

**NCECA Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday October 23, 2019
Millennium Hotel, Cincinnati, OH**

In attendance: NCECA EC Board Members Brett Binford, Mary Cloonan, Holly Hanessian, Reena Kashyap, Jill Oberman, Pete Pinnell, Rhonda Willers, Tony Wise, and NCECA Executive Director Josh Green

4:00 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 Board Conflict of Interest Guidelines, Gender Identity Diverse guidelines, and incorporation of preferred pronouns in conference registration credentials and board and staff communications, cooperative efforts with Taoxichuan Arts Center in Jingdezhen, China; allocations of resources, artists' and curator benefits for proposed for future NCECA Annual exhibitions, and ways to honor NCECA's past experience in Cincinnati at our upcoming 2021 conference. EC consensus will be shared with the full board in the following 2-day meeting.

6:36pm the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned by Holly

**NCECA Full Board Meeting
Thursday October 24, 2019
Millennium Hotel, Cincinnati, OH**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Brett Binford, Mary Cloonan, Julia Galloway, Holly Hanessian, Marsha Karagheusian, Reena Kashyap, Kelly Kerr, Jill Oberman, Pete Pinnell, Ashlyn Pope, Lauren Sandler, Zach Tate, Jeff Vick, Rhonda Willers, Eliza Weber, and; Tony Wise, and NCECA Staff Josh Green and Dori Nielsen

Via Conference Call: Helen Anderson on financials, Kris Flewelling on annual audit, Tanya Merchant of Morgan-Stanley

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

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 Pete Pinnell, second by Holly Hanessian, 16 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

Exhibitions Report, Brett Binford

Brett Binford updated the board on the status of upcoming NCECA exhibitions for Richmond including the progress of the NCECA Annual and the NCECA Juried Student Exhibition. At this time there are approximately 100 exhibitions planned to occur during the 2020 NCECA conference in and around Richmond.

Communications Report, Tony Wise

Past conference video editing has been going well, with more videos being shared on our YouTube channel in the coming weeks. Analytics show increased reach, impressions, and engagement. The blog has been refaced to better match our website, and we are continuing to promote NCECA beyond the conference. As our communications grow, future goals include adding more assistance by either hiring staff or utilizing increased volunteer help.

Cincinnati Conference Update, Marsha Karagheusian

Plans are going well. The NCECA Annual Exhibition is booked at the Aronoff Center of the Arts, and the Juried Student Exhibition location is about to be finalized with the University of Cincinnati. There has been a lot of excitement for NCECA, and many local galleries will be either hosting concurrent exhibitions or making their own plans to be involved.

Brett Binford shared the status of the NCECA Annual in Cincinnati. There has been discussion with our possible curator about including an honorarium for participating artists. After lengthy discussion the board unanimously agreed to the following **motion: to establish a policy, beginning in 2021 that provides conference registration, 1-year membership, and honoraria aligned with parameters of annual conference presenters to artists whose work is selected for the NCECA Annual.** (motion by Brett Binford, second by Pete Pinnell, 16 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau, Millennium Hotel representatives

The Board met with members of the Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Millennium Hotel representatives, to discuss possible changes in contracted hotel room blocks for the 2021 conference. A standing contract with the Millennium may be affected due to impending redevelopment plans. The Convention and Visitors Bureau are committed to working with NCECA to honor the scope and scale of potentially jeopardized room blocks by shifting them to alternative hotel locations.

Audit Report: Helen Anderson and Kris Flewelling

NCECA Finance and Accounting Manager Helen Anderson joined the meeting via conference call to outline our recent audit with the external company's principal Kris Flewelling. NCECA's financial status is healthy, and there were no major recommendations or disagreements with management. The Management letter has a few minor recommendations, including that cash holdings on deposit in some cases exceed FDIC insurance limits. (This advisement has appeared in previous years' audits; however, NCECA's investment advisors disagree with this finding.) In order to ensure that any restricted donor funds are being deposited and tracked into appropriate accounts, and to outline and track minor discrepancies between NCECA's Membersuite database and Sage

Peachtree accounting system, the auditor has recommended making efforts to make quarterly rather than annual reports on these funds.

Financial Performance: Helen Anderson with and Tanya Merchant (Morgan Stanley)

Helen stayed on the call and was joined by Tanya Merchant from Morgan Stanley. Both reported that our investment portfolio is healthy and doing well.

Green Task Force, Zach Tate

2019-2020 Green Task Force: Chair, Zach Tate, with members Liz Duarte, Robert Harrison and Brian Kohl (and possibly in the future Derek Reeverts)

The Green Task Force would like to be more present during the 2021 Cincinnati Conference, including sharing more “green priorities” for better studio practices for our members to use at home. We have tentatively reserved a Projects Space for the Green Task Force to fill with activities and information in Richmond.

Diversity Task Force: Lauren Sandler

The Diversity Task Force met and discussed who has historically been left out of the conference, steps, and policies to consider enacting to become more effectively inclusive and equitable. The Board would like to work to further provide our local Onsite Conference Liaisons to reach out to historically marginalized communities and agreed that diversity and inclusion language will be part of our future conversations.

After suggestions from the Diversity Task Force, and further board discussion, the Board unanimously agreed on the following **motion: to adopt changes to the mission and vision statements (edited October 2019)**. (motion by Rhonda Willers, second by Julia Galloway, 16 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

There was some discussion on ways to effectively “Live Stream” feeds from the annual conference, to further inclusion efforts on behalf of those unable to attend. Lauren agreed to work on this with Tony, Josh, and Holly. We also discussed ways to help out financially to attract more people to conference and conference programming (including Gallery Expo) by adjusting fees, or possibly making financial assistance available for future diversity initiatives and/ or increased staffing to help implement these changes.

The Diversity Task Force also discussed NCECA’s inclusion of preferred and gender-diverse pronouns and suggests that we should adopt a policy that demonstrates our support. There was additional discussion about how to modify and administer a demographic survey closer to or during the event registration process in order to create a method of tracking makeup of current and future constituencies.

5:00pm the meeting was recessed by Holly

**NCECA Full Board Meeting
Friday October 25, 2019
Millennium Hotel, Cincinnati, OH**

In attendance: NCECA Board Members Brett Binford, Mary Cloonan, Julia Galloway, Holly Hanessian, Marsha Karagheusian, Kelly Kerr, Jill Oberman, Pete Pinnell, Ashlyn Pope, Lauren Sandler, Zach Tate, Jeff Vick, Rhonda Willers, Eliza Weber, and; Tony Wise, and NCECA Staff Josh Green and Dori Nielsen.

Absent: NCECA Board Member Reena Kashyap

9:03am NCECA President Holly Hanessian called the meeting to order

Taoxichuan, China: Brett Binford

Brett Binford recently returned from the Autumn Pottery Festival produced by Taoxichuan Arts Center in Jingdezhen, China. Brett updated the Board on his trip. Taoxichuan is trying to establish an NCECA-like annual event with international programming and has invited NCECA to attend the Autumn Pottery Festival with students for the current and past year. Following discussion on our involvement in this event, the board unanimously agreed on the following **motion: If invited and financially supported by Taoxichuan in 2020, we will send an NCECA representative to participate.** (motion by Brett Binford, second by Tony Wise, 15 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions). If we do attend, we will not bring students with us until logistics of the trip are better resolved by Taoxichuan.

Cincinnati 1990 Censorship resolution: Josh Green

The previous time when NCECA produced a conference in Cincinnati was 1990, coinciding with the Mapplethorpe censorship/obscenity trial. At that time, the NCECA membership voted to never return to Cincinnati for future conferences. When the Board approved Cincinnati as host city for 2021, they were unaware of that past NCECA action. The Board agreed to include some programming at NCECA 2021 to reflect that history, and to focus on freedom and power of the arts.

Cincinnati Reception debrief Caza Sikes Gallery

The Board shared their interactions from the reception for local Cincinnati artists, art centers, gallery hosts, and volunteers held at the Caza Sikes Gallery.

Board Conflict of Interest Policy-Rhonda Willers

The current Board is working on a clear conflict of interest policy, to help define how Board members can participate in conference and other NCECA programming while serving on the Board. The Board agreed to some tentative terms, that ED Josh Green will bring to an outside consultant for feedback. Once finalized, the Board aims for complete transparency with our policy, which will be openly shared with our membership.

Nominations Committee: Rhonda Willers

The Nominations Committee has been hard at work and will be making a number of nominations for awards and Board service positions in the next few months. The board did pass the following motions:

- **Motion: to accept the one-year Onsite Liaison for our 2022 Conference** (name and location to be announced at a later date), (motion by Tony Wise, second by Rhonda Willers, 14 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)
- **Motion: to support Penland School of Crafts as a regional award of excellence recipient, motion** (motion by Rhonda Willers, second by Brett Binford, 15 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)
- **Motion: to support Michelle Erickson as a regional award of excellence recipient** (motion by Rhonda Willers, second by Zach Tate, 15 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)
- **Motion: to nominate Howard Risatti as a regional award of excellence recipient** (motion by Brett Binford, second by Kelly Kerr, 14 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

Voting timeline: Jill Oberman

In an attempt for smoother transitions with Board service, the Board discussed the pros and cons of holding Board elections during the conference, as well as options for holding elections at other times throughout the year. The Board established a Voting Task Force (Jill Oberman, Rhonda Willers, Tony Wise, and possibly Lauren Sandler and Eliza Weber) to submit a proposal to the Board at our Spring 2020 meeting.

Future Conference Sites

The Board discussed possibilities for near future conference cities, discussing info submitted by Conference Manager Dori Nielsen, as well as created a preference list for additional research for sites a few more years out. Discussion included costs for convention center rental and hotels, available convention center dates, as well as geographic location in relation to other recent conferences. Political climate of certain cities was also considered.

The Board unanimously agreed to the following **motion: to move forward with pursuing (XXX-city to be announced at a future date) for our 2023 NCECA location.** (motion by Brett Binford, second by Zach Tate, 15 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions).

The Board also continued previous discussion on the possibility of establishing a rotation of “anchor” cities as hosts in alternating years and agreed to mix anchor cities with “newer” cities every 10 years.

Child Care: Josh Green

The Board discussed info researched on the possibility of providing Child Care during the Richmond conference. There is currently space available, but the fees are high. Since only 8 people responded to our recent Child Care Survey, the Board agreed to get more feedback before investing in any childcare services.

Excellence in Mentorship, Rhonda Willers

The Board discussed the need to create a new award, to honor our mentors as a way to recognize those who provided guidance along our way, but perhaps do not qualify for our Excellence in Teaching award. We also discussed reworking the guidelines for our Outstanding Achievement award to clarify its intent and reach. Rhonda Willers agreed to work on creating a proposal for these awards for future Board review.

New business

50 Friends Follow-Up” Rhonda Willers

Our annual 50 Friends meeting is a great brainstorming meeting during conference for future NCECA goals, and we would like to continue to evaluate ideas discussed during this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm by Holly Hanessian.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jill Oberman, NCECA Secretary
December 11, 2019