

**September 21, 2021
NCECA Board Meeting - Full Board
ZOOM Virtual Meeting**

In attendance: NCECA Board members Pete Pinnell (President), Alex Hibbitt, Reena Kashyap, MaPó Kinnord, Chanda Zea, PJ Anderson, Dina Perlasca, Jeff Vick, Michelle Castro, Merrie Wright, Rhonda Willers, Nancy Servis, Brett Binford, Simon Levin, Lauren Sandler, Ex Officio board member Shoji Satake, Executive Director Josh Green, NCECA Staff Gerald Brown and Helen Anderson.

Absent: Heidi McKenzie, Edith Garcia, Ray Gonzales, Pam Kravetz

7.03 pm EDT session called to order by NCECA President Pete Pinnell.
A quorum is present.

Announcements

- i. Reminder that Board reports are due to Alex on October 4th.
- ii. Reminder to attend the annual members' meeting on Sunday October 10th at 3.00pm EDT. Symposium to follow that week.

Business

- i. The board Approved the August 10, 2021 Minutes by unanimous consent.
- ii. The board passed the **motion: to approve NCECA's operating budget for FY2021-22 as presented to the board on September 21, 2021.** (Moved by Reena, Seconded by Alex, 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.)

Josh introduced the budget to the board tab by tab. In a typical year, NCECA would be making money on the conference but this year, a number of cascading costs associated with the pandemic mean that the budget projects a significant loss. New budget items include a covid consultant and equipment to ensure the conference is as safe and covid compliant as possible for all in attendance. The hybrid modality requires around \$26,000 in internet costs for data drops for streaming content (the high cost is due to exclusive contracts that are connected to the convention center). There are additional pressing staffing needs in marketing and communications which must be implemented to support Josh and the other staff with ever increasing web and data related labor. An amount has been budgeted to hire 2 new staff positions in this area. A part time contractor position has been moved into a staff role to help with the workload - focusing on programming and engagement to support the programs director.

The board discussed the details of the pandemic compliance advisor and questions of California Department of Health and convention center guidelines and communications. In-person attendee numbers at the convention center are still unclear. Nancy is working on possible sponsorship for pandemic compliance related supplies.

Helen pointed out the 2nd SBA loan, (currently located on the membership tab) which in all likelihood will be forgiven.

Reena encouraged the board to think about how we grow the NCECA membership and build belonging. This year, NCECA has almost a million dollars in net projected loss, spread across the budget. Recent conferences up to the pandemic had been very good in terms of revenue, and therefore NCECA's reserves have grown, after investment and the growth in the markets. The past year has been filled with unprecedented events. From a financial perspective, the swift drop of investment values in spring 2020 was followed by a record-fast recovery of the stock market. This stands in stark contrast to an economy that has been growing slowly leaving many small businesses and individuals struggling. Because of market volatility and unpredictability, NCECA does not project investment revenues as a source of income when budgeting. The costs associated with planning for a hybrid conference in 2022 will be substantially higher than what might have been anticipated from an event involving only virtual or in-person participation. The sustainability of a hybrid event model over time will require NCECA to consider other changes in how it operates, generates revenue, and/or allocates resources.. This is obviously not a sustainable model. There was brief discussion of the role of the conference going forward, and the potential for building smaller gatherings across the country. Although there is much enthusiasm for the in-person conference in Sacramento from members, It is very hard to predict what the conference registration will be, both from the standpoint of California state guidelines on large gatherings and what the covid-19 situation will look like in spring of next year.

looking at specific items on the conference budget the board discussed NCECA's covid related attendance policies. Accessibility and flexibility will be critical given the changeability of the situation for individuals and organizations alike.

Action item: Questions of conference policies, registration and pricing will be addressed at the fall board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8.25pm EDT by NCECA President, Pete Pinnell.