

June 9, 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, Jeff Vick and NCECA. Ashlyn Pope, Jeannie Hulen, Executive Director Josh Green

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

Pete introduced Jeannie Hulen in her position as special advisor to the board for development.

1. Approval of the minutes (Alex Hibbitt)

The board unanimously approved the **motion: To approve the minutes for the meetings listed below** (moved by Alex, seconded by Holly, 14 in favor.

- i. April 28, 2020
- ii. May 12, 2020
- iii. May 26, 2020

2. Announcements

Pete announced that Tony Wise has stepped down from his position as Communication director on the board

i. New Communications staff position (Josh Green)

The Board is thankful to former Board Member Ashlyn Pope, who has agreed to return to NCECA temporarily as a part-time staff member focused on communications, in particular social media. The board will work to redefine the communications director position, as well as

establish a staff member in communications with the dual goals of hiring a social media specialist and incorporating more diversity into the staff team.

The board sees filling the vacant communications director position as a top priority, and that position will need to be supported by a strong group of staff focused on communications and a strategic communications plan.

The board sees the need to communicate more clearly with the membership as to the volunteer nature of the board, who makes up the board, how it functions and how members can be more involved in the organization.

An ad-hoc committee of the board is working to define next steps for NCECA in light of recent events and social media discussions.

3. Business

i. Spring Meeting content and structure (Pete Pinnell)

Joshua Green outlined some of the urgent topics to be addressed in the spring 3-day board meeting. NCECA must address a number of fundamental structural concerns that relate to the core values and mission of the organization through frank and exacting conversations over the full course of the meeting cycle.

ii. Recent events and ways to move forward.

Josh Green recapped the issues and concerns around a social media post of last week. This post was connected with the "virtual cup sale" a fundraising event that usually happens at the conference and is open to all to donate and buy cups to support artist fellowships.

The board discussed the critical issues that were raised from the problematic juxtaposition of a cup offered for sale in the context of a message of support for Black Lives Matter at a time of intense grief and anger. The board recognizes that there are systemic changes that need to be made in order to be a more fully representative and proactive organization.

It is also apparent that NCECA needs to urgently implement policies to address social media messaging and to adequately support a volunteer individual for whom social media is one part of a much larger communications responsibility.

The board discussed different strategies to educate, support and empower those staff and board members who are tasked with posting and moderating through social media and the NCECA blog. The board acknowledges it has work to do to facilitate better communication and discussion with and among the membership as a whole and is committed to empowering and magnifying the voices and work of its BIPOC membership.

The board discussed how to increase diverse representation on the board of NCECA, in relationship to what is currently possible under the bylaws. The board discussed concerns regarding perceptions of Tokenism as well as potential inequities of labor that can be assigned to BIPOC individuals in governance positions and will actively work to make all board service inclusive and equitable. The board also discussed the charge of the diversity taskforce, with the understanding that diversity needs to be addressed and folded into the entirety of the structure of the board.

Meeting adjourned at 8.pm EDT by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.

Full NCECA Board Meeting

June 30th, 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, Ex-officio NCECA board members Chanda Zea, Rhonda Willers and NCECA staff Helen Anderson and 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. **Board and Staff Reports are due July 10** to Alex Hibbitt

ii. **NEA CARES Act funding (Josh Green)**

Josh informed the board that NCECA has received a National Endowment for the Arts “cares act” award for \$50,000. This is in addition to the project award received for the Cincinnati-based exhibitions planned for next year. This new award is to cover staff salaries. With this we can cover around 10% of most staff salaries for the year. Reena informs the board that this award was extremely competitive.

iii. **Communications Director search (Pete Pinnell)**

Pete Pinnell gave an overview of the work the subcommittee has done regarding the Communications Director search and encourages the board to make comments and suggestions.

Business

i. **Synopsis of investments and financial needs 2020/2021. (Helen Anderson)**

Helen updated the board about the finance committee meeting on Friday June 26th, which included a discussion with Tanya and Catherine of the Coleman Merchant group. Tanya assured NCECA that there is enough liquidity in preferred savings, maturing notes and CDs to cover continuing projected losses related to continued Covid 19. One of the largest unknown costs is that of technology and support for hybrid or virtual conference modalities for 2021. The board is working to get quotes from long term conference technology partner CMI so that they can move forward with budget planning.

ii. **Sacramento Conference Theme (Nancy Servis)**

Nancy reported to the board the in-depth discussions of the Sacramento planning committee and outlined why their preferred theme is *Fertile Ground*. The committee discussed numerous different themes and reached out to representatives of the many different cultural backgrounds that find their home and ancestry in the Sacramento area to solicit their opinions. Nancy reiterated that Sacramento has its own unique character that is tied into the land in many different ways. The board discussed the relationship and balance between the regional focus of an NCECA conference and the national membership and concerns within the field. The board sees the Sacramento conference as an opportunity in a number of ways; To expand the visibility and support of indigenous communities, to foster increased participation of BIPOC individuals and communities in the planning and programming of the conference, and to acknowledge and honor the indigenous and multicultural character of the region.

The board passed the **motion: To approve that the Sacramento NCECA 2022 conference be named *Fertile Ground*.** (Moved by Brett Binford, Seconded by Reena Kashyap, 12 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 0 abstentions).

iii. **Annual members' Meeting (Alex Hibbitt)**

The board discussed the date and format of the Annual Members' Meeting for 2020, which was rescheduled due to the cancelation of the March conference, as well as potential issues that may arise with technology, time and member participation. Although general attendance at member meetings is small, NCECA current membership remains high and this could make an online meeting more technically challenging. The ad-hoc committee will continue to work on the meeting logistics. This date will align with National Clay Week, which begins on Oct 5th.

The board unanimously approved the **motion: To approve the date and time for the annual NCECA members business meeting as Oct 4th, 2020 at 3pm EDT.** (Moved by Brett Binford, seconded by Holly Hanessian, 13 votes in favor)

iv. **Ad Hoc Committee updates**

- a. Open Communications Director board position (Lauren Sandler)
Nothing to report
- b. Creation of two new board positions
Shoji and Isaac Scott will join the ad hoc committee
- c. Ad hoc committee to develop virtual and hybrid conference models (Pete Pinnell)
Nothing to report.
- d. National Clay week (Josh Green)
NCECA has been asked if it is willing to provide some kind of programming each day of NCW.

Action Item: Convene an ad-hoc committee to address National Clay Week programming.

Meeting adjourned by NCECA President Pete Pinnell at 8.32 pm EDT

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alex Hibbitt, NCECA Secretary, July 21, 2020