

**NCECA meeting, pre-conference
March 15, 2016
Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, MO**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Deb Bedwell, Cindy Bracker, Lee Burningham, Jen Chua, Mary Cloonan, Patsy Cox, Paul Donnelly, Amy Duke, Roberto Lugo, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, Dandee Pattee, Jane Shellenbarger, Chris Staley, NCECA Staff Josh Green and Dori Nielsen, and Conference Assistant to Josh Green, Marko Biddle. Absent: Board Member Dylan Beck.

4:30pm meeting called to order by Deb Bedwell

The full board met to discuss expectations and board roles for during the conference.

Josh Green presented a conference update. He introduced his conference assistant, Marko Biddle, and expectations for the Expo opening reception were addressed. Josh also noted that pre-registration numbers were above 5000. Extra staff had been arranged to accommodate our increased attendance. The Board discussed possible downsides to increased attendance, as well as options to consider for large registration numbers for future conferences, and agreed this topic should be further considered at our next Board meeting.

Program Director Mary Cloonan thanked the Board in advance for helping to introduce many of our programming sessions, and reminded the Board of points to address in each introduction.

The Board agreed to accept changes to our bylaws. Pre-conference, the Board created a new position, Steward of the Board, to assist the Board President, and to help with a shortened presidential cycle. A draft of our updated bylaws were previously circulated with the inclusion of the Steward of the Board position (6.2.A.v, 7.10.A, and 7.10.B), and also included changes to reflect an update of our physical address (2.1), our previously revised definition of student status (6.2.B), and our recent member approved change to nominations for our Treasurer and Secretary (7.3, 7.8.A, and 7.9.A).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm

**NCECA 1st Members' Business Meeting during the Kansas City conference
March 18, 2016
Providence Convention Center
Kansas City, MO**

In attendance: NCECA Executive Committee Board Members Deb Bedwell, Cindy Bracker, Lee Burningham, Mary Cloonan, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, and Jill Oberman, and NCECA Executive Director Josh Green, plus open to NCECA membership and conference attendees.

8:15 am meeting called to order by Deb Bedwell

Brief status reports were presented: Josh Green, Executive report; Jill Oberman, election updates; Lee Burningham, Treasurers Report; Mary Cloonan, programs report; Leigh Taylor Mickelson, exhibitions report; and Cindy Bracker, communications report.

The \$100 gift certificate for one attending member was drawn

The meeting was recessed at 8:45am.

**NCECA 2nd Members' Business Meeting during the Kansas City conference
March 19, 2016
Providence Convention Center
Kansas City, MO**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Deb Bedwell, Dylan Beck, Cindy Bracker, Lee Burningham, Jen Chua, Mary Cloonan, Patsy Cox, Paul Donnelly, Amy Duke, Roberto Lugo, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, Dandee Pattee, Jane Shellenbarger, Chris Staley, NCECA Executive Director Josh Green, plus open to NCECA membership and conference attendees.

12:20pm meeting called to order by Deb Bedwell

Deb Bedwell welcomed the membership, and thanked them for their attendance.

Mary Cloonan presented the awards for International Residencies, Cups of Merit, Regina Brown Undergraduate Student Fellowships, Graduate Student Fellowships, Multicultural Fellowships, and the NSJE awards.

Thanks was giving to all who participated in the annual NCECA Cup Sale. The cup sale had record-breaking numbers this year, with 1480 cups donated and \$38,943 raised.

Deb Bedwell thanked outgoing Onsite Directors Paul Donnelly and Amy Duke for their amazing work toward the conference, and welcomed new Onsites Dylan Beck and Brett Binford. Paul and Amy ceremoniously handed off the NCECA t-shirt to Dylan and Brett.

Deb also thanked retiring Board members Lee Burningham, Jen Chua, Patsy Cox, and Dandee Pattee for their years of service. New Board members were introduced: Russell Wrangle, Director at Large; Naomi Clement, Student Director at Large; Brett Binford, Portland Onsite Director; Shoji Satake, Pittsburgh Onsite Director; Reena Kashyap, Treasurer; Steve Hilton, Steward of the Board; and Holly Hanessian, 2017 President Elect.

Chris Staley thanked Deb Bedwell for her service to NCECA as the President of the Board, and presented her with the NCECA Presidential Pin. Chris also recognized Patsy Cox for her 6 years on the Board in the Presidential cycle.

The location for the 2018 NCECA conference was announced to be Pittsburgh, PA

The one-year free NCECA membership for one attending member was drawn.

The meeting was recessed at 12:45pm

**Open Board Meeting during the Kansas City conference March 19, 2016
Providence Convention Center
Kansas City, MO**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Deb Bedwell, Dylan Beck, Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Naomi Clement, Mary Cloonan, Holly Hanessian, Steve Hilton, Reena Kashyap, Roberto Lugo, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, Shoji Satake, Jane Shellenbarger, Chris Staley, Russell Wrangle, NCECA Executive Director Josh Green, plus open to NCECA staff, membership, and conference attendees.

1:10 pm Chris Staley called the meeting to order

The Open Board Meeting gives our membership the chance to offer feedback to the board. Attendees were given the chance to share their thoughts:

Comments from our membership:

Keith Williams: Suggested we consider reconfiguring the resources hall so that Universities might be outside the “pass required” zone, so students could take better advantage of this resource. He also suggested that we no longer spend time at our business meetings with the free drawings, as the practice started to encourage members to attend so they would vote, and now that the voting process has changed, it no longer serves its purpose.

Michael Terra: Let us know that we had done a terrific job. He felt the app was marvelous, and suggested that we try to coordinate the exhibitions with

programming, so users could make note of the exhibitions that they would like to attend, like we do with the programming.

Reid Parrish: Thanked us for a great conference

Dandee Pattee: Thanked Reid, who volunteered for nothing in return

Grayson Parrot: Thanked us. This was his first conference, and he thought it was great.

Gibbon McClure: Thanked us.

Marko Biddle: Thanked our leader! Yay Josh!

Michelle: Suggested that we collect names for our free drawings in the room at the time of the meeting, so that attendees are present for the drawing. She also helped out as a volunteer, helping Glen with the photos, and got to meet so many great conference attendees.

Brian Molanphy: Thanked us. He was particularly thankful for the journal, which he thinks is still relevant, and great in color

Todd, a PHD student from Romania: had an amazing experience. Great to meet new friends, and gave thanks to everyone, especially Josh Green.

Ivy: Suggested that exhibitions be a part of the map on the app. It would be great to see what is in the vicinity of your current location. Also suggested that it would be helpful to organize the exhibitions by times of their receptions.

Patsy Cox: Shared that, "in words of Patrick Swayze: I've had the time of my life, and I owe it all to you!"

Leslie Mesner Smith: Thanked us. It was her first time at the conference, and thought we did a great job. She got to meet so many mentors and mentees. She suggested we set up a mobile post office to help attendees ship paperwork and artwork home. Cindy Bracker offered to follow-up with Leslie on this idea.

Eric Rempe: Thanked us, said he was here to listen, and interested in the way the Board works.

Leah Schlieff, co-founder of the K-12 Exhibition: Wanted to thank all of the volunteers this year. Also noted that having the K-12 programming all together, near the exhibition, was great. She felt that this was one of the best NCECAs. She also noted that the app survey questions were a little limited, and thought choices could be tweaked to get more helpful data results.

Nicole Dubrow, a newly elected officer for the K-12 Exhibition Foundation: Thanked the volunteers, thanked everyone for their support.

Bob Feder, President of the K-12 Exhibition Foundation: Shared that next year is their 20th year, and would love suggestions as to how they can best celebrate this anniversary. In the last 20 years, the exhibition has expanded, with more scholarships totaling more than \$88,000. They are also expanding their outreach to encourage all colleges in the US to partner with them, so kids can get money to go to college anywhere they want all over the country. Bob also announced that Julia Galloway would be their exhibition juror next year.

Marge Levy: Thanked us all, and (after her closing remarks) had nothing left to say

David Sturm: Commented on the Resource Hall layout. He suggested that we put the commercial booths together. The separated layout this year made it more difficult on the vendors, as they usually try to work together more than this layout would allow.

Maccabee Shelley: Missed the NCECA booth in the Resource Hall, and could not find it outside by registration as easily as in the past. He also noted that it was more difficult this year to make announcements in the Resource Hall. Another suggestion would be for NCECA to give more support to Post Bacc students. He felt as if Post Baccs are not represented by NCECA, with no targeted scholarships or awards in the student show. He was also disappointed by lack of programming for greener studio practices. There is currently no Board Representation on the Green Task force, and would recommend that Board member Mary Cloonan join this task force.

Jen Chua: shared that an NSJE purchase award winner was thrilled that they had the opportunity to meet their award funder, and express their thanks to them in person.

Chris Staley thanked all who attended our Open Board meeting and gave us feedback for future improvements.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm

**Closed Board Meeting during the Kansas City conference March 19, 2016
Providence Convention Center
Kansas City, MO**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Deb Bedwell, Dylan Beck, Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Naomi Clement, Mary Cloonan, Holly Hanessian, Steve Hilton, Reena Kashyap, Roberto Lugo, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, Shoji Satake, Jane Shellenbarger, Chris Staley, Russell Wrangle, and NCECA Staff Helen Anderson, Candice Finn, Marko Fields, Josh Green, Jacqueline Hardy, Tammy Lynn,

Dori Nielsen, and Kate Vorhaus

1:40pm Chris Staley called the meeting to order

Josh introduced the staff to our new Board members, and thanked them for their hard work: Kate, Candice, Helen, Tammy, Dori, Marko, and Jacqueline. Chris expressed gratitude from the Board to the NCECA staff, and acknowledges that throughout the planning and the execution of the conference, the staff has been welcoming and supportive. We are truly grateful to all they do.

At 1:57 pm, the staff left the meeting for a closed Board meeting to follow.

Chris shared his thoughts about the teamwork of the Board as it contributes to the success of NCECA. He thanked us for our support, and complimented us on our respect and affection for each other. As we gear up for our next conference in Portland, Chris asked the Board to share their thoughts on the Kansas City conference. Thoughts included the following comments:

- The 50 Friends meeting was really great, and brought up some complicated issues that NCECA faces in our future. Immensity and Intimacy.
- It would be interesting to host an NCECA board show, possibly in the Expo, to share our creative lives as well as our administrative talents.
- The exhibitions in the convention center were strong, convenient, and well attended.
- Topics addressed in the 50 Friends meeting should be further investigated beyond the conference, perhaps utilizing Virtual Clay (or a similar digital) technology
- There were many strong, powerful exhibitions, and working with the Nelson Atkins was a pleasure
- Breakout sessions/connections before the keynote, very successful. There were many attendees for the Wood kiln group, maybe 300 people, while the group next to it had only 9. This is a good program to continue, and could use more volunteers to help its success in the future
- It would be great if we could make the conference more family friendly. Can we create opportunities to support female artists or families with kids? Create an NCECA daycare, or ways to make connections for those with small children? There is an entire industry devoted to providing childcare at these types of conferences, and NCECA should investigate on options and needs.
- How can we continue to improve our racial diversity? We seemed more diverse this year, but can still make improvements
- The student critiques room was a success. There were strong volunteer mentors, and over 70% of all slots were filled before the conference. This gave students a chance to research the mentors, and make choices that fit

their work best. It would be great to expand this program, and reach more students.

- Could the NSJE include students from Canada?
- How can we help students network with each other in a professional capacity at the conference?
- It was difficult for Board members to represent at all of the big events this year, especially because many things were happening at the same time. Can we be more organized next year, and stagger the Board so we are represented at openings, but not having all of us running all over each night
- This was probably the best conference we have ever had. There were a lot of great panels and presentations. K-12, student perspectives programming could be improved. We should identify and recruit good people/programming for next conference
- The keynote with Liz Lerman was strong. It would be a great teaching tool to have access to Liz Lerman's talk in written form.
- 50 Friends meeting was profound. Forward thinking, how do we as an organization make change? There are older people in our field; they do not have the perspective of what NCECA is today. Can we have 60 friends? We could invite some older guard, to help them understand what we are today, and to include them in the dialogue. This would give them a renewed understanding, and they would advocate for us in their circles.
- NCECA could be an arts advocacy for so many nationally
- Our new system for registration was fabulous
- The FabLab was really successful. It is a 3-year project, and will continue to improve each year
- NCECA needs to promote more about the good that we are doing, including our multi-cultural scholarships.
- Advocacy: we could do more, jobs are getting cut, turned into adjunct, etc. NCECA might be able to do more to support that
- There was no NCECA logo at the Nelson Atkins
- Social media rib hunt was a great way to engage students with the conference without them having to spend a lot of money. How else can we improve student engagement?
- The AV team was phenomenal, and very patient. Our system to troubleshoot could be better.
- The Collectors Tour was phenomenal. We do so many different kinds of education. The tour is for lovers of ceramics that are not necessarily makers. There was over \$100,000 of purchases made from the tour alone. The galleries are asked to voluntarily donate 10% of their tour sales.

There was discussion about our conference next year in Portland, OR. The theme is Future Flux. The Board was tasked to reach out to our community as well as those outside our field who might propose thoughtful, relevant panel discussions.

The Board agreed to revisit the issue of how we are currently naming our program threads, and discuss ways to improve these classifications.

Shoji added that he is already making connections and commitments with major galleries in Pittsburgh. Plans are starting to come together, and he is optimistic for 2018.

Reminder-the dates for our May NCECA Board Meeting are:

- EC meets at 9am May 23rd
- Full board meets at May 24-May 26th (8am to 5pm each day)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jill Oberman, NCECA Secretary