



**Governing Board Retreat
February 18, 2024; Montgomery Bell State Park
MINUTES**

All Times stated as Central Time

Call to Order

JoEl begins meeting at 10:31 am.

Roll Call

Kim Waag

Board Members Present

JoEl Levy LoGiudice, Governing Board President
Audry Deal-McEver, Governing Board Co-Vice-President
Reneau Dubberley, Governing Board Treasurer
Shaun Giles
Erin Anfinson
Julie Boisseau-Craig
Nancy Fischman
Jonathan Harwell-Dye
Kelly Hider, Governing Board Co-Vice-President
Allison Letson
Denise Miller
Paige Ward Moore, Governing Board Treasurer
Pat Moody
Patricia Schwarz
Courtney (CK) Stone
David Taylor
Carlton Wilkinson

Excused:

Donna Woodley
Donna Glassford
Jessica Wilson

Staff

Trish Tallon-Blanchard, Director of Programs & Community Engagement
Kim Waag, Executive Director

JoEl announces Presence of Quorum Affirmative

Board Ballot Results voted in by Tennessee Craft Membership

Kelly Hider, Co-Vice President
Paige Ward Moore, Secretary

Erin Anfinson, Member-at-Large
Julie Boisseau-Craig, Member-at-Large
Donna Glassford, Member-at-Large
Jonathan Harwell-Dye, Member-at-Large
Approval of change to Bylaws to maximum of 12 Members-at-Large

Post-Board ballot board member vote of approval

Pat Moody, Member-at-Large

Crafting Blackness: Black Craft History Project Karlota Contreas-Koterbay

10:35 am: JoEl introduces Karlota Contreas-Koterbay and the history of how the Crafting Blackness: Black Craft History Project began in 2022. Karlota serves as the curator at the Slocumb Galleries at East Tennessee State University since 2006 and has received many honors and recognitions during her tenure at ETSU.

Karlota begins her presentation on The Crafting Blackness Initiative: 100 Years History of African American Craft Artists in Tennessee from 1920 to present. Referred board members to the provided handout on the initiative.

The project includes Black Tennessee 250+ artists; 18,000-word survey essays; collection of bibliography with artists statements; Q&A video narratives; 12 traveling exhibitions with public engagements; 4 catalogues book publications. A digital archive is forthcoming and will be available to the public.

A partnership of Tennessee Craft and ETSU Tipton and Slocumb Galleries with various institutional partners, art organizations, etc. Began the work by defining what the word craft means.

For this project the word **craft** has been defined as:

- Craft as agency
- Work that is of handmade, with functional and aesthetic elements
- Vessels of memories
- Narratives of collective identities
- Tapestries of untold and omitted histories
- Spiritual practice

Included are 2 survey essays by Karlota-Contreras-Koterbay on Black Tennessee Craft and Dr. Earnestine Jenkins on West Tennessee.

Commissioned Black Craft Essays by African American Scholars:

- Daryl Carter
- Brigette Jones
- Cynthia Gadsen
- Jovita Wells
- Lurlynn Franklin
- Karen Sullivan

Focus essays by Craft and Appalachian Scholars:

Brian Jobe
Rebecca Proffitt
Mark Schlicher
Courtney Johnson
Stephen Wicks
Lyn Govette
Shawn Pitts
Nick DeFord
Michelle Fisher

Public/Community Engagements

There will be exhibitions of the work across the state of Tennessee from 2023 – 2027 and possibly even further to show the work of artists researched during this project. Crafting Blackness exhibitions were held in 2023 at the Tipton and the Slocumb galleries in Johnson City, Tennessee, and next month will be held at Middle Tennessee State University and at the Tennessee State University galleries. Exhibitions include panel discussions and lectures, workshops, podcasts, festivals, and/or presentations. Many institutional partners have collaborated with us to make this project happen.

The initial catalogue/book, *Crafting Blackness Initiative 2023: Black Bodies Making Form* was created to document the project and the exhibitions for people who could not visit the installations in person, and to journalize. Referred board members to the catalogue available for viewing at the board meeting.

Karlota presented images of exhibitions that have been shown so far and reviewed select works from those exhibitions.

Karlota completed her presentation on the Crafting Blackness Initiative at 11:41 am.

Donor Thank You Card Making Session

JoEl introduced next a board meeting activity, Donor Thank you Card Making session. Reminded all of the importance of thanking our donors. Each activity table had a facilitator who is the chair of one of our existing standing committees so that new members and existing members can also learn about the different committees that they can serve on. As board members, we all commit to serve on committees.

Activity Facilitators:

Courtney Stone: Chair, Community Engagement and Exhibitions Committee

Kelly Hider: Chair, Professional Development Committee

Audry Deal_McEver: Chair, Fair Committee

JoEl LoGiudice and Kim Waag: Executive Committee and Development Committee

Reneau Dubberley: Chair, Finance Committee is not tasked to facilitate a table, but if any member has questions about the Finance Committee, they can talk with Reneau during the card-making session.

Break given @ 11:45 am. Return to card making after the break.

Approval of November 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion and Vote to accept November 2023 Minutes

*Patricia Schwartz motions. Reneau Dubberley seconds.
All approved.*

President's Report

12:28 pm return to order after card-making session.

JoEl directed the group to her and Linda Nutt's membership study report, available on the board Google Drive and is included in all members' folders, and she welcomed any questions or comments from the group. No findings or concerns were expressed.

JoEl stated her primary focus in calendar year 2024 is the launch of the organization's E-Commerce Site. Succession plan for the President position will be discussed at the June 2024 board meeting, as JoEl's term will end on December 31, 2024, and current co-vice-presidents are not available to move into the board president position.

There are 2 openings on the Board due to Julie Boisseau-Craig stepping down from a Member-at-Large position to fill the East Chapter board representative position and board member Evan Brown has stepped off of the board. Request was made for board nominations, which could also include nominating a member-at-large in the fall who would then be eligible to move into the president's position January 2025.

Options for the upcoming 2024 fall board meeting dates were announced, with the request of a vote.

Motion and vote on 2024 November/December board meeting dates:

13 board members voted November 16, 2024

10 board members voted December 14, 2024

November 16, 2024 has majority.

Fall 2024 board meeting is scheduled on November 16, virtual, 10am – 1pm.

Community Engagement & Exhibitions Committee will begin work on programming aligned with the Best of Tennessee Craft exhibition at Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, perhaps during the closing reception. The exhibition opens October 14 with the closing exhibition reception on December 13, 2024.

Executive Director's Report

At 12:40 pm, Kim directed the group to her report, available on the board meeting Google Drive and welcomed any questions or comments from the board. No findings or questions were expressed.

Spring Fair is May 3-5, 2024, and encouragement was extended for volunteers from the Board. The Welcome Tent at the fair is being redeveloped and research is underway for additional ways to collect donations during the fair, including "Dip Jars" which take credit card donations.

As Fair Committee Chair, Audry presented a free host program for Emerging Makers Tent artists' stay during the fair in Nashville, and informed anyone who has available housing as a host to contact her.

Kim informed applications for the upcoming 2024 Spring Fair closed last night and number applications received surpassed the number received for last year's spring fair, as the fairs continue to grow and be above budget. 2023 Fall Fair came in with a high revenue peaking a 30% increase compared to the 2023 Spring Fall's 11% increase in revenue. Fair; expenses; however, continually increase 34% due to inflation and infrastructure cost increases.

The Tennessee Arts Commission federal treasury recovery fund grant's three year award ends June 2024. Directed board to a financial government grant funding report in their hardcopy meeting folder. Fiscal review of current and projected programming and operating expenses will be examined, and a new development plan developed, resulting in a FY25 budget. Launch of the E-Commerce site will bring new revenue, with expected low new expenses.

Kim reminded board members to track their volunteer hours and in-kind giving for the organization and report those to Tabby when her text message is received each month.

Quarterly Treasurer's Report, Investment Report

Reneau begins presentation of Treasurer's Report at 12:54pm. He directed board members to the December's financial reports included in the board meeting Google Drive folder.

Informed of the following Position Statement highlights:

- Healthy cash on hand and equity.
- Vanguard investments increased \$23,322.33.
- Equity: \$355,000 in assets that include investments and cash on hand.
- Net Income: Current excess of income over expense.

Statement of Activities was presented. With , income exceeding expenses, we are in good financial shape throughout this FY. Reneau opens for questions.

Inquiries re the depletion of the federal funding were acknowledged by Reneau who expounded on the importance going forward in the launch of the E-Commerce site and the plans to increase our audience and donations. Discussion ensued regarding fiscal impact projections of the E-Commerce program. New earned income will be raised through entry and commissions revenue. Our development director will oversee and administer the site. More discussion can be held at our June 18, 2024 board meeting in conjunction with a presentation of our FY25 financial budget.

Motion and vote to accept Treasurer's Report

Patricia Schwarz motions. Julie Boisseau-Craig seconds. All Approved.

Motion and vote to accept Investment's Report

Audry Deal-McEver motions. Kelly Hider seconds. All approved.

Consent Agenda: Chapter and Committee Reports

Motion and vote required – Consent: approval for committee and chapter reports.

Reneau Dubberley motions. Nancy Fischman seconds to accept the reports as presented in the Google Drive board folder.

Board Commitment Forms

1:13 pm JoEl directs us to the Board Commitment form located in board Google Drive folder. Reviewed the form and board responsibilities to serve as an advocate and ambassador for Tennessee Craft. It is important to our grantors to know that our full board is committed to what we do as an organization. Board members will receive a Monday Message email from JoEl with a link to the Commitment and Conflict of Interest Policy. At that time, the board can complete those forms. The deadline to complete the forms is February 23, 2024.

Board Conflict of Interest Policy

Kim presents the Board Conflict of Interest Policy at 1:18 pm and reminds the board again that the full board is required to understand, sign and submit the form. It speaks to our “Duty of Loyalty.” Informed that board collaboration between different organizations is not a conflict of interest. Gave example in regard to programming, board members who participate in the fair or the Best of Tennessee Craft exhibition are not breaching the Conflict of Interest policy because they are going through the same procedures as every other who are directly served, without preferential treatment and benefits.

Art Specialty License Plate

At 1:22pm, Kim presents the information about the art specialty and other general specialty plates. 80% of revenue of the Tennessee Arts Commissions is funded by the Specialty License Plate program, which in turn funds grant awards in our communities through application by the commission. It is also our duty as a grantee to promote the specialty license plate program. Referred board members to the brochure included in your meeting’s hardcopy board folder and on our website for further information on the Tennessee Specialty Plate program.

Arts Advocacy Day is approaching, on March 16th, and board members were referred to information in their hardcopy board folder, and were encouraged to attend the virtual presentation, hosted by our state and the Tennessee Arts Commission.

New Business: Chapters & Other

Northeast:

- Nancy: Call for Artists for a show that will open the first Friday in May.
- Nancy: Opening receptions will be held on the first Friday of every month at Fischmann Gallery.

- For any further information on Northeast Chapter events, contact Nancy Fischmann.

Southwest:

- Patricia: Show in June & July at Playhouse on the Square. Artists will give to a charity option. For more information, contact Patricia Schwarz.
- Led by Patricia, discussion ensued on Arrow and Crosstown Arts in Memphis.

East:

- Julie: Plans are underway to revive “Art in the Valley”.
- Julie: 2nd Friday monthly meetings will begin with a focus on artist development.

Midstate:

- Courtney: Invitational exhibition during April in Nashville at ArtBeat.

Midwest:

- Paige: Reported on several upcoming events in the Midwest.

Call from JoEl to chapters to keep us informed on what is going on in your chapter and region, as we will promote in our website, ENews, socials and other platforms. And we look forward to attending a/o participating, as availability permits.

1:33pm: Group board photo was taken by Kim.

Move to adjourn: JoEl LoGiudice. All approved. 1:35pm.

Next scheduled Governing Board Meetings

June 8, 2024, Virtual

September 14, 2024, Virtual

November 16, 2024, Virtual

Minutes prepared June 5, 2024 by:

Paige Ward Moore, Governing Board Secretary

M. Paige Ward Moore

JoEl Levy LoGiudice, Governing Board President

JoEl LoGiudice