

WINTER 2019

Happy 2019, Print Folk! I hope that this update reaches you with lots of energy in your studios and shops.

We are already headlong into a new year and striding quickly towards Texchange: SGCI 2019. I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Texas at The Fairmont Dallas where we will all gather each morning and from which we will all adventure in the afternoons. Our steering committee, led by Steven Fouch, Lari Gibbons, Rachel Livedalen, David Newman, and Nancy Palmeri, are planning an action-packed conference for us. Registration will close on February 1, 2019 at 11:59 pm CST, so be sure to lock down your spot to join us soon. And as you plan your lodging, remember that it is important to stay at The Fairmont Dallas. Not only will you get a good rate for Dallas, but we are obligated to fill a block of rooms and your joining us in the conference hotel helps us meet our numbers. These contracted blocks allow us to get both good room rates for attendees and the use of conference facilities big enough for us to gather as a community. If we do not fill our blocks, we are obligated to pay attrition fees to the hotel and that cuts into what we can do as an organization.

To say that things are busy for the SGC International Board of Directors would be an understatement. The Board met at the Fairmont Dallas November 9 – 11, 2018 where we spent Saturday and Sunday morning addressing a broad range of SGCI interests. There are so many exciting directions in which our organization is evolving and areas in which our reach is broadening. We invite you to review our minutes if you are interested in the specifics of our work at this meeting. Below is an overview of some of the most important areas of our discussion as well as other board efforts upon which we have been working in the two months since. The annual SGC International Membership Meeting at Texchange is scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2019, 10:15 – 11:45 AM. Please join us then for additional updates and discussion of the future direction of our community.

If you are interested in volunteering to work with the Board, please reach out! We are always looking for ways to involve our membership and we are eager to hear what you have to say about SGCI!

Best wishes to you all. See you soon in North Texas!
Charles Beneke
President, SGC International

Institutional Memberships

The launch of Texchange registration marks the first time that SGCI has had Institutional Memberships. At our November board meeting, the Board voted to offer this new form of membership that helps various kinds of institutions support their faculty, students, staff, etc. participation in our organization and our conferences. Our tiers of institutional memberships offer options to fully support faculty/staff membership and conference registrations while at the higher levels also covering half of student conference registrations. Students must still pay for their own SGCI memberships and the remaining half of their conference registrations. All tiers of institutional memberships include a table at the VPP Fair and the institutions logo posted on our website with a link to their institution's url. The Board is committed to assessing the success of this plan at the end of this conference season.

Graphic Impressions

Discussion of what *Graphic Impressions* is and what our organization wants it to be have been ongoing for many years. What started as a newsletter evolved into a newsletter/journal hybrid. In recent years there have been Inkubators and discussions about how to reframe this project to best serve our membership. The Board directly addressed this at our mid-year meeting. We again asked, should we move towards a peer reviewed status and develop a true journal? Was this the right move at this time when there are already well-established printmaking journals? Would we be trying to break into an already rich market with a publication that has seen declining numbers of submissions in recent years? Or would be be better off shifting our focus and define our place where we see a need? With much consideration, the Board voted to suspend publication of *Graphic Impressions* in its most recent iteration and fill the goals that it served by redirecting our efforts towards two specific objectives. We will enrich our website with rigorous written and visual content to form a continuously evolving web-based journal/meeting place for our community that is an extension of the engaging and inspiring dialogue of our annual conferences. We will also use our

listserv to post regular e-newsletters communicating the news, classifieds, and updates that our members would like to share with our community. *Graphic Impressions* will not disappear! We will still host the archive of this publication on our website and we will begin mining it to share its content with our web readers in new ways. If you are interested in contributing to the content of our website or are interested in serving as an editor or curator, watch out for an upcoming call for participation.

The Board would like to thank all of the individuals who have served as Newsletter Editor, but especially Marchelo Vera who served in this capacity most recently. Marchelo, we are grateful for your contributions to SGCI and *Graphic Impressions* and look forward to seeing the exciting outcome to the work that you are putting into *Puertographico 2020*.

And, this is not the end of publishing for SGC International. We are excited to announce a new in-print initiative at Texchange! Stay tuned!

Traveling Membership Exhibitions

The Board began a discussion about the SGCI Members Traveling Exhibition and whether it is a tradition that should be continued. Low participation rates in this year's application process as well as the fewer numbers of requests to show the exhibition have led us to question whether it is the best way for us to exhibit an accurate representation of the diversity of our membership. The board voted to revisit whether or not the MTE should continue after the run of the 2019-21 Members Traveling Exhibition. We also voted to seek an opportunity for one new SGCI-sponsored juried members exhibition for the Fall of 2019. We will be posting a call for hosts for this exhibition soon.

Program Coordinator

The Board voted unanimously to extend a new contract to Kate McQuillen, who has served our organization as our administrative coordinator since April of 2016. As our organization has grown, so have the number of responsibilities required to keep us moving. Kate has worked tirelessly to help SGCI meet the goals of its mission and to keep our operations running smoothly. As we have made adjustments in how we operate, Kate's position has evolved. We have given Kate the new title of Program Coordinator to more accurately describe what she does for us. We have also adjusted her salary to balance the new responsibilities of her

position. Anyone who has worked with Kate will tell you that it is a true pleasure. Her professionalism, attention to detail, and positive energy are amazing! If you see Kate at our upcoming conference, please join the board in thanking her for her dedication to SGCI.

Puertographico 2020

I had the great pleasure of traveling to San Juan, Puerto Rico in December where I spent three fantastic days with Anna Nicholson, our Puertographico 2020 Steering Committee Chair. SGCI's 2020 conference is going to be amazing! Anna and I packed so many meetings and visits to sites where we will be holding events into our time together: Escuela de Artes Plásticas; Universidad de Puerto Rico Rio Piedras, Bellas Artes Department; Museo de Puerto Rico; Museo de las Américas; Museo de Historia Antropología y Arte de la Universidad de Puerto Rico Rio Piedras; El Arsenal, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña; and Centro para el Grabado Artes del Libro, among others. As we reach beyond our mainland US conferences to become a part of the vibrant Puerto Rican printmaking and art communities we are looking to break our traditional SGCI conference model. This is going to be the conference you do not want to miss—programming evolving as the conference unfolds, more shared experiences, content addressing more than printmaking, potential Maria recovery volunteering opportunities, salsa in the streets, beach activities, and who knows what else! Calls for participation will be coming soon!

Providence 2021

SGCI has a great group of folks in Providence, Rhode Island planning our return to New England after what will be 18 years since our 2003 Boston conference. The Board is pleased to announce that we have contracted with the Rhode Island Convention Center and Omni Providence Hotel to serve as the hub of our gathering scheduled for April 7 – 11, 2021. Come to the Membership Meeting when we are in Dallas to hear a little more and meet our steering committee chair, John Paul McCaughey.

SGC International 2022 or Beyond?

The SGCI Board will begin reviewing proposals for our 2022 conference after February 15, 2019. If you are interested in putting a bid for a conference together, reach out and let us know. We will get you all the materials you need to begin forming your vision for an SGCI Conference.

An Updated Strategic Plan for SGC International

We are in the early stages of developing an updated strategic plan for SGCI. The Board has formed Working Groups to look at specific areas of our organization's mission. The Working Groups' topics include Diversity & Inclusivity, Development/New Revenue, Students, Membership/Member Benefits, International, Website, Vendors, Inter-Organizational Collaboration, and Conferences. These groups have been working to define questions for a member survey that will be distributed soon. Watch out for it and make certain to respond. And, when you see a board member at the conference, take time to talk to them about your ideas of what SGCI should be/become. If you are interested in being a member of the soon to be formed Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Committee, let us know. We want this to be a strategic plan that is both of and for the entirety of SGCI.