

BACKSTAGE 101 LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

FALL SESSIONS SCHEDULED AS OF 9/22/2025:

DATE/TIME/LENGTH	SESSION TITLE	SESSION LEADS
Saturday, October 11 @ 10 AM Wednesday, October 15 @ 6 PM 2 hours	Backstage 101 Orientation – participants will get an introduction to each of the 5 broad areas of backstage/ technical theatre that the learning collaborative will cover – lighting, scenery, costumes, sound, and stage management – and a lens/framework through which to imagine how to use the information they will learn in Backstage 101 in the theaters in which they do or may work in the future	<i>Carly Shank – see below</i> <i>David Hecht – see below</i> Justine Moser is a former high school English teacher and an NYU graduate with a Master's in Educational Theatre
Thursday, October 23 @ 6 PM 60-90 minutes	Set Design: Drawing a Ground Plan with Sarah Brewer – participants will learn the process and the value of a set designer drawing a ground plan that can be used by a director throughout rehearsals and as the basis for the construction of the set	Sarah Brewer has an Master's in Technical Theatre from Western Illinois University, and previously served as design/tech faculty at Rocky Mountain College
Saturday, October 25 @ 10 AM 60-90 minutes	Lighting: Light Board Basics with David Hecht – participants will learn the basics of how a light board functions, how to time cues and give percentage power to instruments connected to the board to achieve the desired look	David Hecht is Production Manager for UIS PAC; he has a Bachelor's in Theatre from UIS and has worked at UIS PAC for 8 years
Monday, October 27 @ 6 PM 60-90 minutes	Sound: Sound Board Basics and Mixing with David Hecht and TBD – participants will learn the basics of how operate a sound board	
Saturday, November 1 @ 10 AM 60-90 minutes	Set Construction: Building and Stretching a Soft Flat with Sarah Brewer – participants will learn how to construct a soft flat with hand power tools, 1x4 boards, muslin and glue that can be stretched and painted multiple times for use in many productions	

Sunday, November 9 @ 1 PM 60-90 minutes	Costumes: Designing a Contemporary Production with Carly Shank – participants will learn the process by which to use clues from the script and contemporary images from online to plan the costume design for a production	Carly Shank is Artistic Programs Director at UIS PAC; she holds a Bachelor's in Theatre from Northwestern
Monday, November 17 @ 6 PM 60-90 minutes	Sound: Microphone Basics with David Hecht and TBD – participants will begin to learn the nuances of adding microphone types to the use of a sound board	
Tuesday, November 18 @ 6 PM 60-90minutes	Lighting: Light Fixtures, Accessories and Focusing with Joe Taylor – participants will learn all about the oldest to the newest lighting fixtures and accessories, how to focus them, and their best uses within the design of lighting for a production	Joe Taylor is Stage Foreman at UIS PAC, having worked here since the venue's first production in 1981!
Thursday, December 4 @ 6 PM	Stage Management: From Design to Production to Performance with Audrey Murphy – participants will learn about the robust role of the stage manager and how this role can be utilized to manage elements of a theatrical event from beginning to end	Audrey Murphy has a bachelor's in stage management from Millikin University