



Annual Meeting

January 26, 2022
Video Conference

Annual Meeting

Held by Zoom Conference on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at 5 pm (EST)

Board Members Present:

Michel Langlais, President
Amy Kann, 1st Vice President
Robert E. Jewell, Treasurer
Lee Hutt, Secretary
Anthony Antonios
Bruner F. Barrie
Kate Brockman
Anne W. Brown
Tuck Langland
Robin R. Salmon
Wesley Wofford
Kent Ullberg

NSS Staff:

Gwen Pier
Patty Delahanty
Elizabeth Helm

In Attendance:

Meredith Bergmann	Bill Heckel	Susan Polack
Catherine Bohrman	Darla Jackson	David Pollard
Mary Buckman	Christopher Kunk	Alicia Ponzio
Chris Budden	Melanie LaMay	Kristine Poole
Debra Campbell	Amber Lelli	Louis Quaintance
Zofia Chamera	Linda Lindsay	LaQuincey Reed
Susie Chisholm	Dorcas MacClintock	Diana Reuter-Twining
Ryan Fleming	John Mangham	Steff Rocknak
Kiersten Friesner	Janice Mauro	Selva Sanjines
Bethany Fullerton	Kelly Micca	Jeffrey Spring
Jacquelyn Giuffre	Varvara Mitrofanova	Paula Stern
Pat Haase	Rod Morgan	Martha Stevenson
Chapman Hamborg	Dora Natella	Joseph Zovickian
Carol P. Harless	Tom Player	Caroline Zurmley

President's Report - Michel Langlais

Welcome to the National Sculpture Society's Annual Meeting and thank you all for joining us; It is nice to see so many familiar and friendly faces.

The Annual Meeting affords us the opportunity to summarize business of the last year and set the stage for the year ahead. 2021 was less unsettling than the prior year, only because we learned that nothing was certain during a worldwide pandemic. Once again, programs had to be postponed or recreated to accommodate surges and variants of COVID, to keep our members safe.

National Sculpture Society's offices remained open and available to sculptors through every week of the pandemic. In 2021, we presented fourteen virtual programs: studio visits, tours, seminars, and discussions connecting sculptors to essential resources and to each other. Four issues of Sculpture Review magazine were published and were delivered at the beginning of each season, with current and relevant articles. We built a new website, which was 95% completed at year-end and continues to improve weekly.

We held juried exhibitions in our own NSS Gallery in midtown Manhattan, in a Performing Arts Center in Tampa, in museums across the country, and online. We initiated an ongoing exhibition partnership with Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, in the new Rosen Museum Galleries. We hosted a two-day cultural excursion to Brookgreen Gardens last October when it started to feel safe to travel again. We awarded three \$5,000 grants to talented sculptors, and over \$20,000 in exhibition awards. Our board and committees held meetings regularly and collaborated with our staff to keep the organization vibrant in our rapidly changing world.

Our Board of Directors met three times last year: in February, June, and October. The Executive Committee held four meetings, providing continued momentum and attention to ongoing business between Board meetings. In addition to rescheduling events and creating innovative programs, we devoted considerable time to discussing events impacting the art world, sculpture, and sculptors. These included ongoing discussions about the desecration of public sculptures and monuments, the creation of new public works, and how best to promote sculpture and support a diverse group of sculptors in a meaningful and equitable manner.

The NSS Board, staff and leadership are committed to ensuring that we continue to weave equity and inclusion into the fabric of every NSS initiative. NSS members includes Latino, Native American, African American, Asian American, European American, and first-generation immigrants from around the world. This diversity is represented in the Society's leadership as well as its general membership. As an organization, we continually strive toward building an inclusive culture.

Our Ambassador Program is growing; we have seven NSS Ambassador Communities across the country; in Southern California, Northern California, Texas, Idaho, Indiana, the Carolinas, and Utah. Each Community is represented on our new website.

After this meeting, we will meet nineteen members of the newest generation of figurative and realist sculptors, who are participating in the Young Sculptors Exhibition in the NSS Gallery.

Thank you all for supporting all our efforts.

We could not have done all this, and more, without the support of friends like you. We are fortunate and grateful that you are all part of our NSS community!

Treasurer's Report – Robert Jewell, Treasurer

Committee members: Bruner Barrie, Michel Langlais, Richard J. Moylan, Susan Potje, Jeffrey Spring and Gwen Pier

2021 Summary

The Finance Committee determines a budget for the review and approval of the board, considering policies and programs that impact spending and revenue. At the committee's recommendation, the board passed a \$637,050 annual budget early in the year with a proposed deficit of \$5,050.

National Sculpture Society successfully secured a second Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program loan for \$43,870 on March 8, 2021. On October 6, full forgiveness of the loan was authorized by the SBA. The PPP Loan closed the proposed deficit and helped cover the cost of substantial additional spending on the new website. At the June board meeting we passed a revised budget with a proposed surplus of \$6,230.

The NSS has employed a portfolio management team at UBS since December 2015. They meet with us at least four times annually. In 2021 they reported to the full board at each of the three board meetings and met once with the Finance Committee.

We examine our asset allocations, review portfolio holdings, and are advised of recommended changes in keeping with market fluctuations. Our team at UBS actively manages our portfolio on a continual basis and is responsive to changes in the economy and to our concerns and questions. The NSS annual draw on investments never touches principal, and the portfolio has had an annualized return of 10.00% since inception in December 2015.

2021 Investment highlights:

- The portfolio's balance as of 12/31/2021 was \$15,647,928.74.
- There were distributions from the portfolio of \$300,000, accounting for less than half of the funds required to balance spending.

In addition to our portfolio of restricted and endowment funds held at UBS, NSS is the beneficiary of three trusts held at JP Morgan; two were established by our first major benefactor Archer Huntington and the third by past president, Charlotte Dunwiddie. Investment income from UBS and revenue from the three JP Morgan trusts accounts for more than half of the income in our projected budget. Program fees, membership dues, and donations make up the difference and help cover our overall expenses.

We are optimistic that friends of the organization will continue to participate in growing numbers and support the National Sculpture Society in its mission to promote sculpture. With your help, we look forward to a break-even bottom line in the current fiscal year.

That concludes my report.

Secretary's Report: Lee Hutt

The membership numbers for National Sculpture Society as of December 31, 2021 was as follows:

Associate Members: 462	Sculptor Members: 127
Fellows: 95	Honorary Fellows/Members Emeritus: 5
Patrons: 43	Allied: 33
Additional: 70	Total: 835

This is a 10% percent decrease for membership numbers from 2020.

The locations where the names and places of residence of NSS' members may be found are as follows:

Alabama 2	Louisiana 4	Oregon 12
Alaska 2	Maine 7	Pennsylvania 45
Arizona 18	Maryland 16	Puerto Rico 0
Arkansas 2	Massachusetts 40	Rhode Island 5
California 100	Michigan 11	South Carolina 22
Colorado 62	Minnesota 11	South Dakota 3
Connecticut 22	Mississippi 1	Tennessee 9
D.C. 4	Missouri 8	Texas 26
Delaware 5	Montana 12	Utah 18
Florida 26	Nebraska 2	Vermont 8
Georgia 19	Nevada 3	Virginia 20
Hawaii 2	New Hampshire 4	Washington 21
Idaho 8	New Jersey 19	West Virginia 1
Illinois 10	New Mexico 9	Wisconsin 9
Indiana 5	New York 125	Wyoming 6
Iowa 2	North Carolina 11	Canada 16
Kansas 5	Ohio 9	International 16
Kentucky 3	Oklahoma 9	Total: 835

It is with great sorrow that we report the deaths of the following members.

Kenneth Bunn, Fellow in October 2020

Nathan Cabot Hale, Honorary Fellow on June 11, 2021

Ron Chapel, Elected Sculptor Member on January 25, 2021

Wei Li "Willy" Wang, Elected Sculptor Member on January 7, 2021

Let's have a round of applause to celebrate their lives.

Communications Committee - Wesley Wofford, Chairperson

Committee Members: Amy Kann, Renee Harper Ardrey, Lee Hutt, Gregory Glasson, Marc Fields, and Jeffrey Spring. Basil Watson is a part-time advisor on the Equity and inclusion initiative.

Our primary focus this past year has been the completion of the NSS website and database. We are happy to report that the work is finally finished. This endeavor has involved consolidating and organizing information that will serve as an archive for the organization moving forward.

The committee initiated an equity and inclusion initiative over a year ago, to ensure the organization is open to everyone regardless of their race, gender, and ethnic identities.

- We initiated a demographics survey on our new website to get more specific data on the composition of our membership.
- We have been working with the membership committee to refine how membership categories work to help grow our membership.
- We have developed strategies and written letters to attract new allied professional members.
- We recommended that the frequency of review for elected membership increase.
- We are in discussions with the Honors and Awards committee regarding the possibility of creating a new award specifically for a Black American Sculptor.

We have been exploring how best to archive NSS materials including past issues of *Sculpture Review* and hope to increase these archival efforts into the future. We worked with the NSS Ambassador communities to revise and consolidate how they promote themselves without conflicting with the main NSS accounts on social media, to maximize publicity for the Communities and the NSS.

In the coming year, our goals are to continue to review and refine our various modes of communication and operation and begin to take advantage of the completed database.

Editorial Committee – Tuck Langland, Chairperson

Committee Members: Eugene Daub, Lee Hutt, and Margaret Nicholson

Four issues of Sculpture Review magazine were published and were delivered at the beginning of each season, with current and relevant articles.

Spring 2021 - Summer 2021 - Fall 2021 - Winter 2021

Throughout the year, Sandy Scott continued with her Art and Anatomy series. The issues also kept readers informed of NSS business, remembered September 11th on its 20th anniversary, and addressed opinions on the removal and vandalism of public sculpture. In Sculpture Studio Tours, readers visited the workspaces of Jane DeDecker, Wesley Wofford, Dan Ostermiller and Kent Ullberg.

Education Committee – Anthony Antonios and Greg Wyatt, Co-Chairs

Tony Antonios reported that in 2021 the committee focused on plans for the Young Sculptors Exhibition, which just opened this week in the NSS Gallery. Tony said that the skill-set and visual ideas presented are remarkable for such a young group of sculptors, and the presentation of the work – such as patinas, mounting – is at a professional level. He stated that the future of Sculpture is in good hands based on the content of this show.

Events Committee Report - Donella Lay, Chairperson

Committee Members: Amy Kann and Robin R. Salmon

In 2021 NSS hosted eleven NSS CONNECTIONS, a series of virtual visits, tours and programs connecting sculptors to essential resources and to each other.

- The year kicked off with a visit to The Compleat Sculptor with Marc Fields, comparing the best tools, clays, and other time-honored products.
- We visited five sculptors in their studios and saw outstanding works of sculpture in the making: Sabin Howard in New Jersey, Paul Moore in Oklahoma, Eugene Daub in southern California, Edward Fraughton in Utah, and Wesley Wofford in North Carolina.
- Valerie A. Balint, Senior Program Manager, Historic Artists' Homes and Studios, gave a talk titled **Creative Spaces, Preserved Places: Sculptors of the Historic Artists' Homes and Studios program**
- Certified Professional Photographer, Andy Lay, gave us valuable tips on **Photographing Your Artwork**, demonstrating ways to photograph sculpture with the goal of presenting your artwork at its best.
- Dana Pilson gave an illustrated talk on **Margaret French Cresson**, who was an accomplished sculptor and the keeper of Chesterwood after the death of her parents, ensuring the transfer of the property to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- We visited the National Sculpture Society's **88th Annual Awards Exhibition** with Robin R. Salmon, Curator of Collections at Brookgreen Gardens, where the show was installed in the new Rosen Galleries.
- Donna Hassler, Executive Director at Chesterwood, interviewed Gabrielle Trom, winner of the NSS **Dexter Jones Affiliated Residency at Chesterwood** in 2021. Gabrielle was working in Daniel Chester French's studio.

We hosted three virtual programs which we called **Studio Breakouts**, to bring us together in a casual environment during the pandemic. We gathered on screen and would then "break out" into smaller virtual rooms, sharing work and ideas. Bruner Barrie, owner of Sculpture House, talked about tools at one Breakout; at another Anne Brown and her co-workers at Streamline Publishing shared advice on how to market your work – with one marketing expert in each of the Breakout rooms.

We also hosted an "in person" live group trip to Brookgreen Gardens, October 21-23. Eleven people from six different states participated. The entire staff at Brookgreen Gardens, including NSS Board member, Robin Salmon, could not have been more welcoming. The weather was splendid, and the tours and programs were extra special given the small size of our group.

The NSS is now gearing up for our first Sculpture Conference in three years, to be held in the Berkshires of Massachusetts June 3 – 5. We are planning all the events to be held outdoors or in spacious, high-ceilinged rooms, to provide a safe environment for everyone to gather.

Next month, on February 26th, we will visit with Richard MacDonald, virtually, in his California studio. Space is limited so please be on the lookout for an invitation.

Exhibition Committee Report – Robin Salmon - Chairperson

Committee Members: Sandy Scott and Janice Mauro

In 2021, National Sculpture Society presented:

The Pandemic: A Sculptors View:

An online exhibition by 20 Elected and Fellow NSS Members on the topic of the pandemic and the quarantine. An award of a quarter page ad was granted to one artist. The show debuted on the NSS website April 1.

Associates Online Invitational:

An online exhibition of work by 38 Associates of NSS. An award of a quarter page ad was granted to one artist. The show debuted on the NSS website April 1.

September 11 Social Media Presentation:

Works commemorating the 20th anniversary of September 11th were included in a special 24-hour presentation on National Sculpture Society's social media pages.

88th Annual Awards Exhibition:

55 figurative works by contemporary artists were on display at Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina from June 12 – August 22. The Jury of Selection included D.L. Engle, NSS Fellow; Michael Evert, Sculptor; and Melissa Ralston-Jones, Gallery Curator, Western Connecticut State University.

88th Annual Award Winners Exhibition:

17 prize winning works from the 88th Annual Award Winners Exhibition were on display at the NSS Gallery in NYC from October 4 through December 10, 2021. The Jury of Awards included Heidi Wastweet, Sculptor and Elected Member of NSS; Angela Cunningham, Sculptor; and Mary Martin, President & Owner, Mary Martin Gallery.

Rosen Museum Gallery Portico Exhibit

Premiering in 2021 is the Rosen Museum Gallery Portico Exhibit at the Brenda and Dick Rosen Galleries at Brookgreen Gardens. The first exhibition featured work by NSS Fellow and 2021 Medal of Honor winner, Paul Moore. Four pieces were installed from July 2021 to January 2022. The next exhibition will include one work by each of three recent Ettl Grant winners: Gegham Abrahamyan, Zoe DuFour, and Cheong-ah Hwang. The National Sculpture Society Showcase is a sponsorship agreement between the National Sculpture Society and Brookgreen Gardens.

Performance in Sculpture 2019 – 2023

Performance in Sculpture at the Straz Center in Tampa, Florida continues. Due to the pandemic, the show has been extended another year.

The committee also juried two future exhibitions in 2021, including

- 1) Young Sculptors Exhibition, which opened last week in the NSS Gallery, and
- 2) Bonita Museum Exhibition, in coordination with the NSS California Communities. It opens Feb 5 and runs through March 19 and includes 38 works by 26 artists.

Honors and Awards Committee – Amy Kann, Chairperson

Medal of Honor

The Society's highest award, presented for notable achievement in and for encouragement to American Sculpture, to **Paul Moore**.

Herbert Adams Memorial Award

Presented for outstanding achievement, in recognition of the recently completed Women's Rights Pioneers Monument in Central Park, New York City, to **Meredith Bergmann**.

Henry Hering Award

For outstanding collaboration among architect, owner, and sculptor in the distinguished use of sculpture in an architectural project, to the **Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial** in Washington, D.C.

Awards go to: Sergey Eylanbekov, FNSS - Sculptor
 Frank Gehry - Architect
 Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission - Owner

The Alex J. Ettl Grant

Jurors: Lawrence Noble (from CA), Olga Nielsen (from DE) and Paige Bradley (from CT).
For outstanding ability as a sculptor for a body of work, to **Brett F Harvey**

The Marilyn Newmark Memorial Grant

Jurors: Kathleen Friedenbergl (from PA), Roger Martin (from NC) and Leo E. Osborne (from WA).
For an outstanding body of work by a sculptor specializing in animal sculpture, to **Jeremy Bradshaw**

The Stanley Bleifeld Memorial Grant

Jurors: Tom Silveroli (from MD), Meredith Bergmann (from CT) and Jim Licaretz (from PA)
For a sculptor with outstanding ability who has created a body of work inspired by nature which includes works of sculpture in bas-relief and in the round, to **Steven Whyte**

The Dexter Jones Affiliated Artist Residency

In October 2021, **Gabrielle Trom** was in residence at Chesterwood. The selection jury, consisting of sculptors Eugene Daub and Heidi Wastweet, along with the Executive Director of Chesterwood, Donna Hassler, met in 2020. The residency was postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic.

Membership Committee – Greg Glasson, Chairperson

Committee Members: Angela Mia De la Vega, Joshua Koffman, LeRoy Transfield and Lee Hutt

The Committee considers all applications for Elected Sculptor membership. It reports to the voting membership the name of candidates it recommends for election.

In 2021, the Committee recommended 14 sculptors for **Elected Membership**, all of whom were elected:

Gegham Abrahamyan	Jeremy Bradshaw
Beverly Davis	Zoe Dufour
Morgan Dummitt	Chas Fagan
Chad Fisher	Jim Green
Colin Poole	Kristine Poole
LaQuincey Reed	Diana Reuter-Twining
Ken Rowe	Oceana Rain Stuart

In addition, 13 Elected Sculptor Members were advanced to **Fellows**.

Mark Edward Adams	Emily Bedard
Martin T. Gates	Alan LeQuire
Yasumitsu Morito	Olga Nielsen
Peregrine O’Gormley	Alicia N. Ponzio
Gary Staab	Ryoichi Suzuki
Joshua Tobey	LeRoy Transfield
Angela Mia De la Vega	

The Board of Directors elected George Anthonisen and Bruno Lucchesi as **Member Emeritus**.

Details about the various membership levels are on the NSS website. Applications for Elected Sculptor Membership are due on March 14th.