



About the Theatre and Health Bridge Project

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance is continuing its journey and commitment of using the power of the arts to improve the health benefits of individuals. For more than 30 years, the Alliance's Cultural Access Network has offered guidance, education and support to the state's theatre and arts community in the development of programs and services to deepen the engagement of audiences and artists with disabilities and older adults. In addition, the Alliance's Healing Voices Program, provides a creative outlet for caregivers to share stories of their caregiving experience, which are woven into theatrical pieces before an invited audience.

To further the New Jersey Theatre Alliance's commitment to using theatre as a tool to impact healthcare, the Alliance is partnering with the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey on The Theatre and Health Bridge Project.

Rather than designing and implementing a new theatre and health program in a vacuum, The Theatre and Health Bridge Project will provide an opportunity for theatre and healthcare professionals to have facilitated discussions on the deep and enduring connections between theatre arts and health. These discussions will surface overlapping interests, areas of challenge, and potential opportunities for theatres to support the healthcare sector. Some possible topics of discussion include: The role of theatre in developing and maintaining health in the healthcare and community settings, the role of theatrical improvisation to help communication between doctor and patient, and in-house theatre programs designed to promote health, and wellness and health communication.

New Jersey Theatre Alliance has contracted Dr. Maria Lupo, an experienced medical humanities scholar and practitioner, to facilitate a series of 5 focus-group style conversations with healthcare workers and theatre artists - 1 conversation at 5 different healthcare organizations throughout New Jersey in Spring 2024.

After the conversations, Dr. Lupo will create a summary report of the high-level themes and recommendations that emerge. The Theatre Alliance will use this information to create collaborative initiatives that would support the healthcare professional, uplift patients through the engagement of theatre arts, and engage a broad range of multidisciplinary stakeholders. **There is no cost for a healthcare organization to participate in the discussions. We are very grateful for the time, expertise, and insight of the healthcare professionals who will share their thoughts in this forum.**