

Annie DiMartino

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR · ARTS ADVOCATE · EDUCATOR

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PROFILE

Arts executive and advocate with more than twenty years across nonprofit leadership, arts education, and professional performance. A proven record in strategic planning, program creation, fundraising, and statewide advocacy — building initiatives that expand access to the arts and securing the public and private support to sustain them.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director

2025–Present

Utah Cultural Alliance — Salt Lake City, UT

- Lead Utah’s statewide arts, culture, and humanities advocacy organization and its coalition of member and partner institutions.
- Direct legislative and appropriations strategy at the state level, advocating for sustained public investment in the cultural sector.
- Produce *Culture Connects*, the alliance’s annual statewide convening of cultural leaders (150+ attendees), featuring a 2026 keynote by NEA Chair Mary Anne Carter.
- Organize Advocacy Day at the Utah State Capitol, connecting artists and cultural organizations directly with legislators.

Deputy Director

2019–2024

Performing Arts Center Eastside (PACE) — Bellevue, WA

- Led PACE staff and board through a Real Time Strategic Planning process — the company’s first strategic plan in its 18-year history — defining a seven-stage initiative with logic models tied to each focus area, and authored the SWOT survey report that fed it.
- Developed a Rapid Planning Project driving a Gantt chart and a 15-year financial proforma toward groundbreaking and stabilized operations.
- Conceptualized and launched *Arts Without Barriers*, a public-performance program eliminating access barriers for Eastside residents — 200,000+ audience members and 150+ artists employed since April 2021.
- Won the City of Bellevue’s *Bellwether Arts & Tech Festival* contract, a multi-year producing engagement (2023–2024).
- Conceptualized and launched the Brain Break, TECHtober, and Wisdom Table Series programs.
- Authored PACE’s first Education Vision and founded the Regional Arts Education Directors Forum.
- Served as program manager for the Eastside Culture Coalition and authored the Eastside arts COVID-impact report (December 2020).
- Led all marketing and communications: social media, the monthly *Onward!* publication, a quarterly newsletter, and program collateral.

Director of Education

2015–2019

Book-It Repertory Theatre — Seattle, WA

- Set the education program vision with the Artistic Directors and General Manager; secured grants to expand and tour programming.
- Curated the arts-and-education touring season, serving 55,000+ students across Washington State annually; adapted and directed select titles and mentored guest creative teams.
- Created and managed all education budgets (tuition, salaries, facilities, supplies), meeting or exceeding net-income targets.
- Developed a Literacy Project integrating theatre with classroom reading across the Bellevue, Renton, and Seattle school districts (1,000+ students).
- Adapted five touring productions, including *Ada's Violin* and *The Odyssey* (both also directed), *A Splash of Red*, *Last Stop on Market Street*, and *Wordy Birdy*.

Director of Education

2004–2014

Long Wharf Theatre — New Haven, CT

- Directed all educational programming, including the Student Matinee Series (video study guides, teacher packets, talkbacks) and the adult Studio School.
- Conceptualized and led the Shake-it-Up Shakespeare Summer Program for five seasons — adapting, directing, and choreographing the productions.
- Created the NEA-funded Elder Play Project with Tower One/Tower East, later featured in a TCG *Audience Revolution* article.
- Built the Educators' Lab into a Connecticut Department of Education–recognized professional-development provider.
- Conceptualized and produced the National Corporate Theatre Fund PSA on theatre education — a national contest winner still in circulation.

SELECTED PERFORMANCE

- *Grasmere* — originated the role of Dorothy Wordsworth; LA Weekly and OC Theatre Award nominations; reprised at the Egyptian Theatre (Los Angeles), the Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), and Off-Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theatre (New York).
- ARTFARM, acting company member — *King Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *As You Like It*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Shakespeare's Argument*.
- *Anton in Show Business* (Theatre Four).
- Voice — Destra in the animated film *Prodigal Son* (Gener8tion Entertainment); radio advertising; readings for Yale's Center for Dyslexia & Creativity.

TEACHING & GUEST ARTISTRY

- Child acting coach with Athol Fugard on the world premieres of *Coming Home* and *Shadow of a Hummingbird*.
- Workshops and master classes: Yale, Wesleyan University, Southern Connecticut State University, Housatonic Community College, the University of Bridgeport, New Haven's Educational Center for the Arts, and Amistad Academy.

EDUCATION

- M.F.A., Performance (acting emphasis) — California State University, Fullerton
- B.A., Performance — Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA

HONORS, AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

- WFEA Grand Summit, Community Engagement, and Poster & Collateral Design awards — *Arts Without Barriers* (2021)
- PSA Award for Theatre Education — National Corporate Theatre Fund (2013)
- Greater New Haven Rising Star — *Business New Haven* (2013)
- Best Partner Award, Irene Ryan Acting Awards — *The Shape of Things*, KCACTF (2003)
- LA Weekly Best Featured Actress nomination — *Grasmere* (2003)
- KCACTF Irene Ryan acting nominations — *Grasmere* (2003), *Arcadia* (2002), *Beauty and the Beast* (2000), *The Odyssey* (1999)
- Thespian of the Year and Playwrights Award — Central Washington University (2000)