainment venues and productions, and I recently passed my PE.

After attending a few TEA events this year, I became interested in joining the Western Northern American TEA division board. McLaren is a consistent participant in TEA on the East Coast, but I am our first Los Angeles resident and thus excited to bring the company's experience and energy to the West Coast!

VISION FOR THE TEA

I have always been excited by training and education. The concept of building future engineers and programmers is very close to my heart. At Purdue University, I developed the curriculum for the first Theatre Engineering program, combining a mechanical and structural engineering curriculum with the practical applications of the theater industry. Once the program took off, I made it a goal to be a resource for students who followed the same path. I've seen more and more universities developing similar programs after I graduated, and I have aimed to exist as a resource for those engineers as well. There are so many intelligent people who are capable of doing the work that we do, but fostering the passion for our industry and giving the next generation the tools and support they need in order to push the limits of our current design constraints is one of the most exciting

things to me. As a new board member, I would be highly interested in expanding this support and networking opportunity for newly minted engineers and technicians as they are starting out in the professional world. I am also eager to participate in crucial discussions about the future of Themed Entertainment and how emerging technologies and processes can be successfully and effectively incorporated into our daily operations.

SKILLS AND CORE COMPETENCIES

I've been told I am exceptionally hard-working and will always do the most to support organizations I believe in. I am very patient and work to make sure all stakeholders are on the same page and every person and perspective has been considered. In my day-to-day life I work on 10-20 projects at a time, so I have quite a bit of experience managing competing priorities. Given how many directions TEA wants to grow, I know I can help support this division as they aim to expand their support and education across the West! Thank you for your consideration!