BY JESSICA KAMINSKAS

STEPPING FORWARD TOGETHER: BUILDING THE FUTURE THROUGH THE IFEA FOUNDATION

As we continue to *Step Forward together*, I'd like to build on the momentum of my recent letter and highlight ways to support the Foundation.

The Foundation exists to expand access and opportunity within our industry, supporting students and emerging professionals through scholarships, education, and meaningful connections. None of this work happens without the engagement and generosity of this incredible community. There are several ways you can *Step Forward* and make an impact right now.

Scholarship Recipients Announced Next Month

Many talented, passionate individuals have benefited from the support of the IFEA Foundation Legacy Scholarships, and with the deadline for this year's applications having just ended, we look forward to announcing our 2026 recipients soon. We hope you'll help welcome them to their first IFEA Convention this October! We're also grateful to Al Durtka, long-time IFEA member and a past Chair of the IFEA Foundation, for his generosity in providing a new scholarship opportunity this year.

Foundation Auction – Call for Items

Our annual Foundation Auction is a cornerstone of our fundraising efforts, and we are currently seeking item contributions. Unique experiences, exclusive access opportunities, creative packages, or signature items from your organization all help generate excitement and critical funding. If you'd like to donate but need ideas, you can purchase an item directly from our Amazon Wish List. Your participation directly fuels programs that support our future leaders.

Additional Ways to Give Back

Beyond the auction, there are many ways to support the Foundation's mission. Whether through direct contributions, internal fundraising efforts within your organization, or simply helping amplify our message, every action strengthens our ability to invest in the next generation.

The impact of the Foundation is real and lasting. Each scholarship awarded represents not just financial support, but an entry point into an industry built on passion, creativity, and connection. Together, we are ensuring those doors remain open as we Step Forward.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the future of festivals and events. I look forward to seeing the incredible ways this community continues to come together and make a difference!

Jessica Kaminskas
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