

**NCECA meeting, pre-conference  
March 24, 2015  
Providence Convention Center  
Providence, RI**

In attendance: Josh Green, Deb Bedwell, Patsy Cox, Paul Sacaridiz, Steve Hilton, Mary Cloonan, Garth Johnson, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Dandee Pattee, Jen Chua, Lee Burningham, Jay Lacouture, Cindy Bracker, Jane Shellenbarger, Larry Bush, and Jill Oberman.

4:37pm 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. Registration at this point seemed good at 3850, with the expectation that there would be many on-site registrations for full and day pass attendees. The Collectors Tour was going well, unfortunately the New Bedford bus tour had been cancelled, and NCECA's first 12 multi-cultural scholarships had been selected.

Steve Hilton introduced Mary Cloonan, NCECA's new program director. He and Mary would both be working this NCECA as Mary learns the job.

Deb thanked everyone for all of their continued hard work, and wished everyone a good conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm

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**NCECA 2<sup>nd</sup> Members' Business Meeting during the Providence conference  
March 28, 2015  
Providence Convention Center  
Providence, RI**

In attendance: Josh Green, Deb Bedwell, Patsy Cox, Paul Sacaridiz, Steve Hilton, Mary Cloonan, Garth Johnson, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Dandee Pattee, Jen Chua, Lee Burningham, Jay Lacouture, Cindy Bracker, Jane Shellenbarger, Larry Bush, Paul Donnelly, Amy Duke, and Jill Oberman, plus open to NCECA membership

11:50am meeting called to order by Deb Bedwell

Deb thanked the membership for attending our members' meeting. She then thanked Steve Hilton for his many years of service to NCECA as Program Director.

Steve Hilton presented the NCECA awards for international residencies, 2015 Multicultural fellowship awards, Cups of Merit, Regina Brown Undergraduate Student Fellowships and Graduate Fellowships, and the NSJE awards.

Deb thanked onsite Directors Jay Lacouture and Larry Bush for a great conference, and introduced Paul Donnelly and Amy Duke, the onsite Directors for our Kansas City conference in 2016.

Portland, Oregon was announced as the 2017 NCECA conference location.

Departing the NCECA board this year, we said farewell and gave thanks to Steve Hilton and Garth Johnson. New Board members were introduced: Mary Cloonan, Program Director, Shalya Marsh, Student Director at Large, Justin Rothshank, Director at Large, and Dylan Beck as Portland Onsite Director.

The juror for next years K-12 exhibit will be Jack Troy.

Deb Bedwell thanked everyone for coming, and allowing themselves to be transformed and positively changed by this and every NCECA conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.

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**NCECA meeting, post-conference  
March 28, 2015  
Open Board meeting,  
Providence Convention Center**

In attendance: Patsy Cox, Paul, Sacaridiz Steve Hilton, Jane Shellenbarger, Dandee Pattee, Marko Fields, Garth Johnson, Cindy Bracker, Amanda Barr, Dori Nielsen, Tammy Lynn, Helen Anderson, Kate Vorhaus, Candice Finn, Justin Rothshank, Dylan Beck, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Mary Cloonan, Deb Bedwell, Jill Oberman, Josh Green, Lee Burningham, Shalya Marsh, Jen Chua, Paul Donnelly, Amy Duke, plus open to NCECA membership.

12:56pm Deb Bedwell 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:

Membership comments:

Megan Daily: volunteer and bus tour monitor. She had a great experience, and feels the tour would benefit if the volunteers were briefed before hand on gallery info and local information. She was also a badge checker at the door, and suggests that attendees remember to arrive early to lectures and demos.

Katie Semos: accidentally got involved in the conference this year, and will volunteer in the future.

Dara Hartman: came to the meeting to listen. She is interested in becoming more involved with the NCECA board. She attended 50 friends, and would like to see more programing for studio artists and product designers. She felt this was a great conference.

Glenda Taylor: thanked everyone for doing another great job with the conference.

Jeanie Harriman: is interested in being on the board someday, volunteering and learning more about how it all works. NCECA is one of the best times of the year, hates to hear the grumbling, and thought it was great to see NCECA's quick response to complaints. She also loved the NCECA app.

Michael Terra: thanked everyone for all they do to make the conference happen. He felt the app was great, and suggested that it would be great if exhibits could be sorted by the days and hours that they are open to help organize time.

Deb Hatfield: is new to NCECA, and loved it. As a musician, she suggested NCECA plan a fundraiser similar to one she saw that recognized 37 music teachers who were then honored by their peers and money could be raised for NCECA.

Kevin Ramler: thanked everyone, gave kudos to the NCECA instagram. Cindy Bracker then introduced Amanda Barr, NCECA's social media moderator.

Bob Feder from K-12 clay: K-12 thanked NCECA for support, the exhibition, scholarships, and helping teachers in ceramics is K-12 program. He also shared that the K-12 created a new scholarship. Two HS seniors will receive \$8800 in awards, and 2 HS Juniors will also get scholarships. There is more info on this and other scholarship opportunities on their website.

Garth Johnson: started the cup swap two years ago. Last year 50 people showed up, this year there was 100 people talking about cups, making trades, and networking. Another highlight for him was the reading room, which had at least 10 people reading books at all times throughout the conference. He will help with this program in the future.

Josh introduced and thanked the NCECA staff: Kate, Candice, Helen, Tammy, Dori, Marko, and Jacqueline. Helen announced that there were a record number of cups sold this year, 4823, for a total of \$30,638. Kate added that sales for the NSJE and Biennial were also up this year.

Deb thanked our donors and supporters.

The open board meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm.

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**NCECA meeting, post-conference  
March 28, 2015  
Closed Board meeting,  
Providence Convention Center**

Agenda

1. Deb: Call to order
2. Debrief Providence feedback from open meeting, criticism and top 5 positive issues
3. Presidential cycle going on a retreat in Pittsburgh, April 17<sup>th</sup> to sort out opportunities, to prioritize opportunities
4. Checklist of June meeting
  - Agenda
  - Dates
  - Plan
5. Follow up from last board meeting tasks, etc.
6. Unresolved issues:
  - Curatorial Task Force leadership
  - Future of green task force
  - Student status discussion/vote (Apprenticeship, verification, etc.)
7. Michael Strand, June meeting, report on status of Across the Table

In attendance: Patsy Cox, Paul Sacaridiz, Jane Shellenbarger, Dandee Pattee, Cindy Bracker, Justin Rothshank, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Mary Cloonan, Jill Oberman, Josh Green, Lee Burningham, Shalya Marsh, Paul Donnelly, Amy Duke, Dylan Beck, Jen Chua

2:10pm Deb Bedwell called the meeting to order

Deb introduced the NCECA staff to the new board members. She then asked each board member to comment on what was exceptional and what needs work based on the Providence conference.

Here are the thoughts of the board  
WONDERFUL:

- Emerging artists were stellar
- Ethel (Randall Session)
- honorees and awardees, (we should consider rescheduling so this presentation does not conflict with other programming)
- interviews from influential NCECA people for the 50<sup>th</sup> (Cindy)
- KC video
- Jack Troy's closing lecture
- the Expo (great quality ceramics offered and lots of purchases were made)
- Collectors Tour was extraordinary-Paul, Leslie, Josh, Collectors-important to our artists
- Process room-great opportunity for attendees (needs camera/video for demos, and in K-12. These may be as popular as big demos)
- Paul and 50 friends meeting-wide range of people invited, young, edgy, more senior members too. Commentary was quite pointed, but people are looking at NCECA to help make societal change (social justice call), intense meeting, and a good meeting. There was interest from many in learning how to run for the board and how to be in service to NCECA.

NEEDS WORK:

- Arranging a better system for sales on site at NCECA shows (instead of on the phone). Someone should be present with Square (note: Leedy Voukos, NSJE will be set up for sales in KC)
- Honors and Fellows, always goes over: should be longer, or nothing booked in that room after
- NCECA Booth location was moved this year to be outside the resource hall, upstairs. This upset some people
- Multicultural Fellowships: we need follow-up and feedback from their experience at the conference, and where are resources coming from for that program in the future. John Prown open to talk about giving more.
- Signage: need more
- Make more podcasts or transcripts available. NCECA did an amazing job of giving free access to content. We need to continue providing this content, but we need to have a plan on how to provide this (current plan not sustainable).
- Conference guide, artists talks for expo left off
- Bus tours still need work

- There were some comments heard that not enough potters were given awards this year. Jane added that there was a lack of potters selected for emerging artists this year because the jury agreed to pick the very best work that had been submitted, work that showed a raw personal voice and real authenticity, without meeting a quota of women/men, pots/sculpture.
- Past masters: time allotted to each lecture was too short, it always goes over time. In the future, this should take up more space in programming, or at end of day so if it goes over, not in conflict
- Topical discussions and connections were combined, and maybe should be earlier in the conference to better connect people
- There should be a “feed-back form” at NCECA table for people to leave comments
- Voting: need to make people better aware of voting, candidates, and process. Put a computer to vote near videos. Last year there were 133 voters; this year there were 86 e-votes and 5 paper ballots. This needs work.
- Membership: students not becoming members, even though it was cheaper
- We may still need a good paper map for the “directionally challenged”
- Emerging artists: deserve more money for reimbursement for shipping their work. Also, should they continue to have a small amount of work in the expo, or more in an exhibition during the conference?

Deb talked about the plans for the Presidential cycle to meet for a retreat in Pittsburgh in April, to sort out and prioritize opportunities, including setting agendas for NCECA, strategic planning, and development.

Deb reminded everyone of the June Board meeting, and asked that all come with ideas for headliners and keynote, as well as lectures and programs. Member proposals are due May 15<sup>th</sup>, so there will be proposals to read before the meeting. Please come prepared.

There was some discussion on board communications, including more advanced notice for dates of meetings. There was also some concern that there is not enough information communicated to prospective board members and official candidates.

Deb shared that the agenda for our next board meeting in June will include: unresolved issues around the Curatorial Task Force, the future of the Green Task Force, and our designation of student status. There will also be a status report for Across the Table, and all 50<sup>th</sup> projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04pm

*Respectfully submitted by Jill Oberman, NCECA Secretary*