

**Full NCECA Board Meeting
February 9th, 2021
Zoom**

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

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

Announcements

i. Introduction of our two new board members (Merrie)

The Board welcomed incoming board members Heidi McKenzie and MaPó Kinnord.

ii. Sign Up for conference session assignments (Rhonda)

Rhonda outlined the production support needs of the virtual conference and asked the board to volunteer to fill the roles of producer or production assistant for programming. Additional names will need to be requested from the presenters.

The board discussed strategies to make the process as clear and simple as possible, and Rhonda will craft a guide to help those fulfilling these roles. Edith reminded the board that we have full management support from vfairs and they will be assisting and working with the speakers and prepping them.

iii. Voting for board meetings (Pete)

Pete reiterated voting procedures for board meetings

iv. Upcoming board report deadline - March 1 for period October 1 to March 1. (Alex)

Business

i. Approval of the minutes

The Board passed the Motion: approve the minutes for the January 12th 2021 Board Meeting. (Moved by Brett, seconded by Reena, votes in favor 15, against 0, abstentions 1.)

ii. Approval of Board Reports

a. April to June 2020

The board passed the **Motion: Approve the board reports for April to June 2020.** Moved by Alex, seconded by Holly, votes in favor 16, against 0, abstentions 0

b. July To October 2020

The board passed the **Motion: Approve the board reports for July To October 2020.** (Moved by Brett, seconded by Reena, votes in favor 16, against 0, abstentions 0.)

iii. Nominations committee update (Merrie and Lauren)

The board passed the Motion: Continue the search for 2021-2024 DAL candidates until the nominations committee has at least three applicants to bring to the board for ratification. Moved by Merrie, seconded by Lauren, votes in favor 14, against 1, abstentions 2.)

Board representatives to the nominations committee expressed concern that the committee was not yet able to recommend a slate of candidates that would represent the organization's stated goals of achieving a board whose representation reflects that of the field and culture at large. The pandemic and the evolution of racial justice initiatives in the range of organizations and schools that make up the field may be contributing to the capacities of several potential candidates the committee had approached to agree to stand for election at this time. Board representatives to the Nominations Committee also challenged the board to undertake a process of review of current candidate requirements and whether the perpetuation of elected seats might contribute to or act as an obstacle to diversification of NCECA's leadership team.

The board discussed ramifications of these concerns and how to best move forward. Ultimately, the view of the board was that NCECA must act now to support its goal of greater diversity at the board level. The Board Steward will reach out to those who have submitted nominations to date to inform them of the extension to the initially anticipated timeline for the announcement of candidates and the opening of a ballot. The board additionally discussed enacting a grace period to extend voting eligibility of members who may not be able to renew due to financial and personal impacts of the Covid crisis or other disruptions to participate in NCECA's upcoming conference. Public announcements will also be made to the membership regarding the temporary delay of the next election cycle and the grace period on expiring memberships.

The Board passed the **Motion: Create an ad hoc committee to evaluate board nominations and the process used for nominating and selecting these board members in relation to stated goals of addressing racial diversity within the board and membership.** Moved by Merrie, seconded by Brett, votes in favor 16, against 0, abstentions 0.)

This ad hoc committee will be charged to look at the larger structural issues in the nominations and election process that perpetuate inequity and suggest new strategies to the board.

FOLLOW UP: formation of ad hoc committee (Pete)

The committee will report to the board at the spring board meeting in June and will work to make sure we are in compliance with bylaws and Colorado non-profit law statutes while addressing their charge.

iv. **Sacramento planning update** (Nancy)

Planning updates will be posted to basecamp.

David William introduced preliminary work on Sacramento conference graphics and posters. A concern was raised that they do not clearly show that this is a ceramics conference. The board supported David's current direction and gave him the go ahead to continue.

The Board unanimously passed the Motion: approve the Sacramento Onsite Liaison to approach a leading candidate for the closing lecture (Sacramento 2022.) Moved by Nancy, seconded by Edith, votes in favor 15, against 0, abstentions 0.)

v. **Finance update** (Reena)

Reena assured the board that NCECA is well positioned financially and the portfolio is doing well.

vi. **Programming update** (Chanda, Mary)

Things are on track, and the final keynote speakers are confirmed. It is time to evaluate the call for proposals for Sacramento.

vii. **Communications update** (Edith)

Edith invited the board to submit short introductory videos to be posted at the conference. branding and conference communications are going well. Communications are working with Adam and Chuck to take branding into video for the conference. Edith is creating a marketing package for the board.

viii. **Exhibitions update** (Brett)

There are 50 art exhibitions and 2 emerging artists that will have booths at the conference. 8 galleries have confirmed for the Gallery Expo. Josh also updated the board on numbers of registrations for non-profit and vendors for the virtual conference.

ix. **Development committee update** (Merrie)

Merrie presented the development committee report, including a review of Annual Giving Circle membership, board member giving and Annual fund appeals and planning for the 2021 cup sale. Reported donations total \$66,292.75 from the annual appeal.

Meeting adjourned at 9.14pm EST by NCECA President Pete Pinnell