



FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2021
Full NCECA Board
ZOOM

In attendance: NCECA Board members Pete Pinnell (President), Rhonda Willers, Merrie Wright, Edith Garcia, Reena Kashyap, MaPó Kinnord, Chanda Zea, Heidi McKenzie, PJ Anderson, Dina Perlasca, Michelle Castro, Brett Binford, Ray Gonzales, Lauren Sandler, Jeff Vick, Nancy Servis, Pam Kravetz, Cal Cullen, Shoji Satake, Executive Director Josh Green, NCECA Staff Gerald Brown and Allyson Hoffelmeyer.

Absent: Alex Hibbitt, Simon Levin

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

Announcements:

- i. **Welcome to the board Cal Cullen.**
- ii. **Annual Appeal Letters: Timeline and Expectations (Merrie)**

Merrie reminded the board about the importance of reaching out directly to individuals about the annual appeal, suggesting ways that folks can get involved in NCECA and why their participation is important. There was discussion about monthly sustaining/repeating donation options

- iii. **Nominations reminder for Board Positions (Merrie):**
 - o Director at Large
 - o Student Director at Large
 - o Treasurer
 - o Exhibitions Director

We may need to extend the deadline and reach out to individuals to recruit.

- iv. **OSCL updates**

Sacramento

Nancy and Ray presented their reports to the board, highlighting their work with the Sacramento planning group as well as on exhibitions, awards, presenters, fundraising and sponsorship, collectors tour, etc. Nancy requested help in identifying volunteers in the following areas:

- 2022 Exhibition Bus Volunteer Coordinator
- 2022 Demonstrating Artist Volunteer Coordinator
- 2022 Program Volunteer Coordinator

Cincinnati (Pam and Cal)

Pam and Cal have been working on planning their promo videos, securing exhibitions sites and partnerships, funding and sponsorships, convening their onsite committee and arranging kick off meetings.

- v. Recent Minutes will be distributed and voted on virtually.

Business

- i. **The Board unanimously passed the Motion: Appoint Ife Williams to the Board Steward position for the 2022-2024 term.** (Moved by Merrie, seconded by Rhonda, votes in favor 17.)

Merrie reached out to Ife, and they have had several long and thorough conversations over the last few months. They discussed what a Board Steward does, Merrie shared the Bylaws and the Guide to the Board, and they have had realistic conversations about what the service for the NCECA board truly looks like.

Ife recently transitioned to a new career role at the Hambidge Art Center, is very experienced in the arts, and will make remarkable contributions to the board. Ife, a past Multicultural Fellowship recipient, is very excited to join NCECA's board and contribute to the organization's leadership.

- ii. **The Board passed the Motion: to adopt the theme *Current* as the title for the 2023 NCECA conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.** (Moved by Pam, Seconded by Cal, votes in favor 15, against 0, abstentions 1.)

Originally, the proposed name for this conference was *Currents and Echoes*. *Current* reflects both the contemporary and the river and keeps the name simple – evoking the idea of electricity and currents flowing like the river. In consideration of the plural use of *Currents* vs the singular *Current*, it was noted that we are living in a pluralistic time where the use of *Current* invokes the idea that we're all swept up in the same stream rather than reflecting people's different situations. *Current* suggests different streams coming together in one location. NCECA recently used *Cross Currents* for the 2018 conference in Pittsburgh. Design work for the conference can marry the singular and plural threads of meaning. Using *Current* keeps it in the now - moving forward instead of looking back.

- iii. **The Board passed the Motion: to transition Jeff Vick from an Onsite Liaison board position to Onsite Presidential Appointee until April 2022.** (Moved by Alex, seconded by Heidi, votes in favor 15, against 0, abstentions 1.)

This is a matter of housekeeping and compliance with a bylaw that limits the number of voting board positions. Jeff joined the board before a second voting Onsite Conference Liaison was appointed, precipitating a shift in the number of voting members beyond the present limit. Jeff will remain involved in NCECA Board functions without voting privileges but until April 2022.

- iv. **The Board unanimously passed the Motion: to use vFairs as the virtual conference platform for the 2022 conference.** (Moved by Rhonda, seconded by Edith, votes in favor 16,)

Time is passing, and with everyone's work on the 2021 spring conference and fall symposium in mind- we need to pick a platform now so we can start building the structure and content. We have a solid rapport with vFairs already and they are releasing a mobile device app soon that we will be able to use, meaning we will not have to build a separate app. There are considerations about the work loads of staff and board members heading into the hybrid conference. Despite some concerns about vFairs, we have experience with them to help us plan and communicate our needs and expectations. We will still work with CMI for onsite technology and they will work with vFairs to stream the programming.

Follow up: Are we doing virtual booths again? Some higher education institutions liked and benefited from the virtual resource hall, while many commercial vendors did not have a positive experience.

- v. **Proposed floor plan for the resource hall** (Josh, Allyson, Kate)
- o Crowd management concerns
 - o Gallery Expo spacing & expenses

Josh and Allyson presented the floorplan for the resource hall, which has been designed with social distancing and covid compliance in mind as well as safety imperatives for physically constructing booths and expo spaces. Building more standalone expo spaces would cost at least \$20,000, which Josh advised would be better spent on health and safety checks for the conference. The board discussed how this plan modifies the resource hall in relationship to crowd management issues and finding a balance between visibility for the expo vendors and avoiding large crowds at the entrance of the resource hall. The floor plan includes health check stands for the vendors, to avoid bottlenecks in the loading area, and these can be staffed through the conference and provisioned with masks, sanitizer etc. For health and safety reasons, table and booth numbers have been reduced. A central demo staging area has been included for vendors so that crowds do not congregate in the vendor booth area. There are many considerations that Diane Niggli and the covid compliance committee will continue to assess. The board did not raise strong objections to the floor plan as presented.

- vi. **Discussion: NCECA Dance** (Josh)

NCECA is under contract with one of the hotels closest to the convention center to hold the dance in their ballroom. This includes a significant food and beverage minimum dollar amount. The board does not feel that a dance is possible given the current circumstances. There was

discussion around alternative ways to gather attendees together socially with less risk in this space. Discussion will continue.

vii. **Discussion: Exhibition Bus Tours on Thursday & Friday**

A number of years ago, the board voted that bus tours should not run on Thursday and Friday to encourage people to stay at the conference center for programming. Bringing back Thursday and Friday exhibition routes could help tours make their minimum sales and spread people out, get more exhibitions on tour routes and make a tour to Davis possible. Attendance depletion isn't a negative aspect this year considering pandemic conditions. There are many pre and post conference events in the wider area that are already listed on the NCECA website, making it more attractive for visitors to stay longer and possibly travel further than usual in the area.

The board unanimously passed the motion: that we give authorization to the OSCLs and staff to schedule bus tours during the 2022 conference on all days of the conference.

(Motion by Rhonda, seconded by Michelle, votes in favor 15.)

Meeting adjourned at 8.36 pm EST by President Pete Pinnell.