

Martha Wade Steketee

Website: urbanexcavations.com

EMPLOYMENT + EXPERIENCE

2004-current. INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT, Chicago, IL, Philadelphia, PA, New York, NY.

Theater and social science projects in Washington DC, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York City and nationwide.

Theater

- **2011-current. Editorial + Research Consulting.** Additional detail available upon request.
 - **2019-current.** ATCA webmaster during conceptual and physical revisions to 2010 site; current editor crafting articles tracking news, events, and member-only resources. <https://americantheatrecritics.org/>
 - **2019. Researcher.** "Simply Halston" six-episode Netflix series, Sharr White, Executive Producer. Writers room research on culture, personalities, social and professional events in life of designer Halston.
 - **2015. Video Interviewer.** Primary Stages Off Broadway Oral History Project celebrating "the visionaries who created New York's vibrant Off- and Off-Off-Broadway Theatre." <http://www.primarystagesoffcenter.org/>
 - **2012-2015. Editor and Contributor.** *Chance* theatrical design magazine. Editor-in-chief for five issues; author of monographs on Ben Edwards, Boris Aronson, and Ming Cho Lee, and essays on the Lake Lucille Chekhov Project and Origin Architect's 77 Theatre in Beijing. <http://chance-magazine.com/>
 - **2011-2012. Consultant Researcher.** Primary Stages Theatre Company. Horton Foote programming, July-October 2012. Researched materials to augment Horton and Daisy Foote stage productions in Fall 2012.
- **2006-current. Arts Publications (features, critical essays, interviews).** Recent outlets: *HowRound*, *TDF Stages*, *The Clyde Fitch Report*, *Theater Pizzazz*, *Broad Street Review*, *Exeunt*, *Brooklyn Rail*. All available at: urbanexcavations.com.
- **2006-current. Dramaturgical Consultant.** Script reading and feedback to individual client playwrights on works in progress. *Detail available upon request.*
- **2004-current. Script Reader and Judge.** ATCA New Play Committee (2015-current), O'Neill National Playwrights Conference Artistic Council (2014-current). **Past:** Goodman Theatre (2007-2009), Harvardwood Playwriting Competition (2010-2019), Northlight Theatre (2007-2009), PlayPenn (2010-2020), Playscripts, Inc. (2004-2005), Public Theater Emerging Writers Group (2010-2017), Steppenwolf Theatre Company (2006), Sundance Theatre Lab (2011-2013), Young Playwrights, Inc. (2010-2013).
- **2011-2012. Teaching Artist.** Young Playwrights Urban Retreat (dramaturgy: 2011-2012), Primary Stages Primary Voices (criticism: 2011) <http://psprimaryvoices.wordpress.com/>.
- **2007-2013. Production Dramaturg and Resident Dramaturg.** Philadelphia Dramatists Center (2009-2010: "Critics in Conversation" series, "Dramaturg's Blog" and script consultation); Rivendell Theatre Ensemble (2008-2009: *These Shining Lives*, *The Walls*); Writers Theatre (2007: *Othello*, *The Puppetmaster of Lodz*, *The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights*); Young Playwrights Inc. (2012-2013: National Conference).
- **2007-2009. Founding Project Mentor.** *Cindy Bandle Young Critics*. Goodman + AWJ project (2007-2017) with local critics, arts writers, AWJ members, and 10th-12th grade Chicago area girls to develop theater criticism skills throughout the Goodman Theatre season. As of 2017, Goodman assumed sole leadership. <https://www.goodmantheatre.org/engage-learn/for-youth/cindy-bandle-cultural-critics/>

Social Research

- **2023-current, Network Partner** (Women Count), RISE theater industry consortium, working together to diversity the theater industry providing resources and opportunities. <https://www.risetheatre.org/network-partners>
- **2019-current, Founding Member + Co-facilitator.** *Counting Together* coalition of theater studies comprised of national and regional data projects. <https://countingtogether.org/about>
- **2013-current, Author.** *Women Count* report series on hiring woman and nonbinary playwrights, directors, designers, and others for Off-Broadway productions. <https://urbanexcavations.com/women-count-report-series/>
- **2015. Evaluation Consultant.** Manhattan Theatre Club, New York, NY. Evaluation plan developed with John Jay College Research and Evaluation Center to assess Stargate Theatre Company for justice-involved youth.
- **2013. Project Consultant.** Children's Aid Society, New York, NY. Disconnected Youth Services, Efforts to Outcomes Project. Data management and reporting.
- **2007-2008. Project Consultant.** Justice Management Institute and Arizona Criminal Justice Association privacy policy development, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Department of Homeland Security.
- **2006-2008. Evaluation Consultant.** National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Office on Violence Against Women, ABA Commission on Domestic Violence bench card on best practice in custody and visitation.
- **2005-2006. Evaluation Consultant.** Music Theater Workshop, Chicago, IL. Evaluation plan for "Fabulous Females" creative writing and theater program at the Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville, IL.
- **2005-2006. Research Consultant.** National Center for State Courts. "Providing Technical Assistance Regarding Domestic Violence and Child Custody" for OVAW grantees, subcontract from University of Southern Maine Muskie School for Public Policy; "Evaluation of a Multi-Site Demonstration of Collaborations to Address Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment;" and other projects.

1999-2005. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, National Center for State Courts, Arlington, VA. Selected projects:

"Public Access Initiative" on access to court case records (2000-2005); "Evaluation of a Multi-Site Demonstration of Collaborations to Address Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment (2000-2005); and ABA / NCJFCJ / NCSC project on workload outcome measurement for dependency courts (2001-2004).

1997-1999. RESEARCH ANALYST, Child Trends, Washington, DC. Analysis and reporting of child and family welfare indicators and technical assistance to the Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT project state grantees.

1991-1997. PROJECT ASSOCIATE, University of Pittsburgh Office of Child Development Policy and Evaluation Project, Pittsburgh, PA. Project Director, Child and Family Welfare Indicators Project; Research Associate, Pennsylvania KIDS COUNT Partnership; Project Associate, Pittsburgh Starting Points Initiative.

PUBLICATIONS + RESEARCH REPORTS + MONOGRAPHS + PRESENTATIONS

- **1990-current. Reports, Monographs, Articles, Books.** Research and writing as critic, production dramaturg, articles on child welfare, juvenile justice, indicators of child well-being, specialized court case processing strategies, court records, privacy and public access policies. *Detail available upon request.*
- **1993-current. Presentations.** Presentations and guest lectures on dramaturgy, women in the theater, forging theatrical partnerships, and social science reports, monographs, articles, books. *Detail available upon request.*

OTHER THEATER AND ARTS EXPERIENCE [INCLUDING BOARDS + COMMITTEES]

- **2015-current. Member of Board, Foundation of the American Theatre Critics Association.** Nonprofit providing financial and other support for scholarships, institutes, awards, and other programs for critics and writers about theater. **President of Board: 2025-current.** <https://americantheatrecritics.org/foundation-atca/>
- **2012-2014, 2017-current. Nominating Committee, Drama Desk Awards.** Media professionals honoring Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Off-Off Broadway since 1949. **Chair: 2018-current.** <http://www.dramadesk.org/>
- **2017-current. Henry Hewes Design Awards Committee,** <http://hewesawards.org/committee.shtml>
- **2021-2022. Leadership team, LMDA's Dramaturging the Phoenix project** developed in early 2020 to envision dramaturgy of the future through regular zoom seminars and essays capturing reactions to this era. <https://lmda.org/dramaturging-phoenix>
- **2020-2022. Steering Committee, American Theatre Archive Project,** <https://www.americantheatrearchiveproject.org/about/steering-committee/>
- **2016-2018. VP for Advocacy, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.** Building interorganizational relationships and promoting dramaturgy. <http://www.lmda.org/boardandexecutive>
- **2015-2021. Executive Committee, American Theatre Critics Association**, the only national association of professional theater critics. **Chair: 2019-2021.** <http://americantheatrecritics.org/leadership-and-committees/>
- **2014-2016. Regional Representative, Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas – Metro NYC.** LMDA rep for NYC, one of the largest membership regions. <http://www.lmda.org/region/metro-new-york-city>
- **2014. Fellow, National Critics Institute, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center.** Two-week "boot camp" founded in 1968 as an intensive writing program for working critics. <https://www.theoneill.org/nci> .
- **2012-2013. Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the America Grants and Awards Committee.** Review and select recipients for LMDA award programs. <http://www.lmda.org/grants>
- **2010-2012. Co-Chair, New York City Project Team, American Theatre Archive Project.** American Society for Theatre Research and LMDA. <http://www.americantheatrearchiveproject.org/>
- **2008-2009. Committee Member, Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee.** Annual awards founded in 1969 to honor excellence in Chicago-area theater productions. www.jeffawards.org/

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- **American Theatre Critics/Journalists Association**, 2012-current. <http://americantheatrecritics.org/>
- **Association of Women Journalists Chicago**, 2006-2010. <http://www.awj-chicago.org/cpages/home>
- **Drama Desk** (voting member), 2012-2014, 2016-current. <http://www.dramadesk.org/>
- **Global Justice Privacy and Information Quality Working Group**, 2002-2012. <https://it.ojp.gov/global/working-groups/gpiqwg>
- **Harvardwood, NYC Chapter** (Harvard alumni arts organization), 2009-current. <http://www.harvardwood.org/>
- **Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas**, 2004-current. <http://www.lmda.org/>
- **Philadelphia Dramatists Center**, 2009-2010.
- **Society of Professional Journalists**, 2019-current. <https://www.spj.org/>
- **Theatre Communications Group** (individual member), 2005-current. <https://www.tcg.org>

EDUCATION

1985-90 *fellowships, internships, doctoral course work*, Social Work and Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

1985 **Master of Social Work (M.S.W.)**, Child Welfare Policy, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

1981 **Bachelor of Arts (A.B.)**, *cum laude*, English and American Literature and Language, Harvard College, Cambridge, MA