

**NCECA Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, May 23, 2016**  
**Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, OR**

In attendance: Board members Deb Bedwell, Cindy Bracker, Mary Cloonan, Steve Hilton, Reena Kashyap, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, and Chris Staley, and NCECA Executive Director Josh Green,

8:38 am meeting called to order by NCECA President Chris Staley

Chris took a few moments to welcome our new Board Members Steve Hilton (Steward of the Board) and Reena Kashyap (Treasurer).

The Executive Committee met to discuss the full Board meeting agenda, and to streamline upcoming discussion of certain topics with the full Board. Topics addressed included the leadership of the Nominations Committee, suggestions for the nominations committee for potential future Board members, the future of the NCECA Journal, management of the public table at the Conference for flyers and postcards, the success of the NCECA blog and the growing job of keeping our members informed, updates on our collaboration with 92Y Virtual Clay, the status of our Curatorial and Green Task Forces, Kansas City 2016 conference reflections, the Collector's Tour, future collaborations, the 2016-2017 NCECA budget, and updates from the Communications, Exhibitions, and Program Directors.

The meeting was recessed at 4:34 pm

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**NCECA Full Board Meeting**  
**Full Board Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 24, 2016**  
**Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, OR**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members: Dylan Beck, Deb Bedwell, Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Naomi Clement, Mary Cloonan, Steve Hilton, Reena Kashyap, Roberto Lugo, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, Shoji Satake, Jane Shellenbarger, and Chris Staley, and NCECA Staff Josh Green and Dori Nielsen

8:06 am meeting called to order by Chris Staley

New Board members Brett Binford (Onsite Portland), Naomi Clement (SDAL), Steve Hilton (Steward of the Board), Reena Kashyap (Treasurer), and Shoji Satake (Onsite Pittsburgh) were welcomed. The Board took a few minutes to participate in a roundtable, briefly answering, "How did we first get into Clay".

### **Consent Agenda**

After discussion and motions put forth by the Executive Committee the previous day, and a brief discussion on each item with the full board, the Board of Directors agreed to the following:

- To approve the minutes from the board meetings held at the Kansas City NCECA conference
- To move tables during the conference used for free distribution of flyers and postcards to the reading room, managed by reading room volunteer staff, and limited to 500 pieces per person.
- To dissolve the Curatorial Task Force, notify members, and thank them for their service
- To discontinue both drawings at our business meeting (one free membership, one gift certificate for the vendors hall)
- To move forward with a contract with Marilyn Coleman to begin strategic planning this fiscal year

### **Executive Director review**

A review of the Executive Director Josh Green occurred prior to the meeting. The review committee (Chris Staley, Deb Bedwell, and Steve Hilton) reported that the performance of the executive director was more than satisfactory.

### **Budget and Finances**

Reena reported that the transfer of our investment portfolio and cash accounts management from Merrill Lynch to Morgan Stanley had been completed.

Josh and Reena shared the proposed upcoming budget for our 2016-2017 fiscal year. We are currently in good financial standing. NCECA saw increases in both our grant and donor revenue, mostly due to our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration and increased donors in Kansas City. We set a realistic but optimistic stretch goal for donations this year, but show no real dramatic changes in all our budget projections from years past. NCECA staff accountant Helen Anderson virtually joined the meeting to answer questions about the proposed budget.

After brief discussion, the Board voted to approve the proposed 2016-2017 budget.

### **Portland Conference updates**

Dylan and Brett updated the Board on progress for the upcoming Portland, OR conference. Gallery spots are being secured, selected exhibitions have been placed, and they are optimistic that they will find locations for more proposed concurrent exhibitions. There is a positive buzz around town, and many local schools and non-profits are requesting to be involved. Volunteers are coming forward, and things are looking great. Draft images and ideas for conference branding were discussed.

### **Exhibition**

Leigh reported on the status of the NCECA sponsored exhibitions. This new format for the invitational/biennial will be a themed invitational/juried exhibition, *The Evocative Garden* hosted by Disjecta. Juror Gail Brown has invited 5 artists, and the remaining exhibiting artists will be juried in through an open call to NCECA members. The format of the NSJE has not changed. Jurors for the NSJE will be Linda Arbuckle and Justin Novak, and will be on exhibit at Oregon College of Arts and Crafts gallery.

### **Collectors Tour:**

Josh discussed the status of the conference Collector's Tour. It has continued to be a successful tour, with many repeat participants. NCECA would love to engage more people in this opportunity, and there was discussion on ways to adapt or add to our existing model to reach more collectors. In addition to our week tour, ideas were put forth for shorter one-day options, or having expert guest hosts each day to attract a wider audience.

### **NCECA Dreams**

The Board took a few moments to share our dreams and vision for the future of our organization. Brainstorming ideas included expanding our audience, improving our K-12 programming, working to elevate the organization on a horizontal plan, addressing increased interests in the culture of design, mentoring our members to create stronger programming proposals, creating stronger relationships with leaders in other fields, collectors, galleries, suppliers, teachers, and makers, increasing NCECA staffing, increasing advocacy for minorities, mothers, families, youth, and community arts, balancing quality with commerce, improving our lasting impact on our conference cities (especially with the local youth), and to think about NCECA as more than a conference, but something vibrant all year round.

The Board also discussed possible methods to achieve some of these goals.

### **Communications**

Cindy updated the board on the status of communications and social media. She also briefly reviewed the results shared from the NCECA survey.

### **Strategic Plan:**

The Board will move forward with establishing a new strategic plan. The Executive Committee will also act as the Strategic Planning Committee, to get things started before including the entire board on future strategic planning conversations.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book Project**

Josh reported on behalf of former Board Member Garth Johnson on the status of the

book project. Content is nearly finalized and final edits will be made. Plans are moving forward to have the book electronically co-published with the ASU Ceramic Research Center.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary NCECA Video project.**

Cindy reminded the Board that there is a 15-minute preview on the NCECA YouTube channel, and we are in the final stages of production for the full video. Likely to complete in fall, when people are back in school.

**FabLab**

Shoji reported on the status of the FabLab. This is a 3-year project, co-sponsored by the 92Y, to begin at the KC conference, and to be included in the Portland and Pittsburgh conference programming. It was a success at KC, with many presentations standing room only. The FabLab could use a bigger room in the future. There was a wide range of presentations (academic to professional artists). The Board discussed increased funding for participants, as no presenters received an honorarium. Kelly O'Brien has taken over for next year, and she and Shoji are soliciting proposals for this year.

**Blinc**

New programming for KC included our Blinc presentations that limited presenters to 20 slides with no more than 20 seconds for each slide. Presentations were successful, but many ran short, so the timing of presentations did not correspond with published info. Next year NCECA will publish times in larger blocks, so members can better plan for the presentations they would like to see.

Cindy also commented on the growing popularity of the ClayStories presentations, and recommended that if NCECA would like to continue to offer this, it would benefit from some Board oversight and technical support.

**Reception at OCAC**

Dylan and Brett briefed the Board on the attendees for the reception at OCAC. Invited guests included locals involved in the Portland Arts community.

The meeting was recessed at 4:20 pm and the Board was welcomed at a reception with locals at OCAC

**Wednesday, May 25, 2016**  
**Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, OR**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members: Dylan Beck, Deb Bedwell, Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Naomi Clement, Mary Cloonan, Steve Hilton, Reena Kashyap, Roberto Lugo, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, Shoji Satake, Jane Shellenbarger, and Chris Staley, and NCECA Staff Josh Green and Dori Nielsen

8:44 am meeting called to order by Chris Staley

**Reception recap**

The Board briefly discussed their experiences at the reception at OCAC the night before. Dylan and Brett thanked everyone for helping to add to excitement for the spring conference.

**Programming Review Process**

The Board discussed conference proposals to create the programming for the 2017 Portland Conference. Mary led the discussion, guiding the board towards selecting the strongest, most relevant of the proposals submitted. There was a lot of impassioned discussion about each of the proposals, as well as our method used to make our selections.

The meeting was recessed at 4:15 pm

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**NCECA Full Board Meeting**  
**Full Board Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 26, 2016**  
**Hilton Portland and Executive Tower, Portland, OR**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members: Dylan Beck, Deb Bedwell, Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Naomi Clement, Mary Cloonan, Steve Hilton, Reena Kashyap, Roberto Lugo, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Jill Oberman, Shoji Satake, Jane Shellenbarger, and Chris Staley, and NCECA Staff Josh Green and Dori Nielsen

8:08 am meeting called to order by Chris Staley

**Board Reports**

The Board voted to accept the submitted Board Reports.

### **Programming**

Mary and Cindy shared the preliminary schedule for the Portland conference programming, which included selected proposals and curated programming.

In order to reduce the occurrence of similar programming happening at the same time, NCECA will try to schedule programming categories in the same room, in consecutive slots so they do not conflict with each other.

The Board considered a variety of options for headliners (Keynote, demonstrators, Randall Session, Distinguished Speaker, closing lecture) that might best address our Portland theme, Future Flux.

Process room and K-12 programming selections will be made by a small committee of Board members, led by Mary.

### **Board Business**

The Board will continue to give the Nominations Committee input for future board vacancies.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jill Oberman, NCECA Secretary*