THE BURLINGTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

experiences that inspire

Sara Palmieri is an award-winning senior arts professional whose wealth of experience and vision will help usher in the next exciting chapter of The Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Along with her commitment to community building through the arts, Sara brings with her more than 20 years of arts management experience that she will leverage in her new role with the BPAC.

A native of St. Catharines, Sara has spent more than two decades working in performing arts centre environments and has proven expertise in marketing, communications, programming, financial management, outreach, business planning and community development. While still enrolled in her post-secondary studies, Sara started her career in the Box Office at Brock University's Centre for the Arts where she quickly advanced into roles in sales, marketing, programming and community outreach. Sara's talents in strategic development earned her the privilege of working with the City of St. Catharines and Brock University leadership on the feasibility study to build a new performing arts centre and arts campus in downtown St. Catharines.

In 2015, Sara was named the inaugural Director of Programming and Marketing at the newly established FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre (FOPAC) in downtown St. Catharines where she has led much of the PAC's success in its first ten seasons. The FOPAC is a 95,000 square foot, 4-venue facility that serves Niagara with more than 750 performances and events each year. Under Sara's leadership, the FOPAC established a successful presentation series, a dynamic education program and a year-round indie film house program in addition to developing a number of celebrated partnerships, festivals and community programs for the Centre.

Sara has earned a reputation as a highly respected member of the local arts and national presenting communities. Throughout her career so far, she has made positive impacts to the arts ecology as a sought-after board and advisory committee member, panelist, and facilitator. Sara currently serves as Chair of the Ontario Presents Board of Directors, the province-wide network for performing arts touring and presenting organizations, and has been a part of numerous grassroots and nationally scoped initiatives that aim to improve opportunities for artists.