

My name is Sasha Kovacs, Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre and currently serving as Acting Chair from January to June 2026. My teaching and leadership center on collaborative creation, critical inquiry, and student mentorship across performance, scholarship, and community engagement. As an artist, I have worked as an actor, director, and dramaturg in professional and academic contexts, developing productions that integrate research and practice while foregrounding diverse voices and ethical process. I value structures that support artists and scholars equally, and I bring administrative experience coordinating departmental initiatives, facilitating curriculum planning, and supporting transparent decision making.

In research, I serve as co-director of the national partnership project *Gatherings: Archival and Oral Histories of Performance*, a multi stakeholder collaboration linking universities, cultural organizations, and artists across regions. This work has strengthened my commitment to equitable partnership models, careful stewardship of knowledge, and shared authorship. I regularly convene interdisciplinary teams, manage timelines and communication, and translate artistic priorities into institutional language that advances collective goals. These experiences prepare me to assess candidates for dean who can cultivate trust, respect disciplinary differences, and sustain ambitious creative research ecosystems.

My goal in serving on the Decanal Search Committee is to help ensure the long-term health of the Faculty of Fine Arts, a vital treasure within the postsecondary sector for arts training, research, and leadership. I will advocate for transparent consultation, meaningful engagement with students and staff, and criteria that recognize both artistic excellence and humane and collegial governance. I am particularly attentive to candidates' capacity for visioning departmental growth across the faculty and with external partners. I hope to contribute careful listening, principled judgment, and a collegial spirit to a process that will shape the faculty's future. I appreciate the opportunity to serve and will approach the work with rigor, optimism, and accountability for our community.