

**NCECA Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday October 24, 2018
Hilton Downtown, Richmond, VA**

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.

4:06 pm NCECA President Holly Hanessian called the Executive Committee meeting to order.

The Executive Committee met to discuss the full Board meeting agenda, and to streamline upcoming discussions of certain topics with the full Board, including discussions on governance roles, updates on outstanding business, updates on our strategic plan, staffing, and new business.

The Executive Committee established a monthly “virtual” meeting date and time, which will help NCECA Board business be more efficient and effective.

6:33pm the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by Holly.

**NCECA Full Board Meeting
Thursday October 25, 2018
VCU Arts, Pollack Building
Richmond, VA**

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 Executive Director Josh Green.

9:03am NCECA President Holly Hanessian called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Board went around the table and checked in, and briefly shared updates about our lives.

Board and Staff Reports

The Board unanimously approved the submitted Board and Staff Reports with the following **motion: to approve the combined board report as submitted.** (Motion by Cindy Bracker, second by Keith Williams, 16 votes in favor).

Strategic Plan Review

The Board participated in an exercise to establish our current progress implementing our new strategic plan. Board members responded to our 7 main goals by providing specific tasks to show where we are doing well, we need more work, or what we have not yet addressed.

Diversity Task Force

NCECA is establishing a Diversity Task Force and recruiting members, including Patsy Cox, Roberto Lugo, and Shoji Satake. This committee will address issues that will clarify what NCECA means by “diversity”, determine strategies, and prioritize actions. Diversity advocacy to include K-12 diversity, age diversity, differently abled, economic diversity, accessibility, LGBTQ, and racial diversity (and more).

Board Nominations, Honors and Awards

Our current Nominations Committee includes Chair Rhonda Willers (Board Steward), Marge Levy (past-president), Russell Wrangle (DAL), Brandon Schnur (SDAL), Anna Calluori Holcombe (NCECA Fellow), and Lauren Sandler (Member at Large). They will be meeting in the next few weeks to ratify board candidates, and to make a recommendation to the board on honors and awards.

There was some discussion on the regional lines considered for the regional award, and expanding this award to include a regional award, and a local award (local to the conference location), as well as to make the awards for these awards carry the same award compensation as other NCECA awards, to be revisited before the end of the meeting.

The Board agreed unanimously to pass the **Motion: that regional award winners are granted lifetime membership and conference membership proactively and retroactively** (moved by Keith Williams, seconded by Brandon Schnur, 16 voted in favor).

Discussion addressed the best ways to provide Board Mentorship, so that incoming board members fully understand their board obligations. Jill, Russell, Ashlyn, and Rhonda will put together some guidelines by our March meeting.

Audit, Financial Report

Helen Anderson joined the meeting via phone. She reported that our annual audit went very smoothly. She reminded the entire board that we are expected to each review the 990 before we submit it (due Nov 15, 2018). There were no significant deficiencies found, and the auditors’ minor recommendations have already been fixed or are in the works to correct.

Communications Updates

Instagram takeovers have been going well, as well as increased blog activity in support of these takeovers (emerging artists week-long takeovers).

Cindy had been mentoring Tony Wise, who will take over for Cindy when her term as Communications Director expires at the close of the 2019 Minneapolis conference.

Exhibitions and Projects Space Updates

Plans are moving forward for our Annual and NSJE exhibitions. Jurors have been confirmed, and the NSJE is open to students from the US, Canada, and Mexico this year. Looking ahead, the Annual in Richmond will be split among two neighboring galleries, and contacts are already being made in our NCECA 2021 location.

Emerging Artists

There were many strong applications this year, and the committee will be meeting soon to make their selections.

International Residencies

An International Residency Task force was established, with Julia, Zach, Brandon, and Reena, and one previous international residency recipient or host (TBD), to help brainstorm and make suggestions on ways to improve and streamline the international residency program.

Minneapolis Conference Update

Plans are going well. Lew White was in Minneapolis, and the bus tour routes have been scheduled. The Collectors Tour is also coming together well. Local K-12 schools and programs have been contacted to get them involved. Randall Session and Dance Band are in place.

Programming is almost complete. Winona LaDuke has agreed to give our keynote lecture, and Rebecca Sive has agreed to participate in as the Chipstone lecture, with additional panelists to be added. NCECA will experiment this year with a room for flexible conference planning, and a “make in” space facilitated by Mark Shapiro.

Expo

Pattie Chalmers and Thomas Orr were the jurors this year, and they selected 8 galleries to participate in the Minneapolis NCECA Expo.

There was some discussion about the future of the expo, with consideration to the physical management of the wall systems, including the inconvenience of storing the expo walls each year, then moving them to the conference city from storage, as well as the limitations that having walls for only 8 gallery spaces creates. While NCECA loses money on this, we recognize that it is a valuable educational component of the conference, as well as a popular attraction.

A Task Force led by Brett, who will also invite reps from one or two long-standing commercial gallery, will discuss these issues and make suggestions to the full board.

Reports on recent NCECA partnerships

Reports were shared on recent NCECA partnerships, including recent Instagram take-overs by our past emerging artists, National Clay Week, #GlobalDayofClay, Virtual Clay, and the NCECA supported trip to China (Taoxichuan).

There was also some discussion on the recent events of the #metoo movement, and the #unfollowtortoise on Instagram. We agreed to put our new harassment policy on our website, and to discuss with a lawyer on the best ways to utilize this policy in our future presenter, staff, and board contracts.

4:51pm the meeting was recessed

**NCECA Full Board Meeting
Friday October 26, 2018
Hilton Downtown
Richmond, VA**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Brett Binford, Cindy Bracker, Mary Cloonan, Holly Hanessian, Kelly Kerr, Marge Levy, Sarah Millfelt, Jill Oberman, Ashlyn Pope, Brandon Schnur, Zach Tate, Rhonda Willers, Keith Williams, and Russell Wrangle; and NCECA Executive Director Josh Green.

Absent: NCECA Board Members Julia Galloway and Reena Kashyap

9:08am NCECA President Holly Hanessian called the meeting to order

Richmond Reception

The Board shared their interactions from the reception for local Richmond artists, art centers, gallery hosts, and volunteers held at the Visual Arts Center Richmond.

Future Conference Format Changes and Calls for 2020

Proposal calls for 2020 will be launched by March 2019.

The Board discussed making changes to improve Project Space. For 2019 we made changes so that Project Space proposals did not require artists to commit to the full 3 days with their projects. This might affect the location of Project Space, to ensure that artists can setup and take down without a negative impact on the Resource hall. In the future, Project Space artists will be asked to submit a timeline for their project, along with a list of materials that they will be utilizing for their project.

Brett will meet with Josh and Dori to find the best location and to manage logistics for the Project Space 2020.

The Board agreed that Blinc (which used to be under the oversight of Cindy Bracker) will be taken over by the DAL responsible for managing the Connections (Topical Discussions) which will be Zach Tate for 2020.

Board Mentorship

The Board also discussed making changes to our Board meetings to help with Board mentorship and smooth transitions for new board members. The Board unanimously passed the following **motion: that we invite the incoming President Elect and the 2nd incoming Onsite Liaison from each site to the board meetings prior to their service as ex officio participants. For the incoming President elect it would be for both board meetings. For the Onsite Liaison it would only be for the meeting in the upcoming city. Both would be invited to come to the board meeting after the conference if they are available.** (motion by Keith Williams, seconded by Cindy Bracker: 14 votes in favor, 2 members absent from the vote)

Multicultural Fellowships

The Board also unanimously passed a motion to increase the number of Multicultural Fellowships granted for the 2019 Conference from 10 to 16, with discussion to consider additional fellowships in the near future if needed. **Motion: For a budget variance of \$5100 to support 6 additional Multicultural Fellowships.** (motion by Rhonda Willers, second by Brett Binford, 14 votes in favor, 2 members absent from the vote).

2020 Keynote, Randall Session, Round Table Discussion, Dance Band

The Board reported on status, and brainstormed on possible names for 2020 Keynote, Randall Session, Round Table, and the Dance Band.

Donor letters

NCECA views donations as an investment in our community, and is currently interested in increasing our donor numbers, even at modest donation levels, more than securing a few larger donations. We will be sending out Board signed letters asking our members to consider donation this year. NCECA is actively trying to steward future philanthropists, whether through small donations, or even through a donation to the cup sale. Each Board member agreed to make individual donations each year of service.

Online presence

NCECA online presence continues to grow. Our new database through MemberSuite will allow us to more easily integrate the blog with our website, and to also add our enews letter as well. NCECA will be making plans to move forward with these changes with trained staff (internal or with contract labor) to create a new web design that will incorporate these changes.

BIG PICTURE DISCUSSION (Implementing our Strategic Plan)

The Board broke into small groups to complete an exercise address the status of the implementation of the 7 goals of our strategic plan.

From our discussion on our goal to increase participation of artists of diverse backgrounds, the board unanimously passed the following **Motion: to support the Color Network with a non-profit table, and a non-profit membership for 3 years.** (motion by Brett Binford, second by Rhonda Willers. 12 votes in favor, 3 Board members not present to vote)

New Business

The Regional Award for 2019 was discussed, and unanimously approved the following awards:

Motion: to approve regional award for Lyndel King (motion by Keith Williams, second by Holly Hanessian, 13 votes in favor, 3 members not present to vote).

The Board also unanimously agreed to give a Posthumous Award this year to Clarence Lee "Em" Swartout of Continental Clay, who passed in 2017. Benefits from this award for lifetime membership will be extended to his surviving spouse. **Motion to give a posthumous regional award to Em Swartout.** (motion by Keith Williams, second by Brett Binford, 13 votes in favor, 3 members not present to vote). The Board also agreed to include the posthumous award in the opening ceremonies.

Regional Award Expansion

There was a brief discussion on the definition of our regional award, and to consider establishing a local award (to the conference) and adding a regional award with further geographic reach. Rhonda, Julia, and Josh will work on clarifying the language for our regional award.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm by Holly Hanessian.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jill Oberman, NCECA Secretary
December 1, 2018