

July 14, 2020
Full NCECA Board
Ring Central

In attendance: NCECA Board members Pete Pinnell (President), Holly Hanessian, Merrie Wright, Mary Cloonan, Alex Hibbitt, Michelle Castro, Lisa Merida-Paytes, Zach Tate, Nancy Servis, Simon Levin, Eliza Weber, Lauren Sandler, Marsha Karagheusian, Brett Binford, Reena Kashyap, Ex-officio NCECA board members Chanda Zea, Rhonda Willers, Jeannie Hulen, Executive Director Josh Green

Absent: Marsha Karagheusian, Jeannie Hulen, Zach Tate

7.05pm EDT meeting called to order by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.
A quorum is present.

Announcements

i. Diversity Training update (Josh Green)

Josh has been making preliminary enquiries into organizations that can facilitate Diversity Training for NCECA Staff and Board and has some promising contacts.

ii. Cup Sale (Josh Green)

The cup sale was initially to have been a monthly event. In light of a number of issues that were encountered with the first iteration of moving the cup sale to a virtual platform, Josh recommends making some systemic changes to the management, jurying process, and obtaining of image rights on social media before launching the new round of the auction.

2. Business

i. Communication Director Description (Merrie Wright)

The board unanimously tabled and sent back to committee the **Motion: to amend the bylaws section 6.2.3 to redefine the language in the bylaws regarding the communications director description to read** *“Nominations for the Communications Director will be solicited from the board and membership. Appointment of the communications Director will be approved through a 2/3- majority vote of the board. The communications Director serves a three-year term and may be reappointed to serve no more than two consecutive terms. The Communications Director creates and prioritizes NCECA messaging, working closely with members of the Communications Committee, the Executive Director, staff members and the full Board of Directors. The Communications Director is responsible for reporting all communications activities to the board and advises the Board and staff in all areas of communications strategy.”*

Original Motion by Alex Hibbitt, Seconded by Brett Binford. Motion to Table moved by Eliza Weber, Seconded by Merrie Wright, 12 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

The board discussed the language in the original motion and how the position needs to be framed in relationship with the new communications staff positions, which are still under development. There was also discussion as to the need for a bylaw change at this time, and the expectation that any new board member would help craft the exact parameters of this position as part of a communications staff and board overview.

The Board also discussed the nature of the communications committee and how to increase the potential for greater flexibility, inclusivity and permeability by including the multiplicity of voices within the membership.

Rhonda Willers reminded the board of the description and charge of the Communications Committee. (Although not included in descriptions of standing committees within NCECA Bylaws): *The Communications Committee was created to design, implement and improve methods of communication between NCECA and its membership including electronic newsletters, website, and social media. The communications committee has also been responsible for the development of NCECA digital content including podcasts, Demonstrating Artists videos and Spirit of Ceramics documentaries. This committee will continue to investigate and help the board priorities for future formats for standard and special publications including the Member Directory Program Guide, the Journal and other educational resources.*

Josh suggests adding *communications between NCECA, its members and "the public"* to the committee description.

FOLLOW UP: Define the name, purpose, and charter of a communications committee or task force (Communications director ad-hoc committee)

ii. **Communication Director Nominations (Pete Pinnell)**

The board went into Executive session to discuss the nominations for the vacant Communication Director position.

iii. **Review of Communication Practices**

The board went into Executive session to discuss issues around communication practices and policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 9.05pm EDT by NCECA President Pete Pinnell

**Full NCECA Board Meeting
July 21st, 2020
Ring Central**

In attendance: NCECA Board members Pete Pinnell (President), Holly Hanessian, Zach Tate, Merrie Wright, Mary Cloonan, Alex Hibbitt, Michelle Castro, Lisa Merida-Paytes, Nancy Servis, Simon Levin, Eliza Weber, Lauren Sandler, Marsha Karagheusian, Brett Binford, Reena Kashyap, Edith Garcia. Ex-officio NCECA board members Chanda Zea, Rhonda Willers and NCECA Executive Director Josh Green.

Absent: Jeannie Hulen,

7.00pm EDT meeting called to order by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.
A quorum is present.

Announcements

i. Introductions

The board welcomed incoming Communications Director Edith Garcia to the board

Business

i. Emerging Artist to Emerging Artist Fellowship (Simon Levin)

The Board unanimously passed the **Motion: That The *Emerging Artist Award* be changed to The *Emerging Artist Fellowship*.** (Motion by Simon Levin, seconded by Holly Hanessian, 15 in favor, 0 abstain, 0 opposed)

The board discussed the impetus for the proposed change in the context of the history of the emerging artist award, and how it has changed over time to encompass a number of different facets that fall more in line with the description of a fellowship. This renaming takes into consideration the expanded opportunities (exhibition, the takeover of NCECA's social media feed etc.) and commitment to career support and long-term relationship building of the emerging artists. This fellowship would remain under the purview of the DAL and external Juror. Although a concern was raised that this change would technically remove the premier "award" for emerging artists in ceramics in the USA, the board agreed that the term fellowship is as highly regarded in the professional art world, and that the change spoke more to the intent of supporting emerging artists in their practice and career. Josh Green also reminded the board that many non-profits use "awards" as a development tactic, and that this could lead to "awards" being seen in a negative light for NCECA's potential funders and donors.

FOLLOW UP: To further support and promote the Emerging Artist Fellowship, it will be uncoupled from conference programming listing and moved to the “Calls” area of the website. (Simon)

ii. **Social Media Communications.**

The board went into Executive Session to discuss social media communications.

New Business

i. **NEA Grant Proposal for Sacramento Conference Exhibitions (Rhonda Willers)**

The board thanked Josh Green for his work on getting the NEA Grant proposal submitted.

ii. **Programming (Mary Cloonan)**

There are four video talks from 2020 conference planning that are now ready to be posted online.

FOLLOW UP: Create a schedule for releasing received video content and assess the potential for moving more content online. (Mary Cloonan, Edith Garcia)

The meeting was adjourned by Pete Pinnell at 8.37pm EDT.

**Full NCECA Board Meeting
July 28th, 2020
Ring Central**

In attendance: NCECA Board members Pete Pinnell (President), Holly Hanessian, Zach Tate, Merrie Wright, Mary Cloonan, Alex Hibbitt, Michelle Castro, Lisa Merida-Paytes, Nancy Servis, Simon Levin, Eliza Weber, Lauren Sandler, Marsha Karagheusian, Brett Binford, Reena Kashyap, Edith Garcia, Ex-officio NCECA board members Chanda Zea, Rhonda Willers and NCECA staff Finance and Accounting Manager Helen Anderson, Social Media Curator Gerald Brown, Executive Director Josh Green and guest Ebi Baralaye

Absent: Jeannie Hulen,

7.02pm EDT meeting called to order by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.
A quorum is present.

Announcements

- i. Last full board meeting on August 4, then return to monthly Executive Committee meetings

- ii. **Introductions**

The board welcomed new communications specialist Gerald Brown and guest Ebi Baralaye.

Business

- i. **Conference mode discussion** (committee update, board feedback on preference, timeline for decision) (Josh)

Josh reported on recent videoconferences with the conference mode ad-hoc committee and Erik Crutchman from CMI. While the board has been looking at a number of different potential providers of virtual conference platforms, NCECA and CMI have a long partnership and CMI continues to provide NCECA tailored and affordable quality services. Quotes from CMI for both hybrid and virtual conference modes have been plugged into the budget. Some costs could be saved by prerecording more content, this would also allow for troubleshooting the unforeseen issues of livestreaming, dropped WIFI and bad connections. Pre-recorded sessions could be paired with follow up live Q&A sessions and live chat.

The board discussed the financial, experiential and health and safety issues surrounding the different modes as well as how programming could be structured. Safety of all participants must be NCECA's highest concern.

FOLLOW UP: The board will vote on conference modality at the next board meeting.

ii. Budget update and review (Josh Green and Helen Anderson)

Helen introduced the revised budget with the CMI and smart city (WIFI data costs associated with the conference center) quotes. Both project budget models project a loss due to anticipated conference fee reduction for members and high cost of facilitating the virtual platforms as well as potential cancellation fees from Hotels and Conference center.

iii. Two new board position descriptions (Holly)

The board discussed the continuing work of the ad hoc committee in crafting the two new board positions and the foci of those positions and their function within the board as a whole.

The meeting was adjourned by Pete Pinnell at 8.43pm EDT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alex Hibbitt, NCECA Secretary, September 4th 2020.