



ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

Annual Members' Meeting October 4, 2020 Zoom

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, , Brett Binford, Reena Kashyap, Marsha Karagheusian, Edith Garcia, Ex-officio NCECA board members Chanda Zea, Rhonda Willers and NCECA staff Social Media Curator Gerald Brown, Executive Director Josh Green, Jason Samuels, Allysin Hoffelmeyer, jeff Guerro, Kate Vorhaus, Helen Anderson, Tammy Lynn, plus open to all NCECA Members

3.00pm EDT meeting called to order by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.
A quorum is present. 50 members or 5% membership.

Brief video reports were given by board members as follows:

Pete Pinnell gave the Presidential welcome in which he addressed how NCECA is addressing structural racism and that fighting complacency has to be at the forefront of what we are doing. He also introduced 2 new board positions and changes in the scope of the Communications director, as well as the inclusion of more non board members on board committees. He introduced Gerald Brown as the new social media curator and highlighted the exciting changes that have been happening. Finally, he Introduced the 2021 conference as a virtual conference and discussed the benefits of this change to accessibility and programming possibilities.

Merrie Wright Introduced the opportunities deadlines for 2021 (fellowships, open board positions). She also discussed the process for the creation of the two new board positions (appointed and open to all to apply), changes to the bylaws, and spoke about the overall process of board and decision making. She reminded the meeting that board reports and board minutes are available via nceca.net

NCECA is focusing on concrete actions. Nominations sought from all NCECA members for opportunities and board positions.

Holly Hanessian introduced the new Governance, Advocacy, and Policy Director description, and the process and thinking behind the position. It will focus on best governance policies and inclusiveness in NCECA events, as well as advocacy and accountability to support the needs of all NCECA's membership.

Lauren Sandler Introduced the new Collaboration and Engagement Director description and the process and thinking behind the position. Lauren discussed the drive to address systemic racism in NCECA. The board is working on new partnerships and building diversity. This new board position will work with on-site liaisons for accessibility and equity at the conference.

Ellie Weber introduced the opportunities for students: National Student Juried Exhibition, Regina Brown Undergraduate Student Fellowship, Graduate Student Fellowship, virtual student critique opportunities, and a reminder to members to run for Student Director At Large. She encouraged members to take part in the mentorship event at the conference.

Reena Kayshap - Treasurer update

A month prior to Richmond- preregistration was on track to break all membership records. NCECA lost 50% revenue that year due to the cancelation. Reena showed members how revenue and costs broke down for the last fiscal year, and stated that even with lost revenue from this year's conference, NCECA remains in good financial shape for the future.

Josh Green Executive Director update

Josh highlighted organizational changes and communicated about virtual conference 2021. He encouraged the membership that our shared grit and continuity will get us through these turbulent times and spoke about how NCECA will be evolving and remodeling in the next few months. He also let the members know about the drive to digitize and host the NCECA Archive. Josh recognized the hard work of the NCECA staff and thanked the board for its service.

Edith Garcia discussed the changes to the Communications Director role, overall communications and how to follow NCECA. She also talked about the 2021 Virtual Conference, highlighting the opportunity to engage with a global community, and showcase an immersive environment. She reminded members of NCECA participation in Clay Week following the Members' Meeting

Rhonda Willers -moderated member Q & A

Q: How will registration carried forward from 2020 work in light of fee changes as the conference is moved to a virtual format?

A: Members will have the option to get a total or partial refund, they might put the balance towards merchandising or possibly put towards someone else's registration or donated. This is still being formulated to give members as many options as possible.

Q: How will an online conference work?

A: Josh Green discussed the research and events that he and other board members and staff have been attending, with some possible options. He emphasized the benefit of expanding content and accessibility within the virtual model. The biggest challenge is building person to person experiences that happen at the physical conference.

Q: Encouragement to use the online format to be more inclusive of less well-known voices of makers across the clay continuum. "A series of cousins and relatives". Looking to expand representation globally, while addressing the historic lack of diversity in NCECA.

Q: A request to include preferred pronouns on the member profile.

A: This was an option on 2020 conference registration and should be available on member portal soon.

Q: how is NCECA addressing toxic comments on recent blog posts.

NCECA has developed new community standards language and is working to remove toxic commentators from social media and blog.

Comment from Winnie Owens Hart: I have seen a growth in diversity but it is nowhere where it needs to be. We need to continue to widen the circle.

Q: Is NCECA taking any more proposals for the 2021 conference in light of the switch to virtual.

A: As much of the 2020 content will move forward there is limited space for new proposals past the call that was issued for 2021 proposals recently. It may be possible that NCECA will seek out and curate some new proposals in addition to these that have particular resonance. NCECA will also be sprinkling some content through the year.

Q: A request for more and better programming geared towards High School teachers, including discussion of virtual teaching.

A: NCECA sees commitment to the next generation of makers as a priority and will be working on more ways to engage students and teachers through the work of the new Collaboration and Engagement board position.

Q: A question about the website as a more informational and functional repository of information.

NCECA has been looking at the functionality of the website but sees the social media and blog platforms as better ways to engage at this moment due to the prohibitive financial cost of shifting the website at this time.

Q: The Native American Community has been largely overlooked by NCECA, What about financial diversity and low income or those without internet access? A request to make sure we see the new board member position in collaboration and engagement from different viewpoints and allow for a wide-ranging vision for the position to be truly transformative.

A: Yes, we want to continue widening the circle

Q: A suggestion to expand topical discussions in a virtual conference to foster more interactions between attendees.

A: NCECA will look at how the more one on one and interactive parts of the conference could be achieved through topical discussion or other modes. The call for clay conversations is still open and there is room to add more of this kind of programming in 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 4.37 EDT by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.