

SGCI New Initiatives Report, 2020-2021

SGCI is a member-centered organization, that, per the mission statement advances the professional standing of persons engaged in making original prints and drawings and stimulates public appreciation and interest in the arts of printmaking, drawing, and other graphic media through the exchange of professional information among artists and others involved in these arts.

In late summer and early Fall of 2020, SGCI's members and our non-profit law consultants asked for revisions to our structure and we've begun the process of responding.

Member centered organizations have a responsibility to listen to their membership and act in their best interest. As SGCI is committed to making an honest appraisal of its history and working to dismantle the hostile environment experienced by some of its members, we have begun a multi-tiered suite of revisions centered on increasing diverse representation in SGCI and giving members a stronger voice.

The following are some of those new initiatives:

Tiered Memberships:

SGCI developed a new [Tiered Membership structure](#), designed to address flexibility, inclusivity, and our new virtual connectedness.

Listening Channel:

Working under the belief that the key to reconciliation is listening to each other as power concedes nothing without motive or demand we created [the listening channel](#), an email address that is received by multiple board members. The content of received messages is reviewed and discussed at committee and board meetings

Currently, this email address is being checked by Faisal Abdu'Allah, Arron Foster, and Nicole Geary. The contact form allows members to remain anonymous if they so choose.

Since its inception in Fall 2020 The Listening Channel has received approximately 85-90 separate emails each addressing a range of questions and concerns.

These have been individually addressed through the combined efforts of those listed above in tandem with the larger board and staff.

Bylaws Subcommittee:

In an effort to bring SGCI's Constitution and Bylaws in line with the strategic plan and better represent the diverse printmaking community a bylaws subcommittee was formed and tasked with making revisions to the organizations operating documents.

The work being undertaken by this subcommittee is rooted in the belief that Individuals affected by these rules have the right to participate in their modification; any changes to the bylaws will ultimately be voted upon by the membership.

To increase diverse representation in SGCI and give members a stronger voice, SGCI sought applicants for this committee. Out of this international search, which was voted on by the membership, two candidates, Olivia Frederick and Claudia Wilburn were selected.

Currently the committee is comprised of:

Claire White: Secretary
Margot Myers: Immediate Past Treasurer
Claudia Wilburn: Member
Olivia Fredericks: Member
Arron Foster: Member At Large
Faisal Abdu'Allah: President and Ex Officio Member.

The BLSC's work is driven in part by an interest in professionalizing the organization and building a board that is both equitable and sustainable. With that in mind they have been developing strategies for restructuring the board that include:

Reducing the number of non-voting board member positions by extending the right to vote to all, (or most) board members.

Implementing staggered Board Terms in an effort to promote continuity and extend institutional memory.

Implement a Non-Hierarchical Board structure, which will involve the overall consolidation and reduction of board position with an utmost limit of 12.

This model of governance has the benefit of decentralizing power and authority while encouraging functional diversity between different members. In essence, everyone can join in a project and make a contribution.

The BLSC work is ongoing and the membership is encouraged to contribute by reviewing the bylaws with a critical eye and identifying those things that seem ambiguous, inequitable or out of touch.

This report was prepared by Arron L. Foster, April 7, 2021

Secretary Report

This year, SGCI put our board meeting minutes and the handbook online and held open elections for new officers. All these efforts went toward our transparency goal.

SGCI purchased the Nonprofit Policy Sampler; it's now in the Google Drive. It was very helpful in organizing potential codes of conduct for staff and board members and will help us develop more policies in the future. It's important we have these guidelines in place before emergencies, so we are not reacting but following procedures.

SGCI recently formed the Bylaws subcommittee. Preparing for this included researching charter transfers. We chose to wait to transfer; it is too expensive for our current proposed budget. That's a discussion I feel we need to revisit soon to consolidate our charter with our physical address in Georgia.

I served on the Steering committee for MakeReady with Louise Fisher, Sabrina Pastard and Zach Fitchner. This was our first virtual event and our first event where the members chose the content. To make the event more accessible, the content has subtitles.

SGCI has made changes and improvements this year.

Claire White, Secretary