



Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting – January 21, 2026 at 5 PM EST zoom

Attendees:

Gwen Pier

Gregory Glasson (President)

Bob Jewell (outgoing Treasurer)

Kate Brockman

Nilda Comas

Jacqueline Giuffré

Amy Kann

Donella Lay

Janice Mauro

Susan Morrow Potje

Cheryl Newby

Robin R. Salmon

Jeffrey Spring

Basil Watson

Richard J. Moylan (incoming Treasurer)

Ellen Wilson (incoming Board Member)

Elizabeth Helm

Patty Delahanty

Fabio J. Fernandez (incoming Executive Director)

George Anthonisen - Sue Bailey - Meredith Bergmann

Babette Bloch - Catherine Bohrman - Mary Buckman

Chris Budden - Debra Campbell - LeaAnn Cogswell

Michelle Crider - Carol Harless - John Henley

Sheleen Jones - Marcia Jovine - Simon Kogan

Dave LaMure Jr. - Tuck Langland - Jacqueline Lorieo

Alex Loza - Gwen Marcus - Mary Lou Matzinger

Jay McClennen - Bill McGrath - Judith Modrak

Olga Nielsen - Benjamin Phillips - David Pollard

Leah Poller - Moana Ponder - Colleen Rudolf

Judy Salinsky - Kathe Umlauf - Marlana Adele Vassar

Eva-Maria Wohn

President's Report – Gregory Glasson

Glasson made a motion to call the meeting to order; Bob Jewell seconded it. All approved.

We launched 2025 with final approval by the Board of Directors on January 7th of a Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. In April and June, Gwen and I met with Evan Kingsley, principal at Plan A Advisors, for post planning check-ins. We continue working toward consolidating and simplifying NSS programs and sticking to the plan.

We initiated the process of finding our next executive director when the Executive Committee appointed a Search Committee in May. The Search Committee's first task was to hire an executive search firm. We identified three that specialize in non-profit arts and recommended hiring Museum Search & Reference ("MSR"), which the full Board approved on June 25th.

By September, the search for new Executive Director was well underway. MSR developed a job profile, publicly launched the search, conducted preliminary video interviews, and did career background checks. After narrowing the field MSR presented a select number of the top candidates to the Search committee. The consultants function as a liaison between candidates and the NSS. The entire process took approximately six months. On December 24th we finalized a contract to hire Fabio J. Fernández, who you will meet today. The decision was unanimous.

I would like to thank the Search Committee members who worked so diligently with me over several months and helped us reach a successful outcome: Bob Jewell, Michel Langlais, Donella Lay, Susan Morrow Potje, and Basil Watson.

In addition to six board meetings in 2025, the executive committee met twice, and the Search Committee met seven times as well as communicating regularly by phone and email. It was a busy year, but we accomplished a great deal and are on a sure footing as we head into the future.

Thanks to all the members and colleagues who contributed their ideas, and to all of you for your commitment and support.

I would also like to thank the generous donors who responded to the annual letter of appeal in December and to the donors who underwrite prizes and awards for sculptors; those gifts help sustain our programs throughout the year.

Our treasurer, Bob Jewell, will now give us a treasurer's report.



Screen shot of Museum Search & Reference's website homepage.

Treasurer's Report – Robert Jewell, Outgoing Treasurer and Chairperson, Finance and Audit Committee. Members of the Committee are Michel Langlais, Richard J. Moylan, Susan Potje, Jeffrey Spring, and Greg Glasson, ex-officio.

The Finance and Audit Committee met four times in 2025. Two of those meetings were with our investment advisors at UBS, and one meeting was with our auditors at Rogoff and Company to review a draft of the annual financial statement. In addition, we invited the NSS investment team at UBS to report to the full board of directors at the May meeting.

A snapshot of our portfolio as of Year-End 2025 is:

- Total investment value: **15,186,437.33**
- 2025 Total Investment Return: **7.87%**
- 2025 Total Investment Return: **1,121,363.94**
- 2025 Annual Withdrawal: **\$480,000**

The UBS investment team keeps in close contact with Gwen at the NSS offices and the Finance and Audit committee about market conditions and any potential changes to the NSS investment portfolio. We examine our asset allocations, review portfolio holdings, and are advised of recommended changes in keeping with market fluctuations throughout the year. The NSS annual draw on investments is conservative and our goal is never to touch principal.

We continue to collaborate closely with our financial advisors in anticipation of added expenses throughout 2027 related to executing the Strategic Plan and feel confident we can move forward with the Strategic Plan on a firm financial footing.

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 significant benefactor Archer Huntington and the third by past president, Charlotte Dunwiddie. Investment income from UBS and revenue from the three JP Morgan trusts account for more than half of the income in our projected budget. Program fees, membership dues, and donations also help cover our overall expenses.

The annual audit for 2025 will begin in February. The auditors assigned to our account will report their findings and present a draft financial statement to the board in the spring.

The Finance Committee determines a budget for the review and approval of the full board, considering policies and programs that impact spending and revenue. At our November 2025 Board meeting, we recommended, and the board subsequently passed, an annual budget for 2026 of \$1,019,450.

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.

This is my last meeting as Treasurer; I am passing the baton to Richard Moylan, who is a member of the Finance Committee. Thank you, Rich, and all my fellow committee members. It's been an honor to serve with you all and I look forward to supporting NSS from the sideline.

Secretary's Report: Lee Hutt

The membership numbers for the National Sculpture Society as of December 31, 2025 are as follows:

Subscribers: 50	Associate Members: 483
Sculptor Members: 122	Fellows: 114
Honorary / Members Emeritus: 10	Patrons: 28
Allied: 30	Additional: 68
Total: 905	

This is a 3% decrease for membership numbers from 2024.

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

Alabama 3	Louisiana 6	Oklahoma 8
Alaska 1	Maine 7	Oregon 11
Arizona 23	Maryland 18	Pennsylvania 41
Arkansas 2	Massachusetts 40	Rhode Island 4
California 108	Michigan 13	South Carolina 23
Colorado 63	Minnesota 13	South Dakota 1
Connecticut 29	Mississippi 1	Tennessee 13
D.C. 7	Missouri 8	Texas 41
Delaware 6	Montana 12	Utah 19
Florida 33	Nebraska 1	Vermont 5
Georgia 15	Nevada 3	Virginia 25
Hawaii 1	New Hampshire 4	Washington 15
Idaho 9	New Jersey 23	West Virginia 2
Illinois 8	New Mexico 12	Wisconsin 7
Indiana 20	New York 130	Wyoming 7
Iowa 2	North Carolina 14	Canada 11
Kansas 5	North Dakota 1	International 12
Kentucky 2	Ohio 17	

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of the following members:

Gerd Hesness Frudakis, Sculptor Member (May 5, 1952 - January 11, 2025)

Michael Richman, Allied Professional (April 13, 1943 - February 12, 2025)

Ruthellen "Bunny" Adelman, Fellow (April 1935 - May 31, 2025)

Don Gale, Fellow (1939 – 2025)

Toni Putnam, Fellow (July 15, 1935 - May 10, 2025)

Don Martin Reynolds, Emeritus (1931 - 2025)

NSS Ambassador Communities – Jacquelyn Giuffré, Chair

Members of the Committee are

Arizona Community – Deanna Rae C. Montero * Carolinas Community – Melissa Walker
Idaho Community – Daniel Borup * Midwest/Indiana Community – Jacob E. Dobson
NorCal Community – Lance Glasser * SouthCal Community – TBD
Texas/Oklahoma Community – Donella Lay * Utah Community – Michael Aaron Hall

The California Community led by Lance Glasser had an exhibition of work at Sausalito Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA. Titled *The Art of Form: Perspectives from The West*, the juried sculpture exhibition showcased 55 contemporary works by 36 sculptors from the western United States. The “Robin R. Salmon Award” of \$1,000 and sponsored by the Fantasy Fountain Fund, was awarded to Adam Matano for his California Condor, *Rascal*. The show was on view from May 17 – June 17. Jury of Selections included NSS Fellows Paige Bradley and Rod Zullo, and SCA Executive Director Shiva Pakdel. Lawrence Noble served as the Award Juror.

In mid-October the Northern California Community toured Kreysler and Associates’ Green Island Facility in American Canyon, CA. The custom fabrication firm has designed and created architectural elements and facades for buildings around the world and notable sculptor clients include Eugene Daub, Glenna Goodacre, Tuck Langland, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje Van Bruggen.

Melissa Walker, Ambassador of The Carolinas Community, hosted the 47th Tri State Sculptors Conference at Carolina Bronze Sculpture and Walker Art Studios in Seagrove, NC. Attendees at the October event were treated to tours of the foundry as well as an aluminum pour.

Deanna Rae Montero helped arrange two events for the Arizona Community. In March, the Celebration of Fine Art in Scottsdale, AZ hosted members of the NSS Arizona Ambassador Community. Co-Owner, Show Director and NSS Board Member, Susan Potje welcomed the sculptors to the exhibition of 100 renowned and emerging artists showing their work in the vast tented space from January to March.



The Communities at Bollinger Atelier and at Kreysler and Associates’

In November, the Arizona Community had a foundry tour and talk at Bollinger Atelier in Tempe, AZ. Tom Bollinger, along with manager, Christian Bell, had a Q & A with the attendees and gave a bronze pour demonstration.

The Texas/Oklahoma Community had two meetings in 2025. Donella Lay, ambassador of the community, arranged a visit to sculptor Robert Pratt's studio and a private tour of the Kimbell Art Museum for the exhibition "Myth and Marble Ancient Roman Sculpture from the Torlonia Collection."

Editorial Advisory Committee – Anne Brown and Robin R. Salmon, Co-Chairs

Members of the Committee are Lee Hutt, Michael Keropian, Michel Langlais, Susan Morrow Potje, Gregory Glasson, Rose Fredrik, Editor and Terry Rigg, Art Director and Production

The National Sculpture Society published four issues in 2025: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter respectively.



We've had some great topics this past year. We hope that the articles are relevant to all levels of member of the National Sculpture Society – sculptors, patrons, allied professionals and collectors. We've had quite a range of themes within each issue, and we also endorse your participation. Tell us what you want to read and what you want to know about.

We'd appreciate everyone's participation in our next Sculptor's Forum.

Education Committee – Alicia N. Ponzio, Chair

Members of the Committee are Nilda Comas and Michael Keropian
Nilda Comas reporting for Alicia N. Ponzio

In March 2025, the Committee served as the jurors for the RICHARD MCDERMOTT MILLER COMPETITION.

We selected the following competitors:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Austen Brantley | Jordan Hein | Brenton Henriques |
| Eddie Holecko | Pema Kongpo | Liza Little |
| Tanya Lucero | Quintin McCann | Kelly Micca |
| Joseph Zovickian | | |

On June 7th, the competitors modeled from life at the New York Academy of Art. At the conclusion of the competition, a jury selected award winners for the three top portraits. NSS Fellows Simon Kogan and John Belardo, along with Dana Pilson, Curatorial Researcher and Collections Coordinator at Chesterwood, served as the jurors.

Kelly Micca received the Richard McDermott Miller Prize of \$3,000

Pema Kongpo received the Roger T. Williams Prize of \$1,500

Jordan Hein received the Walter & Michael Lantz Prize of \$750



Bequests from Charlotte Geffken and Roger T. Williams, as well as a gift from the Greenwood Cemetery (Brooklyn, NY), funded travel scholarships for each of the competitors. Each competitor received a one-year Associate membership with the National Sculpture Society, underwritten by The Robert J. Spring Endowment and MAF Foundation. Thank you to our supporters.

Jordan Hein, NSS President Greg Glasson, Pema Kongpo and Kelly Micca at The Compleat Sculptor

PARTICIPATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Sculptors Alicia Ponzio, Adam Matano and Steff Rocknak selected **Marina Melluzzo**, a student at Lyme Academy of Fine Arts, for the Laura Ziegler Participation Scholarship. They also selected **Karen Swenholt** and **Heidi Mortensen** for participation scholarships sponsored by the Charlotte Geffken fund.

RESIDENCIES

In 2025, the National Sculpture Society co-sponsored two residencies.

NSS Affiliated Artist-in-Residence at Chesterwood

Executive Director of Chesterwood, Miguel A. Rodríguez, and NSS Fellows Simon Kogan and Nilda Comas, selected **Heidi Wastweet** as the 2025 Artist-in-Residence. Wastweet spent the month of June at the former summer residence of Daniel Chester French.

The Walker Hancock Sculptor-in-Residence Program

In July, **Janice Mauro** spent two weeks at the residency in Gloucester, MA. Her selection was approved by Manship Artists Residency co-founders Jo-Ann Castano and Rebecca Reynolds.



Janice Mauro (left) giving a carving demonstration at Manship Artists Residency

Events Committee Report – Donella Lay, Chair

Members of the Committee are Alicia Ponzio, Chad Fisher and Greg Glasson (ex-officio)

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

A General Meeting was held on Wednesday, July 16th. Each committee chairperson made a brief report summarizing current business. The meeting was followed by a program from Curator Alan Fausel of the Museum of the Dog in New York City. The program, on collecting works of bronze, took place virtually from the Museum.

SCULPTURE CELEBRATION

In 2025, we held our Sculpture Celebration in New York City. On June 6th, events started at the Museum of the Dog. Curator Alan Fausel gave tours to small groups of participants. The Honors and Awards Luncheon followed. Participants enjoyed a welcome reception, a family-style meal, and award presentations at Ramerino Prime, a restaurant near the NSS gallery. Following that, attendees gathered at the NSS gallery for a reception and to view the Dog & Pony Show.



Karen Swenholt viewing *Double Dog and Pony Show* by Chris Riccardo, NSS

The next day started with the Richard McDermott Miller Competition at the New York Academy of Art. Competitors' friends, family and fellow students came out to show their support as they modeled from life. Though the day turned rainy, the book launch and panel discussion on Evelyn Beatrice Longman was well attended. Thank you to Eve Kahn (Journalist/Independent Scholar/NY Times contributor), author Pat Hoerth Batchelder, and Dana Pilson (Curatorial Researcher & Collections Coordinator, Chesterwood) for sharing their knowledge with us. With the conclusion of the Richard McDermott Miller Competition, attendees headed to The Compleat Sculptor to explore its expanded floor space, see demonstrations, and learn the winners of the Miller Competition. Marc Fields also hosted a raffle, giving out a variety of products to lucky winners. It was a fun experience to conclude the Sculpture Celebration.

The next Sculpture Celebration will be May 15-17, 2026 in Old Lyme, CT.

Exhibitions – Cheryl Newby, Chairperson

Members of the Committee are John Belardo, Kate Brockman, Amy Kann, Janice Mauro, Robin Salmon and Sandy Scott.

In 2025, National Sculpture Society presented the following exhibitions at the NSS Gallery in NYC:

91st Annual Awards Winners Exhibition:

- January 13 – March 21, 2025
- 16 prize-winning works from the 91st Annual Awards Exhibition were on display.

The Dog and Pony Show:

- April 28 – July 11, 2025
- 22 works by 18 members of National Sculpture Society were on display.
- The reception was held at the NSS Gallery as part of the June Sculpture Celebration Weekend.

The Passage of Time:

- August 11 – October 17, 2025
- 25 works by 20 members of National Sculpture Society were on display.
- A closing reception was held in October.



Detail of *Yamantaka* by Eli Bezimansky, *Anguish Plea Light Liberate* by Jacob Dobson and *Reminisce* by Marlys Boddy

92nd Annual Awards Winners Exhibition:

- November 17, 2025 – January 23, 2026
- 16 prize-winning works from the 91st Annual Awards Exhibition were on display.

NSS presented the following exhibitions at Brookgreen Gardens, SC:

Honors Exhibition

- Featuring works by 2024 NSS Grant recipients
 - Joey Quiñones (Augusta Savage Grant)
 - Mitch Shea (Alex J. Ettl Grant)

- Benjamin Phillips (Stanley Bleifeld Memorial Grant)
- Spencer Tinkham (Marilyn Newmark Memorial Grant)



Honors Exhibition at Brookgreen Gardens

92nd Annual Awards Exhibition:

- August 2 – October 26, 2025
- 41 works by contemporary artists were selected from 364 submissions.
- On October 25, Brookgreen held a reception and announced the 16 prize winning works along with the People’s Choice Award (*Eidolon X* by Brendan Johnston)

NSS sponsored the following Community Exhibition:

NSS California Community/ Art of Form: Perspectives from The West

- May 17 – June 15 at Sausalito Center for the Arts in Sausalito, CA
- 55 works by Northern & Southern California Community plus members from Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Arizona were on display.
- The “Robin R. Salmon Award” of \$1,000 and sponsored by the Fantasy Fountain Fund, was awarded to Adam Matano for his California Condor, *Rascal*.

As for 2026, several exhibitions are currently open for submissions including the 93rd Annual Awards Exhibition.

Please check the NSS website for all your exhibition news and updates.

Honors and Awards – Alicia N. Ponzio, Chairperson

Members of the Committee are Kate Brockman, Fred X Brownstein, Mark Edward Adams and Heidi Wastweet
Kate Brockman reporting for Alicia N. Ponzio

On Friday, June 6th, the National Sculpture Society presented our Honors and Awards

Medal of Honor

The Society's highest award, for notable achievement in and for encouragement to American Sculpture, was presented to **Simon Kogan**

Herbert Adams Memorial Award

Presented for outstanding achievement to **Sabin Howard**

The Alex J. Ettl Grant

Jurors: Janice Mauro, Alicia Ponzio and Sabin Howard

For outstanding ability as a sculptor for a body of work, presented to **Erik Ebeling**

The Marilyn Newmark Memorial Grant

Jurors: Rosetta, Gary Staab and Joshua Tobey

For an outstanding body of work by a sculptor specializing in animal sculpture, to **Diane Collins**

The Stanley Bleifeld Memorial Grant

Jurors: Warren King, Mardie Rees and Richard Becker

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, presented to **Entang Wiharso** (pictured left)

Augusta Savage Grant

Jurors: LaQuincey Reed and Joey Quiñones

Awarded annually for Excellence in Sculpture to a talented emerging sculptor who self-identifies as Black or African American, presented to **Jules Arthur** (pictured right)



The Dexter Jones Award

Jurors: Lindley Briggs, Jacob E. Dobson, and Mashiko, founder and director of Medialia Gallery

For an outstanding work of sculpture in bas-relief by a young sculptor to **Chris Kunk**

Sculpture House Annual Award

Presented for support of figurative sculpture to **Chad and Denise Fisher**

Sisko Memorial Award

Presented for distinguished service to sculpture through programs sponsored by the National Sculpture Society to **Rod Zullo**

Membership – Michael Keropian, Chair

Members of the Committee are Kate Brockman, Carter Jones, Paul Rhymer and Basil Watson
Amy Kann reporting for Michael Keropian

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

Congratulations to the Elected Sculptor Members class of 2025. The following were elected at the July general meeting:

Benjamin Phillips
Linda Prokop
Mitch Shea
Andrey Sledkov
Tricia Zimic

Sara Myers, from the United Kingdom, resigned shortly after her election as a Foreign Sculptor Member.

In 2025, the Board nominated several Elected Sculptor Members for advancement to Fellow. I'm delighted to report that the following have received the necessary two-thirds vote to become a Fellow:

Ernest Caballero
Craig Campbell
Steven A. Carpenter
Kevin Chambers
Chas Fagan
Edward Hlavka
Adam Matano
George McMonigle
Steff Rocknak
Jeremiah D. Welsh



Rascal by Adam Matano

New Business – Outgoing Executive Director Gwen Pier reporting

In September 2025, an electronic notice was sent to the voting membership requesting nominations for possible Board members. Twenty-three NSS members nominated eighteen different people to fill seats on the Board. The Executive Committee met on October 15th to review the letters of support and the nominations that were received. The Executive Committee then formed a slate and presented the slate to the Board of the Directors at their meeting on November 12th. The Board then voted on and passed the slate and an electronic ballot was then sent to all voting members, to be finalized today. 73 ballots were returned. 72 approve and 1 abstain. The vote is now closed, and the following slate has been elected:

The new slate of Officers and Board Directors for 2026 are:

President: Gregory Glasson

1st Vice President: Susan Morrow Potje

2nd Vice President: Marc Fields

Treasurer: Richard J. Moylan

Secretary: Lee Hutt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Incoming Class of 2029:

Michael Keropian

Page Kiniry

Joshua Koffman

Basil Watson

Ellen D. Wilson

Class of 2028:

Jacquelyn Giuffré

Charles Hyde

Janice Mauro

Cheryl Newby

Alicia N. Ponzio

Class of 2027:

Nilda Comas

Amy Kann

Donella Lay

Olga Nielsen

Jeffrey Spring

New Business: Introduction of Fabio J. Fernández, Incoming Executive Director

Gwen Pier introduced Fabio J. Fernández as the incoming Executive Director of the National Sculpture Society.

Fabio said a few words, mentioning his excitement to work with NSS Board Members and Ambassador Communities and to learn from Gwen Pier and current staff members.

Adjourn – Greg Glasson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Bob Jewell seconded it.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM (EST)



Fabio J. Fernández
Photo by Whitney Lawson