

Alan Harrison

Nonprofit Performing Arts Consultant | Turnaround Expert

alan@alanharrison.org



25 people have recommended Alan

"I had the pleasure of working for Alan Harrison in my role as General Manager at Alabama Shakespeare Festival where Alan served as Executive Director of the organization. Alan proved to be a visionary leader, working with imagination, insight, and boldness. He presented challenges that frequently called forth the best in people and brought them together with a sense of purpose. Alan was not only fiscally responsible helping the organization meet its challenging budgetary goals but also a social innovator and change agent for our group. It is not often you find a leader with a passion for bringing art to the public in meaningful ways who also masters the business needs of a non-profit company in a tough economic environment. Alan excels in both these and many other important aspects of leading a not-for-profit arts organization. I highly recommend Alan and would welcome the opportunity to work for him again in the future."

— **Mark Andrew Peoples**, *General Manager & Adjunct Faculty, Alabama Shakespeare Festival & The University of Alabama System*, reported to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan has a rare combination of talents -- he understands the arts as well as he understands the business of arts organizations. He is an expert non-profit manager and a natural marketer."

— **Dianne Loeb**, *Director Org Development, Alaska Distributors*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan is a visionary who believes that theatre changes lives for the better, and who creates teams who make sure that it does. He is a delight to work with, and learn from."

— **Russell Taylor**, *President, National Arts Strategies*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"I have worked with Alan in his capacity as a non-profit leader in the Seattle area. Alan is clear and passionate in his work in the arts. He was fierce, in the best sense of the word, in promoting the mission of ArtsWest. He has an uncommon clarity of purpose and focus. I admire his decisiveness and ability to identify the priorities needed to achieve a goal – and make it happen! I do not believe that any detail eludes Alan. His decisions are meticulously thought out and his word is trustworthy. I enjoy his sense of humor and view of the world and welcome every opportunity to learn from his experience."

— **Karen Lane**, *Executive Director, Theatre Puget Sound*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"The limitations Linked In imposes are hard to work within since the fact is we did not hire Alan...we own the local newspaper. But as a review of Alan's work with ArtsWest we can say that beyond question he's a remarkable man. His intelligence, wit, and professional persona reflect what is going on in and around him. In his tenure with ArtsWest it became an organization transformed from a neighborhood playhouse to a regional force in theater. He had help of course, but he recruited that help. It was his vision that made it grow and earn the respect of everyone in the community and beyond. He would very likely be good at anything he tried since he has an intelligence and demeanor that make you want to work with him. Patrick Robinson West Seattle Herald Robinson Newspapers"

— **Patrick Robinson**, was Alan's client

"Steady hand at the wheel. Caring, interested and invested leader. Trustworthy and edlessly positive. His enthusiasm and great personality are contagious! Would certainly be on his team again!"

— **Jerry Genochio**, *Production Manager, Alabama Shakespeare Festival*, worked directly with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan is one of the most trustworthy, reliable managers I've run across. If I were in a capacity to hire him I would for any position. His ability to raise funds, work with artist, work with a Board of Directors and help create a sustainable environment in the workplace are admirable and worthy of compliment. Alan worked well within the structure and mission of Arts West in his years there. He supported Board and Staff while encouraging the local community to participate in growing and sustaining the theater. Alan is an asset to any workplace."

— **Caitlin Frances**, *Managing Director, SecondStory Repertory*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"I appreciate Alan's unique sense of humor and his creativity, he brings a lot of color to a project. He's terrific! In addition to being a pleasure to work with, he's meticulous without being overbearing. Has a naturally, ever-present sense of humor. Above all he knows the theatre business--creative to marketing and management to a tee. It's my pleasure to recommend him!"

— **Cheryl Kernander**, *Director of Development, College of Engineering, The University of Akron*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"I had the good fortune to perform in multiple shows at ArtsWest during Alan's tenure. He always introduced himself to the new cast, kept an open door policy, and made us feel more than welcome; he made the actors feel as though we were part of the larger ArtsWest artistic vision. The respect he has for his actors is outstanding. I highly commend Alan's vision and leadership."

— **Kate Witt**, *Actor/Director, ArtsWest*, worked indirectly for Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan was very open in his approach to my theatrical project in Seattle, and became a most helpful source in getting me in touch with the theatrical scene and my project off the ground. He was and is invaluable in his intelligence, expertise and empathy for creative endeavors, a true artist's support and helpmate. In whichever

function I shall find him, I know I will have a smart, insightful, imaginative ally."

— **Katrin Hilbe**, *Producer, director, artistic director, ManyTracks*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan impressed me with his life long dedication to the theater. We did not have the opportunity to work together for very long, but I enjoyed our collaboration and interactions. He was articulate, respectful and, dare I say, passionate about the effect theater can have on audiences and practitioners alike. I believe he contributed much to the vision and mission that will continue to further the excellence of ArtsWest."

— **Susanna Burney**, *Marketing Director, ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery*, reported to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan promoted ArtsWest vision of a production company sharing compelling art both on stage and in it's gallery. He had great success in securing large government and foundation gifts. He created new marketing ideas such as \$10 tickets for those under 25 that increased attendance and planted lifelong theater appreciation for a younger crowd. He promoted ArtsWest as a community oriented theater with the guts to take risks for fantastic theater."

— **Nancy Woodland**, *Executive Director, WestSide Baby*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Although it was some time ago now, I truly enjoyed working with Alan at Pittsburgh Public Theatre. He was a gracious and enthusiastic colleague, generous with his time and always open-minded. He is a fun guy to be around, and a smart manager."

— **Janet Mullet**, *Asst to Artistic & Managing Directors, Pittsburgh Public Theater*, worked indirectly for Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan is an exceptional leader and mentor. His unwavering focus on the mission of ArtsWest has resulted in outstanding success during difficult economic times. You won't find anyone more intelligent, articulate, and experienced in nonprofit theater management."

— **Sandy Fry**, *Administrative Director, ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery*, reported to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan is devoted to the theatre and has an outstanding resume in his field. He is very creative and a mentor to his associates."

— **Lynn Manley**, *Chair - Seattle Repertory Theatre Foundation, Seattle Repertory Theatre*, worked directly with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"So, if you're actually reading this you already know what an asset Alan can bring to your company. His attention to details and tenacity sets him apart from the rest. You've undoubtedly interviewed him, so you know that his social skills illustrate his warm and friendly nature. He is incredibly organized and actually can see the "forest through the trees". He has an uncanny way of understanding the big picture and he problem

solves utilizing the most minute details to bring about the perfect result."

— **Jeffrey Osser**, *Partner, Attorney at Law, Adelson, Testan & Brundo*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"I have had the wonderful fortune of working for Alan Harrison. He has been a supportive mentor; providing guidance, while fostering autonomy for all employees. He encourages open communication in the workplace and promotes a collaborative environment. His leadership is an asset to this organization."

— **KayLee Jaech**, *Development Director, ArtsWest*, reported to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan is a proven innovative leader who has transformed the local arts community through his work as Executive Director at ArtsWest. He has the ability to be creative while developing a strong business model with diverse funding. His passion for the arts and the community has helped strengthen not only ArtsWest but West Seattle and beyond as a whole."

— **Amy Lee Derenthal**, *Foundation Director, Kenney Retirement Community*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"It's easy to recommend Alan because he is simply a straight forward honest and great businessman with the heart and passion of an artist."

— **Paul Heppner**, *President, Encore Media Group*, was a consultant or contractor to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"I first met Alan when he was at Western Stage in Salinas and then facilitated a Board Retreat when he was at Alabama Shakespeare. He's a very talented and bright manager with great leadership skills. I was very pleased to hear that he's back working in theatre."

— **Jerry Yoshitomi**, *Chief Knowledge Officer, MeaningMatters, LLC*, was a consultant or contractor to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan Harrison is a joy to work for. He respectfully allows those in his charge to lead their departments and, when necessary, provides insight which works towards a healthy team and organization. I am continually impressed with his awareness of and skill in both art and not for profit businesses."

— **Nichole DeMent**, *Gallery Director, ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery*, reported to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"I have known Alan for many years and find him to be an exceptional person with integrity and drive. He is addresses challenges with intelligence and wit. Fantastic!"

— **Corey Yugler**, *Development Officer, The Education Fund*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan is a dynamic leader who empowers his staff, and allows them to operate with independent thought."

During my service under Alan I was able to think outside the box, and institute some very positive changes for Alabama Shakespeare Festival, which included the acquisition of an integrated ticketing and fund-raising system, and an IP telephony infrastructure that allowed the theater's revenue streams to operate more efficiently."

— **John Webber**, *Director of Information Technology, Alabama Shakespeare Festival*, reported to Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan brings a wealth of experience and talent to the position of Executive Director of Arts West. He inspires the staff and Board of Trustees with his leadership, and positive energy. Alan has been instrumental in the progressive direction that the theater has successfully taken and he works diligently to ensure that the organizations' mission is being met at every turn. I thoroughly enjoy working with Alan and enthusiastically endorse him."

— **Dawn Leverett**, *Real Estate Professional, Windermere Real Estate*, was with another company when working with Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

"Alan was a great mentor while I was at ASF. I learned a great deal during that time and he has continued to support me throughout my career. He has a wealth of information about the nonprofit world and has been a great resource for advice."

— **Jacque Valentine**, *Sales Manager, Alabama Shakespeare Festival*, worked indirectly for Alan at ArtsWest Playhouse & Gallery

[Contact Alan on LinkedIn](#)