

**NCECA Executive Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, June 5, 2018  
Millennium Hotel, Minneapolis, MN**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Mary Cloonan, Holly Hanessian, Reena Kashyap, Marge Levy, Jill Oberman, Rhonda Willers; and NCECA Executive Director Josh Green.

4:44 pm the meeting was called to order by NCECA President Holly Hanessian.

The Executive Committee met to discuss the full Board meeting agenda, and to streamline upcoming discussions of certain topics with the full Board. Josh Green discussed the status of our recently created Strategic Plan, and goals for sharing this info with the public.

**Strategic Plan**

A Strategic Plan Task Force was established to help keep the board on task to address our goals of our plan. Members include Josh Green, Holly Hanessian, Marge Levy, and Rhonda Willers. This group already meets monthly, and one meeting a quarter will be dedicated to progress and issues concerning our strategic plan.

**Executive Session**

The board went into a brief executive session to discuss NCECA staff performance reviews, including a report on the 2018 annual Executive Director review. Also discussed was future plans for staffing, NCECA office spaces, and opportunities for an online resource partnership.

**Post-Conference debrief**

The EC discussed 2018 conference feedback, including the progress of the Economic Impact Survey being conducted by the Dept of Economics from Slippery Rock University. Onsite registration went smoothly.

**2018-2019 Budget**

NCECA Accounting and Finance Manager Helen Anderson joined the meeting. She shared that the NCECA finances are in solid shape. The Board discussed the proposed 2018-2019 Budget and agreed to add a line item to cover possible rental of office space in Pittsburgh. A few changes were made, and the EC agreed to put forward for full Board approval the proposed 2018-2019 Budget.

**Membership**

The EC agreed to eliminate a separation of membership from conference registration. Everyone who registers for the conference in 2019 and forward will also get a one-year membership to NCECA. Memberships will still be available to those who do not register for the conference. This change will simplify registration, and everyone registered for the conference will get a journal, be eligible to vote, and have all membership benefits.

The EC also agreed to eliminate the Transitional Membership, and to remove the classification of Transitional Membership from our Bylaws, article 4.1, letter D. This was added to the consent agenda for full board approval.

7:05pm the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by Holly.

---

**NCECA Full Board Meeting  
Wednesday, June 6, 2018  
Millennium Hotel, Minneapolis, MN**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Mary Cloonan, Julia Galloway, Holly Hanessian, Reena Kashyap, Kelly Kerr, Marge Levy, Sarah Millfelt, Jill Oberman, Ashlyn Pope, Brandon Schnur, Zach Tate, Rhonda Willers, Keith Williams, and Russell Wrangle; and NCECA Staff Members Helen Anderson, Josh Green, and Dori Nielsen

9:00am NCECA President Holly Hanessian called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

**Consent Agenda**

- **To eliminate the Transitional Membership, and to remove the classification of Transitional Membership from our Bylaws, article 4.1, letter D.**
- **To include membership with conference registration**
- **To approve the Board Reports from March 2018**
- **To approve the Board Reports from June 2018**
- **To create a Task Force (members include Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Reena Kashyap, Josh Green, and Garth Johnson) to discuss our opportunity for an online resource partnership.**

**Motion to approve the consent agenda passed unanimously.** (Motion by Cindy Bracker and seconded by Rhonda Willers)

**Strategic Plan**

The new Strategic Plan is ready and will be shared with the public soon. All Board members were encouraged to read it over and become familiar with the full document.

**New Business and New Programming Concepts  
(hands on maker space, open space meeting technology, STEAM room)**

NCECA would like to establish some new ways of sharing information during the conference. Some of these ideas came out of discussion and suggestions from the 50 Friends meeting.

### **Hands on Maker Space**

Sarah Millfelt and Northern Clay Center are prepared to work on a collaboration with Mark Shapiro to create a space during the conference that is more casual, where people can share ceramic techniques at every level. Mark wants to invite folks to participate, who would act as leaders or presenters, to keep the conversation moving, but all would be welcome to participate. NCC is willing to provide clay and tools, but NCECA would have to provide the space. This is not to replace the maker space, but to create something dynamic in addition.

Questions were raised as to how to keep this inclusive and spontaneous, but also to provide an experience of depth and quality.

After much discussion, the board agreed to suspend discussion on this until after the Board had a better sense of the entirety of the programming. Sarah agreed to continue planning with Mark, with help from Mary and Josh. Dori agreed to research the costs associated with activating a space in the convention center for this purpose.

### **Open Space Meeting Technology**

This idea provides a way for conference attendees to shape the agenda with their most current, timely interests. Josh has seen this work at smaller meetings, with about 300 people. Michael Strand is suggesting a 2-hour period for this to happen at our conference this year. This would be similar to our topical discussions but responding to current events in real time. Josh added that we did have a meeting room reserved in the convention center during the conference that could accommodate this programming.

A task force of Mary Cloonan, Zach Tate, and Josh Green were charged to work with Michael on scheduling this room, keeping it organized, yet spontaneous, and responding to the interests of the attendees.

### **Steam Room:**

Matt Katz, Matt Kelleher, and Bill Carty have submitted a proposal to host a dedicated room at NCECA 2019 that is focused only on STEAM (Science, Technology, Education, Art, and Materials), similar to the "Clay Fab Lab", with presentations and discussions on Technical work on ceramics, including bodies, glazing, firing, defects, and research.

The Board agreed that while a STEAM Room (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) would be beneficial to our members, including studio artists and K-12 teachers, and would help promote project-based learning, this proposal was not fully developed yet in a way that could be adopted into the conference. NCECA already offers programming for these discussions to be presented, and the changing of the STEAM acronym might be confusing to those already working with STEAM in K12 education but NCECA would like to work to further develop this idea for 2020.

After some discussion, the board reached consensus to approve the **motion to decline the STEAM Room proposal for 2019** (moved by Keith Williams, seconded by Brandon Schnur).

### **Finance Report and Budget**

Helen Anderson shared that the NCECA financials look really solid, and that the budget is created by looking at a four-year average of income and expenses. It is also tied to the goals set out by our new strategic plan. She then presented a brief overview and break-down of the proposed budget for the full board. The full board agreed to further review the budget before voting to accept the budget by the end of the June 2018 meeting.

### **Exit Questionnaire**

New this year was a Board Exit Questionnaire given to board members whose terms had ended in March 2018. Josh Green, Holly Hanessian, and Jill Oberman created the questionnaire which asked questions about board service, understanding of roles and responsibilities, training, work load, and working with the staff in order to better prepare board members to execute their obligations.

Trends showed that shadow training current board members and good communication created better understanding of board responsibilities, some jobs that board members are asked to complete might be better completed by creating new staffing positions, and more communication about fiduciary responsibilities would be helpful.

### **Exhibitions Update:**

Exhibitions Director Brett Binford reported on the progress of exhibitions for 2019 and 2020, and the start of planning for 2021 and 2022.

### **Communications Report**

Communications Director Cindy Bracker reported on our social media presence. It has been more intentional, continually stimulating. Emerging artists will be doing Instagram takeovers to increase our exposure, and to diversify the conversations we are having.

### **Minneapolis Conference Updates**

Minneapolis Onsites Sarah Millfelt and Keith Williams shared their progress for the 2019 Conference. Exhibitions are getting sited all over town and have been carefully matched to their host venues. Keith has been working on plans for the Collectors Tour, and all is going well. The Board will have the opportunity to meet many of the Volunteers at a reception at the ACC on Thursday, June 7, 2019.

### **Nominations**

Board Steward Rhonda Willers has been working on board nominations. A **motion** was made and passed to approve the two-year and one-year Onsite Liaison for the 2021 Conference (names and conference location to be announced during the 2019 conference). A **motion** was also made and passed to approve the 2-year Onsite Liaison for the 2022 Conference (name and conference location to be announced during the 2020 conference).

### **International Residencies**

Julia Galloway recommended to the Board that NCECA partners with A.I.R. Vallauris (Artists in Residence) in Vallauris, France, and Benyamini Contemporary Ceramics Center in Tel Aviv, Israel. She also recommended Eddie Dominguez and Linda Sikora as jurors for the 2019 Emerging Artists.

### **Programming and Proposal Reviews**

The Board began discussion on conference proposals to establish programming for the 2019 Minneapolis conference. Program Director Mary Cloonan led the discussion, guiding the Board to select the strongest, most relevant proposals submitted. There was a lot of impassioned discussion about each of the proposals, as well as our method used to make our selections. Each Board member was required to read and assess all proposals, and to work in small groups to evaluate selections of proposals before the meeting in hopes of streamlining the selection process.

5:02 pm the meeting was recessed by Holly.

---

### **NCECA Full Board Meeting**

**Thursday, June 7, 2018**

**American Craft Council Library, Minneapolis, MN**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Mary Cloonan, Julia Galloway, Holly Hanessian, Reena Kashyap, Kelly Kerr, Marge Levy, Sarah Millfelt, Jill Oberman, Ashlyn Pope, Brandon Schnur, Zach Tate, Rhonda Willers, Keith Williams, and Russell Wrangle; and NCECA Staff Members Josh Green and Dori Nielsen

9:00 am Holly called the meeting to order. We were greeted with a warm welcome to the ACC offices by Christian Novak, ACC Membership Manager.

### **2018-2019 Proposed Budget**

**Motion to approve the 2018-2019 proposed budget** was made (moved by Cindy Bracker, seconded by Brandon Schnur). After some brief discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2018-2019 Budget.

### **Programming Continued**

Programming discussion continued, including selections for keynote speaker, demonstrating artists, closing speaker, honors, fellows, and other headliners. Discussion also focused on panel discussion selections continued from the previous day.

**Yoga Session during the Conference**

**Motion that the Board Onsites are tasked to find the appropriate leader for the morning yoga session in their own city** was made (moved by Keith Williams, seconded by Cindy Bracker). The Board voted unanimously in favor of this motion.

4:56 pm the meeting was recessed by Holly. A reception for Board Members and Minneapolis conference volunteers was held in the ACC Library following the meeting.

---

**NCECA Full Board Meeting**

**Friday, June 8, 2018**

**Millennium Hotel, Minneapolis, MN**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Mary Cloonan, Julia Galloway, Holly Hanessian, Reena Kashyap, Kelly Kerr, Sarah Millfelt, Jill Oberman, Ashlyn Pope, Brandon Schnur, Zach Tate, Rhonda Willers, Keith Williams, and Russell Wrangle; and NCECA Staff Members Josh Green and Dori Nielsen.

Absent: Marge Levy

9:00 am Holly called the meeting to order.

**Programming**

Programming discussion continued, including selections for keynote speaker, demonstrating artists, closing speaker, honors, fellows, other headliners, and the Randall Session.

**Future NCECA conference host cities update:**

The Board had already begun working on future NCECA conference host cities, and discussion continued for 2020-2023 and beyond. (city selections to be announced at a future date).

**Richmond NCECA**

Onsite Kelly Kerr shared discussions on establishing the conference theme for Richmond in 2020, thinking about ideas around moving forward and looking back (20/20). The Board agreed on *multivalent: clay, memory, mindfulness*. (Definition: having or susceptible to many applications, interpretations, meanings, or values. "visually complex and multivalent work"). We liked the capital VA (Virginia). We may also reference 20/20 vision in conference branding as well as other the scientific applications of this word. Josh will work with Kelly and her team to create a short blurb that captures the essences of this theme for our members.

**New Business**

The Board spent some time discussing ways that we can have a positive impact on our conference host cities. Our best option would be to find a way to support organizations that are already there, doing outreach work, and could benefit from our help. Plans are already being made to reach out to these organization in Minneapolis, and we need to start reaching out in Richmond.

**50 Friends**

A task force of Rhonda Willers, Zach Tate, and Jill Oberman was created to help find a way to continue the conversations started at our annual 50 Friends meeting, and to help empower this group with NCECA oversight to make positive change and to help lead these conversations beyond the conference.

**Glenda Taylor Fund for Innovative Ideas**

Cindy Bracker would like to start a fund to honor Glenda Taylor, that would help the NCECA Board act on great, new ideas. Cindy will work with Reena Kashyap, Josh Green and Helen Anderson to develop this fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 by Holly Hanessian.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jill Oberman, NCECA Secretary*  
July 3, 2018

