

**NCECA meeting, pre-conference
March 21, 2017
Oregon Convention Center
Portland, OR**

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

4:45pm meeting called to order by Chris Staley

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

Program Director Mary Cloonan presented an overall game plan for Board responsibilities during the conference, including fill empty slot for introductions and for helping at the NCECA information table. The order of events for the opening reception was clarified for all.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm

**NCECA 1st Members' Business Meeting during the Portland, OR conference
March 23, 2017
Oregon Convention Center
Portland, OR**

In attendance: NCECA Executive Committee Board Members Deb Bedwell, Cindy Bracker, Mary Cloonan, Steve Hilton, Reena Kashyap, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, and Jill Oberman, Chris Staley, and NCECA Executive Director Josh Green, plus open to NCECA membership and conference attendees.

8:15 am meeting called to order by Chris Staley

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

The meeting was recessed at 8:45am.

**NCECA 2nd Members' Business Meeting during the Portland, OR conference
March 15, 2017
Oregon Convention Center
Portland, OR**

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

12:20pm meeting called to order by Chris Staley

Chris welcomed the membership, and thanked them for their record breaking attendance (6009!)

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 were giving to all who participated in the annual NCECA Cup Sale. The cup sale had a great turn out this year, with 1340 cups donated and \$34,080 raised for the NCECA Fund for Artistic Development.

Jill Oberman announced the results of the Board election. With just under 1000 votes cast, Julia Galloway was elected as Director at Large, and Brandon Schnur was elected as Student Director at Large.

Chris thanked outgoing Board members Brett Binford, Dylan Beck, Deb Bedwell, Shalya Marsh, and Jane Shellenbarger for their amazing work, and acknowledged renewing Board members Leigh Taylor Mickelson and Jill Oberman for their continued service as they begin their second term. He also welcomed new Board members Holly Hanessian, 2017 President Elect, and Kate Lydon as Pittsburgh Onsite.

Portland Onsite Directors Brett and Dylan were thanked for their contributions to the 2017 conference, and new Pittsburgh Onsite Shoji Satake and Kate Lydon were welcomed. Brett and Dylan ceremoniously handed off the NCECA t-shirt to Shoji and Kate.

The location for the 2019 NCECA conference was announced to be Minneapolis, MN.

All members were invited to join the Board at the open Board meeting to be held

following the recess of the 2nd Members meeting.

The meeting was recessed at 12:50pm.

**Open Board Meeting during the Portland, OR conference
March 25, 2017
Oregon Convention Center
Portland, OR**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Dylan Beck, Brett Binford, Deb Bedwell, Cindy Bracker, Naomi Clement, Mary Cloonan, Steve Hilton, Roberto Lugo, Kate Lydon, Julia Galloway, Holly Hanessian, Reena Kashyap, Shalya Marsh, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Sarah Millfelt, Jill Oberman, Shoji Satake, Brandon Schnur, Jane Shellenbarger, Chris Staley, Russell Wrangle, NCECA Staff Josh Green, Helen Anderson, Candice Finn, Jacqueline Hardy, Dori Nielsen, Kate Vorhaus, Tammy Lynn, plus open to NCECA membership and conference attendees.

1:15 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:

There were over 20 people who attended this meeting to share their enthusiasm and support of bringing NCECA to Sacramento, CA. A few shared their thoughts:

Rodney Mott: Came to the meeting to lobby for NCECA to come to Sacramento. NCECA has already done a site visit there, and Sacramento is on the list of possible sites. He wanted to show that there was amazing support from artists in and around Sacramento who would love to see the conference be held there.

Nancy Servis: also spoke in support of bringing NCECA to Sacramento, outlining the 4 museums, the many colleges and universities, and the numerous galleries ready to participate in an NCECA conference. She also highlighted Pond Farm, Gladding McBean Terra Cotta, the airport, the refurbished train station, and a possible wine/clay tour as possible programming options for the NCECA conference.

Anthony Maki Gill: also in support of NCECA in Sacramento, added that the region is ripe for NCECA, and would love to host.

Scott Parady: adding more support for Sacramento.

Mark Lancet: added that the Pence Gallery in Davis would be great for NCECA. Also, the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento just completed a big remodel, and now has lots of square footage dedicated to show contemporary ceramics. He also gave thanks to NCECA for the great conference.

Leah Schlieff-Fresse: the co-founder, curator, and Vice President of the K-12 Ceramic Exhibition and Foundation shared that they had another great exhibition this year. There were also many of their teachers with work in show presented around Portland this year. They will continue to work to showcase student work, and to support their teachers. Students are strong because teachers are strong. Universities give tools to teachers, to help support their students. Thanks, NCECA.

Bob Feder: the co-founder and President of K-12 also gave his thanks to NCECA. Through their efforts, the K-12 Ceramic Exhibition Foundation will be giving out over \$330,000 in scholarships to students this year.

Rachel and Amy: from the Clay Space in Moncton, New Brunswick Canada, shared that this was their first NCECA. They felt that Jim Melchert's closing lecture encouraged them to contribute. They attended as many lectures as they could, and felt that the message from the business talks had a bit of downer feeling to them overall. Their work has shown that you don't have to be a starving artist, as they are thriving. They also liked the presentation on the Flipped Classroom, and hope to prepare a presentation of their own in the future.

Fred Olson: chimed in with a thank you for a great NCECA, and to show his support of a Sacramento NCECA.

Louis Katz: added that, even with looking for fault, he found this NCECA to be perfect. NCECA staff were nice, polite, and actively solving all problems that arose. Even with attendance growing bigger, NCECA is getting better. Thank you.

Hunt Prothro: added his support for Sacramento, and also commented on the proposal procedure. He found some of the digital deadlines to be challenging, but got all the needed help from NCECA staff. He also feels that artists can make a living in ceramics, and to think only those with money can make money in the arts is a dangerous idea. His interests in this conference were with the FabLab, Queer Theory, and 3-D printing.

Amanda Barr: shared that she thought that NCECA had an extreme lack of presence on social media this year. This is the best way to engage our younger crowd, but she felt we missed the boat this year. She felt the panel on Periscope was good, and hopes to see more like that in the future.

Keith Williams: thanked NCECA for a great conference this year. He suggested we do more outreach with teachers to encourage more interest in the SDAL position. There must be dozens of good student candidates out there to choose from every

year. Board member **Roberto Lugo** added that everyone should help us to encourage those we know that they are worthy, and that they can contribute.

Jeanne Harriman: shared her admiration of the K-12 programming, especially the presentation by RJ Christensen on teaching for social change. RJ had students in the K-12 show, including a few award winners, and he teaches in a community with many at-risk students. These students are now being encouraged to attend college. She would also like to see more racial diversity at the conference. She acknowledged our efforts, but would like to see more improvements there in the future.

Anna Wiehe: added support to Jeanne's comments, and thanked NCECA for the scholarships that were awarded to her students to attend NCECA for free. She would like to see more programming that would help educators to have the power and training to talk about and teach social justice to their students.

Michelle Clesse: commented that she was at the meeting to share her support of inclusion and diversity, and would welcome more talks on social justice, inclusion, feminism, and social change, and the added support of ASL interpretation. She reminded us that diversity is not always visible, and these initiatives could also be used in lectures on wood firing or other ceramic concerns. Diversity scholarships are a great addition. Michelle offered to help out if needed. Thank you NCECA.

Ghafar: serves as an assistant professor in a University in Pakistan. He has helped his program grow from one wheel and one kiln, and now, with support from his government, he has established a great studio with new equipment from Bailey, Skutt, and others. This year, a few of his colleagues and students were denied visas, and could not attend NCECA. He reminded us that NCECA is for the entire world, and that art has no boundaries. He thanked NCECA and Josh, but hopes that we can do more for our international artists.

Kaity Asimos, thanked NCECA, and commented that every NCECA since her first in Tampa has gotten better and better. She has helped out as a volunteer, and would love to be more involved (and someday be the board president). Please contact her for help. She is a student at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, FL.

Mark Lancet: added a final comment on how inspiring and extraordinary the Randall Session is each year, and thanked us again.

Josh Green thanked **Jeff Guerrero** for an excellent job designing our NCECA journal this year.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm

Closed Board Meeting during the Portland, OR conference

March 25, 2017

Oregon Convention Center

Portland, OR

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Cindy Bracker, Naomi Clement, Mary Cloonan, Steve Hilton, Roberto Lugo, Kate Lydon, Julia Galloway, Holly Hanessian, Reena Kashyap, Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Sarah Millfelt, Jill Oberman, Shoji Satake, Brandon Schnur, Chris Staley, Russell Wrangle, NCECA Staff Josh Green, Helen Anderson, Candice Finn, Jacqueline Hardy, Dori Nielsen, Kate Vorhaus, Tammy Lynn, and guest and future Minneapolis Onsite Keith Williams

1:57 Chris Staley called the meeting to order

Josh introduced the staff, Helen, Candice, Jacqueline, Dori, Kate, and Tammy Lynn, to our new board members, and thanked them for their hard work. We had record-breaking attendance with 6008 registrations, and our staff was great. Josh received several emails from members who came into the conference angry at some problem, which the staff graciously and cheerfully solved.

After intros, the staff left the meeting for a closed Board meeting to follow.

Chris shared his impressions of the conference. He was continually reminded that diversity is a noun, and inclusivity is a verb. How you treat and respect people changes how they feel in terms of being welcome and included. He then invited the board to share their feelings on the conference. Thoughts included the following comments:

- We promise to do our best to make Pittsburgh another great conference.
- Our responsive staff made a huge effort to foresee problems, and to proactively solve things early and quickly.
- Registration this year was greatly improved over last year, which was somewhat chaotic. This year NCECA hired and trained volunteers from Boulder, CO, so the people running registration were prepared and knew what to do.
- The conference felt calm, not much stress, even with 6000 people.
- The expo had great work this year, and seemed to do well (as far as sales numbers)
- Sessions online pre-conference for first timers was excellent (thank you Cindy). Perhaps next year, all first timers could get a smiley sticker (or something) on their name badge as a conversation starter and welcome.

- Even with over 6000 attendees, this conference had so many honest, intimate moments and conversations, especially with the awardee presentations, panels, and multi-cultural fellows.
- Topical discussions were better scheduled this year. Perhaps the Board might consider offering a free pass or some support for topical discussion leaders.
- NCECA could benefit from a multi-cultural liaison or a task force to help us further navigate ideas of diversity and inclusion. We have a group that cares, and is making a difference, but we must continue to grow and change.
- The AV team was great, and could use an extra staff person on Thursday when presenters are checking their presentations.
- The breaks between programming on Saturday seemed awkward
- The student critique room was great. Needed more mentors, and found people to help out. It was a highlight of the conference for many who participated in this program.
- The presentations given by SDALs Naomi and Shalya to increase student participation in NCECA were well received, and should be given every year. (Opportunities for Students and How to Craft a Strong Proposal)
- Emailing faculty is so important in getting students involved and keeping them aware of their opportunities
- Exhibitions Director as part of the Collector's Tour was great, helped to see more exhibitions, and to network with collectors
- K-12 and diversity will be big topics for Pittsburgh NCECA
- FabLab in its 2nd year of 3, was a success
- Tree Hunt (WVU students) was a great way to get students and young people involved. They gave away 435 prizes including artwork from over 60 artists. 6 student memberships were also given away.
- Running for the NCECA board can be stressful for candidates
- There was mixed reviews on Keynote Jerry Saltz, and the roundtable was a great display of inclusivity, acceptance of difference, and of respectful discourse.
- There was a lot of emotional rawness expressed at this conference. Meaningful emotional content is coming out, and the reactions and criticisms are also more raw and emotional. We need to approach social media with deliberate caution.
- Perhaps we can ask presenters to write blog articles and use social media to help advertise and comment on their presentations, both before during, and after conference in their contract. This content would be managed, to maintain NCECA's integrity.
- As our conference grows, we should consider scheduling a daily plenary session, with nothing else programmed at the same time. The Chipstone lecture was great this year, but not widely attended.
- The board benefits from having a diversity of members. Please consider nominating someone who represents the vendors. There are many out there

- who want to help, and we need to work harder at cultivating and utilizing those who are interested.
- Is the job of the Program Director too much work for one person? Should the board consider an Assistant Program Director position?
 - The presence of the Green Task Force in the resource hall was important. In exchange for 2 standard and 4 student passes, the table was a place to discuss issues of sustainability and projects for the future.

Josh: ended the meeting by sharing some information about an upcoming NCECA collaboration with 92Y on *Global Day of Clay*, which invites people all around the work to develop and highlight something about their community. More info to come soon.

New board members were reminded to set up gmail accounts to facilitate in our shared google docs.

Reminder: the dates for our June NCECA meeting in Pittsburgh are:

- EC meets all day June 6th
- Full Board meets for three full days, June 7-9

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm

Respectfully submitted by Jill Oberman, NCECA Secretary