

# FALL 2019

It has been an exciting and rewarding time since we were all together at Texchange last spring! Whether working on Puertográfico 2020, our upcoming conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, traveling to represent SGC International, or engaging with our membership, I feel fortunate to be serving as SGCI president and learn from every opportunity, or challenge, with which I have been presented. As with so many volunteer opportunities, I know that I am receiving much more than I give. It has been particularly rewarding for me to see giving and volunteering becoming more intricately woven into our organization.

The board has been actively assisting beyond the scope of their roles in the leadership of SGCI in the preparation for Puertográfico. It has been exciting to work with our conference hosts and see how much you all have to look forward to when you arrive in San Juan on April 1, 2020. This event will be packed with new programming, but perhaps more importantly it will be rich with opportunities for cultural exchange. Members will develop lasting bonds with Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Latin American printmakers, learn about the complex cultural and political relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, and potentially arrive early or stay late to participate in community service opportunities.

One of the most rewarding things that has come from our work with our Puerto Rican counterparts is the development of a sense of responsibility to and appreciation of the Puerto Rican art and printmaking community for hosting us. This past spring Joseph Velasquez and John Hancock visited Puerto Rico to meet with printmakers, visit our host institutions, and make connections with area schools. Joseph returned with a trove of ideas for ways that SGCI can give back to Puerto Rico. To help him flesh these ideas into action, I formed the Ad Hoc Committee for Community Exchange. This committee is led by Joseph Velasquez with the assistance of Hannah March-Sanders and Blake Sanders. Under Joseph's leadership, he and his team have developed opportunities to take programming into local schools, constructed a registry for tools and materials that members can bring with them to Puerto Rico and leave as donations to local institutions, and created a giving campaign to purchase a press for the printshop at Universidad de Puerto Rico – Recinto de Río Piedras. I am humbled by the work of this team and

eager to see the generosity of our members come to fruition through your participation in these initiatives. Thank you Joseph, John, Hannah, Blake and all the others who are helping us in these efforts! I hope to see your work become the standard for how we engage with all of our future host communities.

In the following report you will see the outcome of the many ways in which people give of their time and resources to help SGC International become stronger. We all benefit from these selfless acts. In closing I ask how can you give back to SGCI? How can you embrace volunteerism and give back to SGCI whether it is in our governance, outreach, conference management, or exchange with our Puerto Rican host community? How can you help SGCI to leave a legacy of friendship and generosity of spirit in all that we do?

Thank you and best wishes to you all!

Charles Beneke  
President, SGC International

## **Texchange**

The board would like to thank our Texchange steering committee for a fantastic conference this past March. Lari Gibbons, Nancy Palmeri, Steven Foutch, Rachel Livedalen, and David Newman, thank you all for the hard work and time that you generously gave to presenting such a great event. All that we gained from the programming that you presented and the memories made from our time together live strong.

The following is a snapshot of the final conference accounting from our conference planning budget.

Attendance: 1033

On-site Registration: \$28,350.00

Conference Final Budget: \$20,820 conference profit

\$266,212 registration revenue

\$245,391 conference expenses

## **SGC International Budget Report**

We will be presenting a formal budget report at our Membership meeting at our 2020 annual conference in Puerto Rico. In the meantime to keep you abreast, the following figures are a snapshot of our budget pulled from our conference accounting and membership dues, the two major sources of income for SGCI.

2019 SGCI Budget Snapshot (July 1st, 2018-June 30th)

\$55,720 in membership dues

\$20,820 2019 conference profit

\$76,722 total income

## **2020-22 SGCI Board of Directors**

SGCI's Nominating Committee is beginning the review and deliberation over the nominees for the 2020-22 SGCI Board of Directors. When this committee has completed its work, the proposed slate of officers will be presented to the membership via email as well on our website.

## **Website**

We are pleased to have Louise Fisher as our new Website Editor and Blake Sanders as our new Website Curator. Guidelines and a portal for submissions are currently in development and will be announced in the coming weeks.

SGCI is continuing to refine and enrich our website in both its functionality and content. To help you keep current on SGCI announcements, we have added [SGCI Today](#) to the menu bar of the website. You can go here to check out our latest news. We are currently in the process of expanding our member portal to create a community where members can communicate with each other, participate in discussions, crowdsource input on ideas and questions, and upload documents to be shared with members.

We look forward to seeing our website transform into an online journal and community hub where our members can keep even more current on the world of printmaking and more easily engage with each other not just at our annual conferences, but over the entirety of the year.

## **Puertográfico 2020**

The Puertográfico steering committee under the leadership of Anna Nicholson and Nydia Fernández Toledo is hard at work on our 2020 conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They are collaborating with Universidad de Puerto Rico – Recinto de Río Piedras, Escuela de Artes Plásticas y Diseño, and many museums and cultural institutions in the San Juan area. The SGCI board is focusing a lot of effort making certain that they have all the support that they need. SGCI's first conference in a different culture is going to be an amazing event with familiar favorites, shifts in formatting, and exciting new programming like:

- Open Portfolio Thursday morning at the beginning of Puertográfico
- Exhibitions curated from the Open Portfolio and forum with observations from the external curators
- A forum hosted by Universidad de Puerto Rico – Recinto de Río Piedras on the political and cultural relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States.
- Plenary Panels
- An SGCI-organized Diversity Panel followed by breakout Inkubators
- A Three Minute Thesis competition for graduate students
- Student group critiques

We're looking forward to seeing you and sharing in these experiences with you all. As you make your plans for Puertográfico 2020, please keep in mind that Early Bird Registration will close on December 15, 2019 and Regular Registration will close on February 15, 2020. And don't forget, Institutional Memberships are a great way for your institution to support your participation in our conferences and depending upon the level of institutional membership defray student expenses so that they only have to pay \$87.50 for their conference registrations. You can learn more about Institutional Memberships [here!](#)

Please plan on staying at the Sheraton Puerto Rico. You'll be enriching your own experience by being just upstairs from the morning events rather than having to deal with challenging San Juan traffic and you'll be helping keep SGCI in good financial standing. We have a big hotel contract requiring that we meet 1,131 room

nights. If we do not meet this obligation, we will face financial penalties. We are on our way to filling our block, but we want to see your name on our hotel guest list. To give you one more nudge this year we have created the Stay with SGCI Giveback! If we reach our hotel room block at the Sheraton San Juan, SGCI pledges to give a \$25 refund to students who stay at the hotel on their conference registration. Book your room today!

We're only 20 weeks away now, so get your plans nailed down. To bait your excitement, each week we're posting Here's the Salsa!, a little historical, political, or cultural morsel to tease your research for your Puerto Rican adventure! Can't wait to see you there in April!

### **China: Guanlan Forum and the 4th International Printmaking Organizations Alliance Convention**

In May I traveled as a guest of the China Printmaking Museum and the Guanlan Original Printmaking Base to Guanlan, Shenzhen, China for the Guanlan Forum, the opening of the 7th Guanlan International Print Biennial at the China Printmaking Museum, and the 4th International Printmaking Organizations Alliance Convention. It was exciting to present about SGC International at the Guanlan Forum and hear presentations from individuals from Belgium, China, The Czech Republic, England, Greece, Italy, and Poland about printmaking organizations and efforts in their countries. Attending the opening of the Biennial was amazing; the pomp and drama were staggering and the exhibition was breathtaking. All of the awardees were in attendance and were from countries all over the world. Many of these individuals were students whose work was astounding. The following day was marked by a meeting of the International Printmaking Organizations Alliance, of which SGCI is a member. While this group is in a formative state, the potential for international collaboration through this group formed by Zhao Jaichun of the Guanlan Original Printmaking Base is truly exciting. I am eager to support his efforts and look forward to seeing how they develop. It was wonderful to see events like a vendors' fair and open portfolio that were modeled on our conferences events in the programming for this celebration the exhibition opening and our gathering. My entire experience was eye opening beyond belief and demonstrated the rich potential of strengthening our connections to the international printmaking community.

## **Themed Portfolio Guidelines**

Themed portfolios are handled differently each year based upon the demands of our conference site, but we are always working to make the overall guidelines for organization and participation as clear as possible. For our conference in Las Vegas we instituted a policy limiting each SGCI member's participation to only one themed portfolio. This was instituted to ensure access to participation for as many members as possible and help student and emerging printmakers develop their exhibition records. It is now standard practice for the themed portfolios that are a part of our conference. This year we have put a *Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk* policy in place. After having to deal with a portfolio and organizer that went missing after the participants had sent their editions and submitted their participation fees, we realized that this was an area that left SGCI in difficult circumstances with potential legal and financial ramifications. While our challenge with problematic portfolio was resolved with the work and payments returned to the portfolio participants, it was clear that we needed a policy to protect our organization. We worked with Caritas Law group to draft and institute this policy which states:

SGC International is not financially responsible for incomplete portfolios, lost editions, completed portfolios, or participation fees. As a condition of participation, participating artists assume the risk and responsibility of shipping editions to the Event Organizer and the Event Organizer assumes the risk of shipping completed portfolios to participants and handling participation fees. SGCI is not liable for any Themed Portfolio editions, completed portfolios, or participation fees.

## **Membership Survey**

The board would like to send a huge thank you to all who participated in our 2019 Membership Survey. Your responses are key in helping us form the future initiatives of SGC International. The board has been reviewing your submissions and will dig into the details of the survey results when we meet for our 2019 Midyear Meeting.

## **Strategic Plan**

The SGCI Board of Directors is in the process of developing an updated strategic

plan for our organization. Our goal is that this plan be of our organization setting goals for its future that are representative of the breadth of diverse aspirations of our membership. The 2019 Membership Survey was created collaboratively to help cull input from our members on many aspects of SGCI—Diversity & Inclusivity, Development / New Revenue, Students, Membership / Member Benefits, Defining International, SGCI's Website, Vendors, Inter-Organizational Collaboration, and Conferences. Working Groups formed of two board members, two professional members, and two student members have been tasked with developing goals for SGCI in each of these areas. These reports, due on November 15, 2019, will be the basis for the board's work to construct an updated strategic plan at our Mid-Year Meeting. The proposed strategic plan will then be posted on our website and presented via our listserv for review by the membership. We will vote on the updated strategic plan at the April 2020 Membership Meeting in San Juan.

### **Charter State**

Maryland is our current charter state. Our archive and permanent address are in Georgia at Kennesaw State University. The board is currently investigating the possibility of a transfer of our charter from Maryland to Georgia.

### **SGCI Board Composition & Term Length**

The SGCI Board has begun a discussion about our board composition and the duration of board member terms. Any changes would involve bylaws changes. The main area of this discussion are:

1. Student Representative/s: Should we expand to two student members to give better representation to the majority of our members? If so, should we have an undergraduate and a graduate representative? Should we create restrictions or guidelines for the selection of these members to ensure that these board members are students for the majority of their terms?
2. International Representative/s: Should we expand to two international representatives? Or should we encourage the selection of board members for other positions who are international members? If we continue to have only one international representative should we develop guidelines for the selection of those members to ensure that we have world representation on

our board, i.e. broader than North America and native English speaking origins to reflect our push for diversity and inclusivity?

3. Emerging Professional board representation: Should we create guidelines that require one of our members-at-large to be an emerging professional? Or, should it be a goal of the Nominating Committee to include this as one of the diversities that they try to include in the balance of our board? How would we define emerging professional?
4. Term Length and Term Staggering: What is the ideal term length for our board members? Two or three years? Should we stagger terms so that half of the board changes each year to create greater continuity or are we okay given that we often see board appointments progressing into positions of greater responsibility?

### **SGCI Constitution & Bylaws and SGCI Handbook Updates**

The SGCI Constitution & Bylaws and Handbook are two separate documents that work closely in tandem to structure the governance of our organization and guide the work of the board of directors. As SGCI has grown the handbook has been expanded while not necessarily thinking of the document as a whole or its relationship to the constitution and bylaws. The board is currently continuing the process of reviewing and editing the handbook undertaken by previous boards so that it reflects SGCI today. When this is complete we will review our constitution and bylaws and propose edits to make certain that they are representative of SGCI now. It is essential that we complete this task now so that the current board is handing off the running of SGCI to the board that will begin its term in April 2020 with as much clarity as possible. The board will review and discuss the proposed edits at our Mid-Year Meeting. The proposed edits to the constitution and bylaws will then be submitted for review by a lawyer to make certain that they are properly constructed. It is our goal to present the updated SGC International Constitution & Bylaws to our members for review in mid to late January of 2020 via email and a posting on our website. Subsequently an online vote for approval by the membership. Any corrections, changes, or additions must receive “a two-thirds majority vote of all responding members in good standing” to be approved and enacted.



## **Mid-Year Meeting**

This year the Mid-Year Meeting of the SGCI Board of Directors will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the Sheraton Puerto Rico December 15 – 18. This meeting which normally happens in October or November was pushed to December because of the long travel time to Puerto Rico and the opportunity for board members to stay an additional day to assist the Puertográfico steering committee in its work preparing for our conference. If there are issues that you would like to bring to the boards attention for discussion at our meeting, please send them to [president@sgcinternational.org](mailto:president@sgcinternational.org).