

**May 17th, 2022**  
**Full NCECA Board**  
**ZOOM**

**In attendance:** NCECA Board members Rhonda Willers (President), Chanda Zea, Cal Cullen, Alex Hibbitt, Simon Levin, Ife Williams, Edith Garcia, Michelle Castro, Jeff Vick, Jen Gordon, MaPó Kinnord, PJ Anderson, Dina Perlasca, Pam Kravetz, Special appointees Shoji Satake and Adam Chau, NCECA Staff: Executive Director Josh Green

**Absent:** Heidi McKenzie, Peter Pinnell, Richard Rogers, Brett Binford.

5.07 pm EDT meeting called to order by NCECA President Rhonda Willers.  
A quorum is present.

**Announcements**

1. Board report reminder - Board reports from March 1st to May 24th due May 24th to Alex by email. Committee reports due June 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Fall virtual programming: Cultivating Community September 25th - October 1st. (save the date for the members meeting Sunday September 25th 3.00pm ET.)
3. Send conference reimbursements to Dori.
4. April 5 Board meeting minutes will be approved by SurveyMonkey.

**Business**

**1. Motions - On Site Conference Liaison 2024 (Jeff, Ife)**

The board unanimously passed the **Motion: To approve Angelique Scott as a special appointee: OSCL Mentee 2022-2023.** Moved by Jeff, seconded by Ife.

Jeff introduced the motion and Angelique, giving a short overview of his connection with her, and her background in ceramics. He is very supportive and excited to have her join the team. Ife gave an overview of their recent virtual meeting with Angelique, Rhonda, Josh and Jeff. When she shared ideas about how to create more access. She will be a great co-liaison.

The board unanimously passed the **motion: To approve Angelique Scott as the one-year OSCL for 2024 conference.** (Moved by Jeff, seconded by Jen.)

## **2. Staffing Update (Josh)**

*The board moved into executive session. Moved by Chanda, seconded by Simon*

Josh shared some updates regarding the communications manager position and staff benefits with the board.

*The board left executive session. Moved by Chanda, seconded by Simon.*

## **3. Board Updates for June Board Meeting (Rhonda)**

Rhonda led the board through some topics planned for the June board meeting- including follow-up on the communications director role in light of the communications staff hire, and some other governance issues such as executive committee make up. The budget is a major focus of the board meeting and will need careful consideration after the losses of the last two years. Rhonda told the board that there will be some decisions to be made to ensure the future financial health of NCECA. The hybrid conference expanded accessibility but was hugely expensive. Josh added that the global financial climate we are all experiencing currently, with 8-12% inflation rates and significant downturn in the financial markets make careful budgeting even more important. Even in the years with high conference attendance, the financial portfolios supported NCECA's mission. This year we had an extra \$85,000 in tech costs from CMI, \$30,000 extra in WIFI bandwidth to stream out of the conference center, and losses in the financial portfolio. Josh stated that as much as NCECA is in a better position than other nonprofits, our position is not as good as he had hoped, and reiterated Rhonda's statement that we must make difficult decisions this year. He told the board that this is not only about cutting things that are unnecessary, but also reforming operations to be more sustainable, and looking at new ways to generate revenues at the conference and year-round. As covid trends change, we probably still will not get back to our historic growth of attendees. The physical journal is a large cost, and we need to be open to a green conference registration and membership where attendees can receive it as a pdf or print on demand. Also, we should consider different models of access to archive and conference content, like subscriptions and how we might leverage collaborative partnerships.

The Budget will be available before the board meeting, please look at it carefully before the meeting.

## **4. Overview of June Board meeting - conference programming (Rhonda, Chanda)**

Allyson has been working with Chanda to update the review and application processes. Chanda gave an overview of the programming review process and asked the board to look over the rubrics and other important timeline information as soon as possible before the board meeting, so that they can complete the programming review before the meeting. This information will be sent out at least 10 days before the meeting. Chanda asked the board to send her any comments or suggestions about the process and emphasized that we will review the process yearly to make it stronger and more equitable. She also asked the board to watch the online bias training video a couple of days before going through the process to help identify unacknowledged biases. The online submission form for Headliner suggestions is open and all should feel free to submit names. Online sessions have been available for those wanting to submit a programming proposal.

Chanda continued that the Headliner suggestion form allows us to gather a larger pool of potential headliners for the coming years. There are already some potential Cincinnati folks identified. The board discussed the review process and the relationship of the rubric across categories and in ranking the proposals. Josh stated that the rubrics function as aide and a guideline not a scoring system. He added that the board also enters into a collective process that is more subjective- such as weeding out a number of proposals on the same topic, assessing the diverse representation of presenters etc. The process allows for full board discussion around individual proposals if needed. Rhonda stated that we must have faith in the process and be firm in our core values and thanked the board for their insights and feedback.

**June Board meeting evening event schedule (Pam)**

Pam shared the planning for the evenings of the June board meeting – She stated that the whole city of Cincinnati is excited, and these events will give the board a good feel of the diversity and different areas of the city. The board will experience a large number of different Cincinnati highlights, restaurants, bars and cultural events, including a Thursday evening event at Queen City Clay to build authentic relationships with members of different communities- everyone is invited to come to make ceramics and take part! Pam and Cal are reaching out to non-ceramics folks and have partnered with several sponsors onsite. There will also be a large outdoor event in Imagination Alley where clay studios from the region are going to set up wheels and tables and have demos and workshops – opening ceramics up to the whole Cincinnati community, with music, food, and councilman Reggie Harris in attendance. Pam reiterated that the Cincinnati onsite team wants to build reciprocal partnerships, rather than one-sided relationships. Pam also let the board know that they have had 900 pedestals donated.

Meeting adjourned at 6.30pm EDT by NCECA President Rhonda Willers.