

March 21, 2022

NCECA Business Meeting

NCECA Conference, SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, Sacramento

In Attendance: NCECA Board members; Pete Pinnell, Merrie Wright, MaPó Kinnord, Nancy Servis, Rhonda Willers, Michelle Castro, Heidi McKenzie, Reena Kayshap, Simon Levin, Ife Williams, Ray Gonzales, NCECA staff, Executive Director Josh Green, Dori Nielsen, NCECA Members and Conference Attendees.

Meeting called to order at 10.00 AM Pacific by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.

Pete welcomed the attendees and thanked them for participating in NCECA's first in person conference for the last two years with an in-person registration of 3,170. He announced that the cup sale raised \$24,193 for the fund for artistic development which funds NCECA's fellowships.

Board Elections (Merrie)

Merrie announced the results of the board elections, thanking the candidates for the DAL and SDAL positions and welcoming Jen Gordon as SDAL (2022 – 2024) and Michelle Castro as DAL (2022-2025). Merrie encouraged everyone to get involved in NCECA throughout the year, think about volunteering, or nominate themselves for future board positions. She also thanked all the conference volunteers.

Community Engagement (MaPó)

Mapo welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the conference. She also thanked Sacramento Onsite Conference Liaisons Ray and Nancy for all their hard work to build a successful conference. MaPó focused on building community, with diversity and inclusion at the forefront, and encouraged everyone to reach out and make connections within their communities, and also to reach out to the international community and share their stories. She asked attendees to send a short video to her, to share how NCECA has changed them, so we can highlight how NCECA has had a transformative impact on people's lives.

Pete recognized NCECA leaving board members – Merrie, Reena, Lauren, Michelle, Ray and Nancy and thanked them for their dedication to NCECA.

He introduced those joining the board; Ife Williams, Adam Chao, Rick Rogers, Jen Gordon, and welcomed Michelle Castro back in her new position as DAL.

Pete thanked Dori Nielsen for her incredible years of service and dedication as conference manager.

Finally he introduced incoming president of NCECA, Rhonda Willers.

Nancy introduced the closing lecture: Sanjit Sethi

After his lecture, Rhonda thanked Sanjit Sethi for his thoughts on leadership.

Rhonda thanked members, vendors, conference attendees, in person and virtual. On behalf of board and staff, she thanked everyone for learning, moving, and working with NCECA through the difficult times. She thanked Pete Pinnell for his steady and thoughtful service as President last years. She expressed great gratitude for the CMI and vFairs teams who worked so hard, and great thanks to the creative team at NCECA. Rhonda reflected on how the conference reminds us of how we became part of this community, quoting Dolores Huerta and her inspirational keynote, exhorting us to ask questions first, in order to reach our goals. What questions do we need to ask? She invited attendees to continue sharing their conference and NCECA experiences at the open board meeting following, which is a listening session, or the virtual open board meeting.

The business meeting was adjourned by incoming president Rhonda Willers at 12.30 pm Pacific time



NCECA OPEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 21,2022

Open Board Meeting

NCECA Conference, SAFE Credit Union Convention Center.

meeting called to order at 1pm Pacific by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.

In Attendance: NCECA Board members; Pete Pinnell, Merrie Wright, MaPó Kinnord, Nancy Servis, Michelle Castro, Reena Kayshap, Simon Levin, Ife Williams, Ray Gonzales, NCECA staff, Executive Director Josh Green, Dori Nielsen, NCECA Members.

An open board meeting commenced at 1 pm in the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center. Approximately 30 NCECA members attended, some sharing comments about the conference and the organization. Issues raised included the following:

The quality of shuttle and tour bus service provided by the transportation company serving NCECA. Several people expressed concern about the service leaving them stranded.

Placement of NCECA exhibitions with a particular note on the distance from the convention center to the venue hosting the Multicultural Fellowship Exhibition.

Steve Dilley, founder and executive director of the Veterans Art Project acknowledged Nancy Servis's fundraising efforts that provided support for scholarships to six organization members. Two of the members in attendance during the meeting had co-facilitated a Clay Conversations session with Steve on Wednesday of the conference. They expressed interest in continuing to work with NCECA and contributing to the conference. Dialog ensued about the need for more support for veterans' programming centered on the arts.

One member in attendance expressed concern about how difficult navigating the conference could be for first-time attendees and said that NCECA needed to do more to create a sense of community and belonging, especially for new participants.

Bob Feder, president and founder of the National K-12 Clay Exhibition Foundation, and Nicole Dubrow, curator of the 2022 exhibition shared their journey of 25 years with NCECA.

The open Board meeting was adjourned at 1.40pm Pacific by retiring NCECA president Pete Pinnell.

NCECA also held a synchronous virtual Open Board meeting that was attended by Board members, Incoming President, Rhonda Willers, Alex Hibbitt, Heidi McKenzie, Pam Kravetz, Lauren Sandler, Rick Rogers and Calcgano Cullen and less than 10 NCECA Members.

Members expressed their thoughts about the virtual experience, with one member in particular finding the technology a hindrance to their enjoyment of the conference. Other members expressed their appreciation of the programming content and flexibility that the virtual platform allowed.