

September 25, 2022
NCECA Annual Members' Meeting
Zoom

MaPó Kinnord, Governance, Advocacy and Policy director welcomed the members and invited everyone to introduce themselves in the chat and to say hello.

Prerecorded Board updates began at 3.00pm EDT.

Rhonda Willers, President welcomed the members and gave a meeting overview and encouraged members to share questions and comments through the chat. She shared her appreciation for NCECA members and reiterated to them that THEY are NCECA and together WE are NCECA.

Ife Williams, Board Steward reminded members about NCECA's Fellowships and Awards and board nomination procedures. She introduced the two new fellowships- The Youth Educators' Seed Fellowship and The Environmental Sustainability Fellowship.

Rick Rogers, Treasurer, gave a breakdown of NCECA's financial health, including income, expenditures, investments and the impact of the global pandemic. He shared highlights of the 2023 budget.

Heidi McKenzie, Collaboration and Engagement Director introduced the Collaboration and Engagement committee and shared their ongoing initiatives to increase and support the participation of diverse communities and to bring in new memberships from the Indigenous, Black, Persons of Colour, physically challenged and LGBTQ2+ communities in NCECA. The C&E committee continues to work together with the NCECA Board to prioritize Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Belonging at all levels of the organization.

MeLisa Zackery, Conference Manager introduced herself to the membership and shared some updates for the Cincinnati conference. MeLisa emphasized the feeling of community that she experienced at the 2022 NCECA conference, and her excitement for the 2023 conference. She encouraged members to look out for messages about registration and hotel bookings.

Dina Perlasca, Student Director at Large shared Student Opportunities, including the upcoming Student Director at Large board nominations, student-focused fellowships and critique opportunities at the conference.

Josh Green, Executive Director gave Staff and Organizational Updates as well as updates on the 2023 Conference and other information. He began by reflecting on the contributions of Dori Nielsen in her 20 years of exemplary and dynamic service as NCECA's conference manager. Josh also spoke of his excitement about the work and change the organization is undertaking as he begins his 12th year as Executive Director. He gave updates on some changes that will make the conference more environmentally and economically sustainable. NCECA plans to offer the

best in-person conference experience possible in Cincinnati. Josh also encouraged members to support the creative communities found in each of our conference cities, who work to expand access to ceramic education and opportunities for all.

Edith Garcia, Managing Director of Communications gave a Communications Update. She shared highlights from the 2022 conference, introduced the new NCECA website, and the Cultivating Community event.

Pam Kravetz and Cal Cullen, Onsite Conference Liaisons, Cincinnati 2023 exhorted us all to get ready for Cincinnati!

Chanda Zea, Programs Director shared some 2022 Conference Highlights and new programming, including a steam poster room for students and a podcast room. The make-in room will be returning in 2023. The Opening lecture will be given by Rose Simpson and her mother Roxanne Swentzell will give the closing lecture.

3.40PM EDT Live Q and A called to order by NCECA President Rhonda Willers

The Q&A was Moderated by Rhonda Willers and MaPó Kinnord

Board and Staff in attendance: NCECA Board members Rhonda Willers (President), Chanda Zea, Alex Hibbitt, Ife Williams, Heidi McKenzie, PJ Anderson, Michelle Castro, Simon Levin, MaPó Kinnord, Jeff Vick, Angelique Scott, Cal Cullen, Rick Rogers, ex officio board members Shoji Satake, Adam Chau, NCECA Staff Edith Garcia, Jacqueline Hardy, Tammy Lynn, MeLisa Zackery, Executive Director Josh Green.

42 NCECA members in attendance, a quorum is present.

Rhonda and MaPó encouraged members to share comments and ask questions.

Judith Schwartz asked if the board could share a board directory to help members get an idea of who is on the board and the responsibilities connected with each board positions so that members can contact board members with focused questions. Judith also shared information about her [world clay destinations](#) website (hosted by the Museum of Ceramic Art NY), listing museums and galleries and artists worldwide with over 4000 destinations.

Rhonda and MaPó reiterated that members are encouraged to get in touch and let NCECA know how we can better serve the membership. MaPó asked members to get in touch with her directly if they have input as to how NCECA can be more equitable and accessible to our diverse communities and asked the members to think about how NCECA could help them as they build their local communities.

Ashley Paskov asked about NCECA's virtual presence going forward, as the organization returns to an in-person conference model. Edith shared the work she has been doing to increase access to NCECA's recorded content. Rhonda also laid out the decision-making behind which content will be live streamed or made available after the conference. The website will be the portal to all virtual content and NCECA will be offering more year-round online content.

Caryn Newman, who was a first-time conference attendee shared that she was very disappointed experience of the online hybrid experience at the conference this year. Rhonda

responded that member feedback is important, and that NCECA learned a lot of things through the hybrid conference for planning in the future.

MaPó thanked Ray Gonzales and Nancy Servis for the wonderful Sacramento conference this year. Both Nancy and Ray expressed their gratitude for the experience of working together with the Sacramento and NCECA communities. Nancy said that although Covid 19 brought up many challenges, "NCECA is a team and a family, and it is wonderful to see the strength of the team". Ray was excited that the conference visibly increased networking and communications in the regional ceramic community.

MaPó also gave a shout out to the Cincinnati onsite group, who are engaging their whole community in clay related events throughout the year leading up to the 2023 conference.

MaPó called on individual board members to introduce themselves and started with PJ Anderson. She introduced herself and what she has been working on with the Collaboration and Engagement Committee.

Tammy Lynn, NCECA conference specialist, encouraged folks to volunteer at the 2023. The call for volunteers opens in November. Tammy shared her contact details.

Julie Frith asked if there are any original members left of the founders of NCECA, or members of their families that are active in the clay community. Her father Donald Frith was one of these. Josh said it is a good question and he does not know for sure. Julie was excited to see how NCECA has evolved. MaPó invited her to talk with her about her and her family's experiences with NCECA. Julie shared that Eugenie Meltzer, her oldest sister, is the ceramicist in the family. MaPó will follow up with both of them.

Aurora Chabot appreciated the diversity that exists on the NCECA board and staff today and all the work that is happening on increasing diversity. She asked if there is a spot on the website for members to tell their stories- MaPó and Edith responded that this is being worked on currently.

Hitomi Shibata shared that the NCECA conference in Sacramento was family friendly.

4.35PM EDT. NCECA President Rhonda Willers reminded everyone how to get in touch and closed the meeting.