

NACIS Board Meeting

Topic: February 25, 2024 Board Meeting

Time: 1:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81873674726?pwd=aU54WEI0b3RRSUxyem50cHBWKzBGZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 7367 4726

Passcode: 453158

Executive Office (non-voting)

- X Susan Peschel, Business Manager
- X Martha Bostwick, Associate Business Manager
- X Kate Leroux, Director of Operations
- X Jenny Marie Johnson, Executive Director

Executive Board (voting)

- X Travis White, Past President (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Brooke Marston, President (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Hannah Dormido, Vice President (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Vicky Johnson-Dahl, Vice President-Elect (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Josh Ryan, Secretary (*term expires 10/26*)
- X Neil Allen, Treasurer (*term expires 10/24*)

Board of Directors (voting)

- X Sarah Bell (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Bill Limpisathian (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Becca Ramsey (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Chelsea Nestel, Student Board Member (*term expires 10/24*)
- X Carl Sack (*term expires 10/25*)
- X Joanna Merson (*term expires 10/25*)
- Nathaniel Douglass (*term expires 10/25*)
- X Michael Sparks, Student Board Member (*term expires 10/25*)

Ex-Officio (non-voting)

- X Jim Thatcher, *Cartographic Perspectives* Editor
- X Nat Case, *Atlas of Design*

Formal Motions Approved:

- Approved minutes from last meeting
- Include a blurb to the NTSB recommendation in an upcoming NACIS newsletter. Also, draft a formal response back to NTSB

Welcome (Everyone, 1 min)

Brooke - Thank you everyone for joining on your weekend. Good to see all your faces.

Approval of minutes (Brooke, 1 min)

- [Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023](#)

We'll start with approval of the minutes.

Brooke - Do we have a motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting which was in 2023 - December.

Travis - I'll make a motion to approve

Bill - I'll second it

Brooke: All in favor to approve the minutes.

9 ayes. No disapprovals

Brooke - Motion approved

Housekeeping (Brooke, 12 mins)

- Response to [2016 NTSB letter](#)
 - Full NTSB report: [Train and Truck Crash on Railroad Right-of-Way and Subsequent Fire \(ntsb.gov\)](#)

Brooke - There is a link to a letter we received from the National Transportation Safety Board in 2016 asking us give some kind of announcement about including road signs at intersections with train crossings. There was an incident that happened in 2015 or 2016. As a result of that, they sent out this letter to quite a few organizations. In December, we received a follow up from them asking if we had taken their recommendation into consideration. I just wanted to see if this is something our organization wants to send a notice out to our membership. I'm thinking the NACIS news. "If you are involved in the making of maps, here is something that NTSB has reached out to us". Then we can send a response back to NTSB saying essentially what we did on this date in this newsletter.

I know this has been discussed several years ago. I wasn't involved with the board at that time and there was some discussion or not whether legally that is something we should do? I'm going to open the floor to discussion on what people think we should do about this letter.

Martha - I don't really oppose it. I just wanted to point out we had discussed it. I don't remember why, other than that there was some possible type of liability. If we set a precedent and people didn't follow it. I don't remember the details and I can't find it in my notes. I don't know what the liability would be.

Brooke - Thanks for the background. I would think by not saying anything we're actually opening ourselves up to more liability, but I'm not a lawyer.

Carl - I'm not sure how we would be liable for doing what a branch of the federal government is asking us to do. Just sending out an item in our NACIS news. "Here is what the federal government recommends."

Brooke - The letter is public so we can link to it. It's posted on their federal government website. We can link to that and just include a quick two sentences. And then, since it was sent to the executive director, Jenny, we can work on a response back, just saying, "thank for your recommendation, on this date we took this action." and close the loop on this item.

So, is this something that needs a motion?

Susan - Why not? Just be done with it. You're just directing people to their letter. You're not telling them what to do or not.

Brooke - I'll make a motion that we include in one of the upcoming NACIS newsletters a little blurb linking to the recommendation. And as the second part of that, drafting a response back to NTSB from NACIS

Neil - I'll second

12 ayes. No disapprovals

Brooke - Motion is passed. I'll work with Kate for the NACIS news and Jenny for the formal response.

- School project cartographer interview

Brooke - Susan sent out an email earlier today. She was contacted by a student who's interested in interviewing a cartographer. I believe it's a high-school student. They just want to know about what a cartographer does. If anyone is interested, please respond to the email or to Susan. If that is something you are interested in doing, please respond to the email.

- Board meeting schedule

Brooke - I've been playing around with this idea for a couple of months. Each time there is a board meeting, they're irregular. We send out a poll to figure out when we're going to have one, who's going to be able to attend.

I was toying with the idea of just having a regularly scheduled board meeting. A certain time, a certain day, a certain month. Try to figure out what day that is going to be for most people. And either you can make it or you can't. But instead of trying to pick random days every month or every other month that it might help us keep a more regular schedule.

I'm aware everybody has personal commitments, work commitments outside of NACIS. This is a significant amount of time that we ask for on a volunteer basis. We can't always be at all the meetings, every single time. But by having more regular meetings, we can shorten the time each meeting lasts. So that we can cover more material, or if there are committee updates that people would like to bring, not every other month, but more regularly. Or it's also an opportunity for our conference planners to ask questions of us, as a board, as for volunteers, see how we can help at a little bit more regular of a schedule.

I just want to put that out there for us to consider. We don't have to make a decision right now. I'd love to hear your thoughts. I know it will come with some difficulties. If we pick a day someone is never available, that isn't ideal. I wonder if having a scheduled date and time would be more efficient for the board.

Joanna - I might suggest we do something like two times that are alternating. Similar, but if there is something... *(inaudible)*

Brooke - That's a good idea. For those that didn't hear that. Picking two times a month. If someone can't make one of them, ideally they can make the other. We can also set a regular meeting or two meetings a month and cancel them if nothing is on the agenda. They don't always have to happen. I don't want to necessarily increase the number of meetings we have. I just think it could be beneficial to meet more regularly. We can always try doing that, setting a day a month, or two days a month like Joanna suggested and if there is nothing on agenda, then we don't have to meet.

Joanna in chat: I meant once a month but it alternates the time slot

Rebecca - Joanna in chat clarified: She meant every other month.

Chelsea in chat: our board meetings are open to membership too, right? that may help transparency

Hannah - Chelsea left a comment on the chat which I think is good. Would also help with the transparency of our members. So they know that we have meetings on this day. If they wanted to show up, they could.

Brooke - I was going to ask. Travis, that's how DEI does it? You have a regularly scheduled meeting? Does that work well for you guys?

Travis - It works beautifully. It's so nice. I'm on board with regular meetings. Do we need to guarantee we have a quorum?

Brooke - I think so? As a general practice that's good to follow. It doesn't mean that at every meeting we'll be voting on anything. But to approve minutes. We should have the 2/3 there.

I'm just looking through the chat really quickly. This seems like something that most people are really interested in. Good to hear.

I'll work with Josh to pull up some kind of poll to start to work out what these days could be based on the majority of people's availability. Expect to get some emails from us trying to narrow down when this will be. I don't have a date yet, but perhaps after the Spring board meeting we can sort out what these more regular meetings will look like.

Spring Board Meeting (Susan, 4 mins)

- When: Saturday, April 27, 2024
- [2024 SBM Travel Plan](#) spreadsheet
- [How to book discounted hotel rate](#)

Susan - Most of the people have filled out that travel plan. Just wanted to remind everyone that the cutoff is March 26th for the hotel rate. If you have any possibility of attending in person, you might want to book the room now. If you can't come, then you can just cancel it. The link has been posted. If you need the link for registering, let me know.

The letter that Brooke sent out was pretty clear with everything you need to know. We'll do our best to do airport pickups and dropoffs. There is a lot of people driving, that could be helpful too for some of those pickups.

I do have permission to get into the AGS on a Saturday. The curator will be there to let us in.

If you have any questions, email me.

Carl - What time are we starting that Saturday morning?

Susan - Generally we start 8:30 or 9. That's really up to Brooke, how much we have to cover. We usually fill up a 9-5 without any trouble.

Brooke - I'm planning a 9-5. Draft agenda will come out mid to late March. Plan on a full day.

Nat - I'm the only one not coming in person. Is that a problem for you all?

Sarah - I might not be able to go either. I'll be able to Zoom in.

Brooke - Who was in charge of setting up the Zoom for the last 2 meetings?

Bill - We sort of just had a laptop on a chair. If someone reminds me, I can grab Madison's fancy zooming rig that has a camera and fancy microphone and bring it with me. So we don't have to chair as much.

Brooke - That sounds great. It won't be a problem if you zoom in Nat and Sarah. Zoom is an option we want to keep available to the board members

Carl - Are we doing something Friday night? Or just the Saturday.

Susan - Whoever is town Friday night, I host dinner at my house.

Finance Committee (Neil, 30 mins)

- [Proposed budget for 2024](#)

Neil - Good to see everybody. Been busy on the finance committee getting this all put together. Due to Susan getting this together in record time.

I do have a document you can link to. I'm not going to work from that particular one. I'm going to work from the Excel on my Dropbox instead.

Neil shares screen

Neil - I just want to first underline some of the overarching - what we have reported to the IRS for the last 7 years. Profit/Loss. This is what I report at the annual meeting when I do my treasurers report. 5 of the last 7 years have been in the negative. Mainly bailed out by OKC in 2021, due to the conference and the comps from the hotel for COVID. 2018 we were in Norfolk. I don't remember why this was a profit. I wasn't part of the treasury at the time. Maybe Susan can spread some light. But anyway, the bottom line, the last 7 years, losing about \$8,000, for a non-profit, is pretty good. We do have a couple of consecutive negative years. We have relied upon a bumper conf in OKC. We're projecting a bumper one in Tacoma. But that is mainly based on past performance. Not based on a crystal ball.

We're mainly going to be looking today to work with the proposed budget. I've worked with all of you. Thank you all for getting your information back to me. Some of you may see your numbers didn't quite come across. Ultimately, when I had a conflict between numbers, I went with what Susan and Martha were reporting to me from the costs and income they have reported. Seemed like what everybody brought was pretty good.

I just wanted to highlight our operating budget. Going to be in the red this year is what we are forecasting. We always have a negative operating expense in any given year. A lot of times, many of those expenses don't come to fruition. It's not like we are losing \$51,000 this year. This is what we are budgeting for. Hoping from everybody, keep that negative operating expense in mind. We are on tight finances. We need to keep track of everything. Make sure we don't overspend, cause our income is pretty simple.

Income for the next year. This is obviously a crystal ball. It is not guaranteed. Guesstimating about \$150,000 from the conference. We'll see if that comes to light or not.

I have tabs on the bottom that summarize and fill out more detail. I take the later 3 documents and distill it down into this proposed budget.

We are guesstimating here, but looking at about \$25,000 from dues and subscriptions. That's just based on averages from last year and what we have already from this year.

AOD similarly. We have income of about \$25,000. This is from what Nat reported last year and projections for next year.

Smaller odds and ends income. The bulk of it from the tshirt store. Roughly looking at about \$2,600 is what we would hope to make. Rebecca, I have to apologize, I didn't get into your email. We can work around this.

Becca - If anything, we are going to be purchasing 25 shirts less, it would be less cost on our end.

Neil - This is mainly just income projections, we'll get to the costs here in a moment

We're projecting about \$200,000 of income in the next year. Income is very simple.

Now we're going to drill down into the expenses. Committees, let me know what you think.

Regular board expenses of \$9,800. Travel and meals for the Spring Board Meeting.

Another underlying thought on all this, I was talking to my sister who is a professional meeting planner. She works primarily in the medical industries. Her experience is that nothing has gone down. Inflation is going up and up. We're keeping that in mind as we're going through, these conferences are going to get more expensive.

General corporate expenses. I don't put in the \$8,000 which is an allocation for the conference planner. Now it's handle through the conference worksheet. Some of the blank lines are placeholders for past services, we may or may not use them.

Susan - I'm going to interrupt. I've used Michelle since before the first time we went to Pittsburgh. She gets paid by the hotels, a commission on the room block. We are not charged anymore. Hotel underwrites. She can negotiate a lower rate than we can do on our own. As evidenced by us trying to do it on our own for most of these years until she got involved. The only reason there's a line there, is that after COVID, she lost all income for 2 years. Some of her clients, us included, paid her a small stipend just to make up for lost wages. It's there in case, we use her services to send out requests for proposals to conference sites. She might do a site visit. She does all sorts of things. If we don't use her for any reason, there are charges then. She has incurred expenses. We haven't done it at all. The only time we've paid her is after COVID. She has provided extremely helpful services for nothing to us. She doesn't charge for

request for proposals. If we don't use her after we've done all this work for us, then we have to pay her. We have never paid her.

Neil - I want to keep it there, so we know what it costs. It's a good lag for future boards to keep in mind when they have to go do this kind of stuff.

Eventsquid is now our current registration process. Costs \$5,000/year

Annual conference deposits. This is for the Hotel Murano. We're on the hook for a lot more than that, but that's what we had to put down as a down payment.

Video. I did not put it in here. I'll have it for the Spring Board Meeting so we can look at this in a little more detail. This past year it was about \$46,000. Made a decision a couple of years ago to move into the conference section. So really, what we were approving and thinking was only going to be 23 last year, wound up being this 46 over here.

Susan - 23 is for E3. The hotel is the other half.

Neil - AV expenses are going through the roof. That and food.

This line item (Business Travel) we decided to raise this. Because it has really not been well covered over the years. We approved \$7,000 last year, but Martha and Susan only incurred about \$2,000 worth of expenses. This is really meant to cover 4 people, the ED included. We concluded that \$7,000 wasn't really enough anymore. We have increased that to 12k. We are probably overshooting.

Jenny - I just want to interpret that line a little differently. The additional reason this has been increased is because Martha and Susan have not necessarily asked for reimbursement for everything that they should have asked for reimbursement. This year we are asking them to truly submit for reimbursement what needs to be submitted. Not to artificially cap their requests at a particular level. So we have a better idea how much expense they are incurring on behalf of the organization. And then in future years, this number will be a little bit more realistic

Neil -

Mail chimp and AoD domain names. This is the registration fee that we had for Outreach.

President's discretionary fund. We only spent \$500 last year. But we have \$1,500 in the budget for it. Normal and typical

Exec Director's discretionary fund. It wasn't used last year. But now it could be. It's usually \$500.

A lot of these you're going to see, are just hopped over from last year. Even though we didn't spend them. We want to make sure they are kept for the possibility.

Credit Card charges. Small things. Stripe is now about \$3,100 per year

All of this other stuff is fairly small. I worked with Kate to keep track of these website line items. We are in a transition moment here where we're trying to figure where all the technology and web service fees are going.

Then just other little minutiae. Office supplies. About \$28,000 in total corporate fees.

This is where Kate, get back to me after the meeting, if this doesn't seem realistic. Or if I've misreported something. You were very good about clarifying what went where.

NACIS.org, Cartotalk costs about 10 per year to keep the domain

Very small stuff, but this all adds up. Kate has done a tremendous job keeping expenses down below what we approved, and what the actuals are. So this consolidation has been a positive financial move.

Store

We're expecting \$2,100 in expenses. Depending on Rebecca's figures. Fewer shirts brings that down a little bit. Once I get in there and make the changes, we can approve the amendments at the Spring Board Meeting if need be.

Atlas of Design.

Thanks to Nat getting back to me with all this kind of stuff. We obviously had an incredible year last year. Of all sorts of reprints and so forth. Huge Printing costs. Now we get to ride the inventory train of having lots of stock and not necessarily a lot of expenses.

Nat - No. We are actually budgeting \$30,240 for printing costs this fall.

Neil - That's a big oversight. Amendment to come. Even so, it should be far less than what we were looking at last year.

Cartographic Perspectives

Kudos to Jim for being the first one to respond, of all the emails I sent out, you got to me in like 5 min. And had this all fleshed out. And so we're looking at a little bit of an increase from the last year, but not a tremendous increase from what was proposed last year. A lot has to do with 4 issues this year rather than 3. Not sure if they will come actual this year, this may just holdover till next year, but I think we need to account for it obviously.

Awards

Awards are big. It was kinda messy. Thanks to Travis and Bill for making sense of this. Proposed 25 awards for this year. \$500 a piece. So that's \$12,500. Is that right Bill?

Bill - it's one grand less because we are projecting awarding the undergrad scholarship

Neil - Oh, that's right. Okay, great. Anyway, you can see for the awards, we get about \$20,000, which is just in line exactly with what we had last year and I can't really speak to its success other than anecdotally from what I saw on the outside. It seemed like it was very successful.

And we made about everybody as happy as could be that really wanted grants. I think Bill liked being the bearer of good news.

DEI

Is inline to what was proposed last year, which was \$10,500. Everything is about the same.

Travis asked me to consolidate essentially these 2 categories (Speaker Registration and Honorariums) into this category going forward, but I still wanted to keep those broken out for the year.

But now they want \$7,000 for the DEI speaker and registered honorariums, which was somewhat in line with about \$6,000 is what they were requesting last year.

I think the DEI training they found was going to be less expensive than what we had originally allocated for. So they swung that down a little bit and then are asking for a little bit more in the

donations category. And so we're gonna clarify that by the Spring Board Meeting. We can approve it now, I suppose, but we still want them to clarify exactly where that donation is going. We feel like the board needs to have some sort of say in where that kind of donation goes. Just for the optics or just the clarity and make sure it's within what we're trying to do as an organization.

Conference expenses

So we come down to the final expenses, which is about \$135,000 for the annual meeting. We were projecting 150 in income, 135 is what we're projecting in expenses. So we're looking at about a \$15,000 gain, hopefully. Obviously that's very conservative. We're hoping it's going to be more. We're going to strive to make it more. To obviously ameliorate this operating loss. Cause again our expenses are pretty high. That's just proposed, but it seems like it's pretty close and in line with what we saw for the actuals last year.

That's essentially it unless everybody has any questions

Brooke - Thanks so much, Neil. I just wanted to give a thanks to all the committee chairs who provided all this information to Neil so that he could present this to us. For those that haven't served on a committee before or are just new to the board, it takes a lot of extra work to pull these figures together, especially as a proposed provisional budget so thank you to all the people who provided those numbers to Neil and a big thank you to Neil for giving us this report.

It's a lot of numbers and it's really helpful for us to know where we currently stand.

Kate - Neil, maybe we should have a quick conversation at some point. I think there's still a few little clarifications around all the domain stuff that might be easier in a conversation.

Neil - Okay, absolutely. I feel like I'm tracking it now still by domain name and it may be easier to actually flip flop it and track it by like who the actual service is and then outlined it that way. I think that would be simpler because I think that's essentially in line or mirrors what you've been trying to do, which is get everything kind of under one umbrella this extent.

Feel free to reach out. Let me know what what I didn't get right. Except for you, Nat, because obviously I pooched that section of the AOD.

Neil - So in light of some of those shortcomings, Brooke, I don't know if we feel comfortable approving this as it is, because it obviously needs some amendments. More than just minor tweaks, it would appear.

Brooke - I'm gonna ask Martha and Susan what they think if we're able to approve the provisional budget now or if in light of some of the bigger number amendments that it seems we're going to need to change, if we should hold off until the end of April on approving even the provisional. Do you guys have a recommendation?

Martha - The biggest change was Nat's, wasn't it?

Neil - Yeah

Nat - From our standpoint. those expenses aren't gonna happen until the fall. The printing and binding and all the production expenses aren't going to be happening until October.

Susan - Is this for volume 7?

Nat - Exactly

Neil - Yeah. Well, that's true though for a majority of these expenses as you see, all the whirlwind activity, happens in Q3 and 4 for the most part. There's a little bit of stuff up front, and obviously continuing corporate expenses, and that kind of thing throughout the year. For the most part, a lot of those expenses don't come until the fall with the conference and the AOD printings.

Brooke - So should we hold off on trying to approve the provision?

Neil - I don't think it's that big of a deal. I think this is a good formative working budget as it stands, even if not approved. And if we're gonna have monthly or gonna try to have another meeting prior to the Spring Board Meeting, I would probably only need 5 min to show you what the amendments were and we could approve it then.

Susan - That probably is a good idea. But I would do it sooner at the next board meeting before the Spring Board Meeting.

Brooke - Yeah, I agree. It's a little far off. Okay, so we'll try and plan a March Board meeting and go ahead and if you can give us the amended, provisional 2024 budget. At that time we'll move forward with trying to approve that.

I think I'll just ask everyone that is on committees to please be aware and vigilant with your spending. I know Neil said it's not like the sky is falling, but we do wanna make sure we're spending the money as appropriately as possible so that we continue to be a successful organization. Financially and otherwise. So please just keep that in mind when you are coming up with initiatives or sending proposals for monetary items to our treasurer.

Neil - Exactly. And also just to think about any sorts of, I don't say remedies because I don't feel like anything is really ill right now but at the same time... Susan and I have already started the discussion where Susan's making some suggestions on what we can do about potentially increasing registration fees for those non-members who want access immediately to all the YouTube videos, and just little stuff like that. Those are the kind of things we can attend to at the Spring Board Meeting. But I want everybody to keep that in mind and keep thinking about possible suggestions to increase income a little bit. So we can try to overcome this kind of negative operating losses.

Communications and Outreach Committee

- Social media coordinator (Brooke, 1 min)

Brooke - I'll start by putting a call out there for a Social Media Coordinator. Alex used to hold this position until he unfortunately could no longer participate on the board. So that position has largely been vacant, which creates a bit of a vacuum when it comes to who's posting what, where when it comes to NASA news, our Slack channels, the various number of social media accounts that we hold. So it'd be helpful if we had a single person that could kind of be in charge of all that.

I'm just gonna ask if anybody has any suggestions, any names, people that they think might do well in this position. That they've seen either being really prolific on their own social media accounts or have expressed being interested in this to any of the board members. Feel free to go ahead and send an email to me as the chair of the Outreach Committee and I'll be in touch with our subcommittees. Bill is usually the one handling a lot of this.

- Website:
 - [Recent domain changes](#) (Kate, 1 min)
 - [Proposal for revamp of companies & labs pages](#) (Kate, 4 mins)

Kate - I'll be very brief with the first one. There's a link if you want to follow it for more details, but basically one of the first things I did when I took over as Operations Director was to consolidate where all of our domains are registered and where all our DNS is located. They were across a whole bunch of different vendors at a different price points, and so I brought everything that I could into Cloud Flare, which is cheaper. And it is just easier to maintain. There's one more final step that I'm waiting on to do next week and then that will be complete. And it saved us a bunch of money too, which is cool.

And then my next item is a little bit more involved. Proposal for the revamp of companies and lab pages. So the, the website subcommittee is putting forth this proposal. Because the cartographic companies and university labs pages are out of date. Tom Patterson did an update pass just when I started on the board. So, several years ago now. And a lot of them are out of date and inconsistent.

We are fortunate that we have some people on the committee this year who are, specifically Aly Ollivierre, who's offered to put in the legwork. To help do all the manual updating work on this. But we would also like to change the back end a little bit to support some new fields for these. So that there's some filtering and searching ability that we could add if there are more attributes for these companies and labs. And to change the layout a little bit so it's easier to like to skim rather than just one long scrolly page. I sent this to our web design company, Gecko Design, about a week ago for a quote. And I haven't gotten an estimate yet.

So we don't have a dollar figure like I was hoping. Previously, we were going to have everybody have the ability to update their own, but we realized that would be a moderation nightmare. So we moved it to this. The quote for the previous one was \$1,400. So maybe this would be similar. But I can't say for sure until I hear back from Gecko on what their estimate is. Does anyone have any questions or comments or input on this?

Nat - Glancing at the proposal, I'm wondering, you talk about updating the front end to filter stuff. Are you looking at the possibility of having speciality filters saying I specialize in orienteering, I specialize in medical, I specialize in GIS and integration. Whatever. So that people can get a smaller subset of who they're actually looking for?

Kate - Yes. If you scroll down, to the last 2 pages, there's some tables that show what attributes we want to add. We didn't want to make it extremely crazy broad. But these are some ways that you could filter down to better find what you're looking for.

Brooke - Kate, thanks for all your hard work on trying to save us a couple of bucks here and there with the domain changes.

Kate - So I'd like to get a sense of whether we're in favor of it and whether I should move forward.

(unofficial hand raising vote)

Brooke - Yeah, it looks like you have pretty broad support. So we'll be interested to see when you hear back from Gecko Designs what this might be costing us to do.

Kate - Great, and a lot of credit is due to Aly. She was the one that created this document and will be doing a lot of the legwork.

- Mentor Program (Rebecca, 4 min)
 - 34 mentees
 - 12 mentors
 - Final days of pairing and notifications will be going out in early march
 - Kick off zoom meeting Saturday March 23 2pm EST
 - Bill would you be available to attend to promote the various scholarship opps or map awards to pairs ?
 - Jim are you available to attend and discuss carto perspectives and the undergrad student competition paper?

Rebecca - Just a quick update. We have 34 mentees who ended up applying and 12 mentors who ended up applying. So we're really glad that we opened up the opportunity for mentors to do groups because that's about the only way we'll be able to try and satisfy that number difference.

We're in the final days of pairing right now and the notifications are going to be going out in early March. We've got a zoom kick off meeting scheduled for March 23 at 2PM.

And there's just a couple of people I wanted to kinda ask here. That would be Bill and Jim. And I see they both have already said yes, so that's great because I think that's a great opportunity for them to introduce some of the things that we haven't had as much participation with. Some of our undergrads or some of the different scholarships and opportunities that we haven't been able to outreach as much. And so I think doing that through the mentor program, especially with a mentor who might be able to help guide people would be a great place for that.

Brooke - Just a quick question, Rebecca. For the mentors, are those on a volunteer basis or do you do outreach and contact certain people and ask them directly if they would be interested in being mentors?

Rebecca - Everything is completely volunteer. Last year when I saw a few different categories that weren't being filled, I dug into people on Slack and looked up their emails and then would look up if they were on LinkedIn or if they posted in Slack for various topics. And then reached out to them individually.

This year we didn't do as much reaching out because we had a fair number of folks with the different categories who had applied that matched up with a lot of our mentees.

The one area we might want to reach out to next year, it's a smaller niche area, is Carto Librarians because we didn't have a fill for that one. So that might be something we need to actually look into next year.

Brooke - I see Jenny laughing, which I hope she's interested in volunteering to be a mentor to help fill that gap.

Rebecca - Jenny, if you are, the mentor application is still open and that's the one hole that we kind of had this year. But no pressure.

But in the past it's kinda, I know when we're at the conference, people are asking where we communicated with and it was every means that we had. It was Slack, which we did again this year. It was newsletter, which we did again this year. So if people check their emails, this is this is what we got.

Brooke - Thanks. I was just curious if maybe that's an effort that would be helpful to kind of try and recruit a few more mentors just so that we don't end up getting just larger and larger groups that put more stress on just a single mentor, but if you think it's working the way it is? And I would love to see more Carto librarians. I think it's such a fascinating, extremely niche field that would be really interesting to have a couple more folks from.

I'm not going to put pressure on Jenny to volunteer. That was more, I'm hoping maybe she has a good network that we could utilize that kind of help to build that group.

- NACIS [Shop Budget request 2024](#) (Rebecca, 6 min)
 - Proposing all same vendors
 - 75 shirts (Jim could we mail them to you for transport?)
 - New Enamel pin
 - Sticker
 - Usual round button pins (I<3 Maps, Conference theme pin)
 - Shirt designs (where do those submittals go? Is my email linked?)
 - Need to add Joanna and Josh to Teamwork

Rebecca - Jump to the next topic: the shop. We're gonna use all the same vendors from last year. It worked out pretty well. We have contacts with them. We're reducing the number of shirts by 25 so that we have less that may potentially live in Susan's basement or have to be moved to the next conference. But we will also always have it online so that if we do sell out of those 75, there's still an opportunity for people to continue to purchase in advance or afterwards.

We'll have a new enamel pin again because both the pin and the stickers sold really well and they were really easy to transport so I don't see that being an issue next year. I think they'll still sell well again. And that was actually where we made up some of the loss that we had in shirts was by the fact that the pins and the stickers don't cost as much to produce and more of those were able to sell.

The shirt designs when they get submitted on the website, I don't know if I'm on the email for that or where that goes. So that may be something I'll side chat with Kate about is trying to see if I can get my email associated with it or where those end up going when people submit.

And then I know that on the subcommittee with the shop, Joanna and Josh need access to Teamwork because that's where I've got all the documents for the shop for them to be able to reference when they do designs. Because I think they're going to tackle some of our pin designs for next year. So if we could add them to Teamwork, that would be great. That's all I got.

Bill - Can I ask how many shirts did we actually sell?

Rebecca - 49. Out of a hundred.

Bill - I don't think it would be bad for us to aim for our shirt supply to match around that number to artificially create demand, since everybody else can still get it online anyway.

Rebecca - I know I had proposed 60 but then we kinda chatted back and forth with the subcommittee, well we expect more people to be at this conference so maybe there'd be more. I can always drop it down. This is up for y'all's interpretation of preference. I'm happy to drop it to 50.

Susan - Well, part of it was you didn't have a squad of people that could sell and it was really dependent on you. So I mean, not that you would have sold the whatever is remaining down there but I think you would have sold more. When we're busy at the registration desk, it's a non-issue, but when it gets slower, we can do it or just have more volunteers. I think you'd do okay.

Brooke - Yeah, I think this next conference it would be better if we had quite a few people volunteering so that the pressure wasn't all on you and so we could have some longer hours. That's something I would love to chat more with you about. I think there are enough of us on the board that we could fill in an hour here, an hour there to just kind of help help with those. So we can definitely talk more about that as it gets closer to the conference.

But maybe I should've just stuck with the Tyrannosaurus Rex t-shirt design and not got the Pittsburgh one. But I have seen the design for this year's conference and Hannah and Vicky have done an excellent job with it. It looks awesome. So I'm hopeful we'll sell some more shirts this year.

Bill (in chat) - How many shifts did we sell in PIT?

Rebecca - I see Bill's question, as far as the shifts go. Each day there was 2 1h slots, so it was whenever we were doing the break. So like lunch or evening break. That was pretty much the shifts that we did last time.

And then the other question I had had on here was whether or not I could ship things to local folks and looks like Jim was up for it and then Sarah would be up for it. We'll peg you guys a little bit later when we start actually having to order and ship things.

Awards Committee updates (Bill, 7 mins)

- Undergraduate Scholarship Subcommittee (mem: **Fritz**, Michael, Bill)
 - Revitalization planning is underway in earnest with **Michael** leading.
 - Comment from Amy Rock: "I look forward to what Michael has to say, but with my Humboldt hat on, I would say that "cartographic research" is a bit intimidating to many undergrads, such that I don't think anyone from here has ever applied, despite our strong performance in the map competitions. We have a similar issue with the AAG scholarship for master's level cart research - I think that term may seem broad to us, but perhaps very specific to students, and they may not think that the work they are doing applies. Would love to hear from students/recent students on this."
 - Fritz appears almost ready to have this taken off his hands

- Bill working with Kate to restructure application process to replace Fritz's personal email with a NACIS one for applications (scholarship@nacis.org which forwards to awards@nacis.org + ug scholarship chair)

Bill - I just wanted to give a general update of all the priorities or things that are happening in the awards committee.

The first one being the undergraduate scholarship. Which is still chaired by Fritz Kessler. And needs some revitalization work, or a lot of it. Michael, one of our amazing student board members, has volunteered to think of possible ways to make it more exciting by potentially linking it more to the other programs, like the Mentor program. So that it's not just an isolated thing. Where if an undergrad gets the award they would also benefit from getting a mentor and whatnot.

But also talking privately with Fritz, who was president at the time when this award was formed, a few years back, he seems close to wanting this off his hands, possibly this cycle. So we might need to think of who this award would likely fall under afterwards. We'll probably need a new chair of that and I've begun to work with Kate to sort of streamline that application process so that it works independently of Fritz. If he decides to step down from that.

- CB Awards Subcommittee (mem: **Nat**, Molly)
 - Last update from Molly: "No leads on the CB Award yet"

Bill - And then on the CB award front, I tasked, or Nat and Molly volunteered, to be the point people on that. I don't know if Nat has any update on that or we have any leads on who possibly might be deserving of CB, if we are even gonna try to award it this year, even though we're sort of approaching that cadence of the in between time between awards.

Nat - Molly and I have nothing to report. We've had a meeting.

Bill - That's fine.

- Map Gallery Subcommittee (mem: **Amy Rock**, Martha)
 - Amy: "Last year, we continued the practice from the pandemic of requiring a file upload rather than just an abstract, which led to some expectations that we were printing and hanging maps for entries. If we're not doing a virtual gallery, I don't see a reason to be requesting a file upload - if others feel differently, I'm open to discussion."
 - Bill thinks having the files is good for displaying the winner on the site/social

Bill - And then I've touched base with Amy Rock about map gallery stuff, everything still seems good. She seems poised to continue helping out with that for this upcoming cycle. Some minor general discussion about whether we're currently having them submit digital files along with their maps and whether we need to do that. I still think that's a good thing, but that's super minor.

- Travel Grant Subcommittee (mem: **Bill**)
 - Maintaining 2023 structure which awarded 39/40 grants (25 students, 10 general, 4 DEI addition) but will lessen to max of 37. Assuming that undergrad scholarship is awarded and that DEI continues to support 4 additional grants
 - Therefore no budget change
 - Very personal DEI-related questions that were being asked will be dropped entirely/minimized since we weren't using that info anyway
 - Simplified to “Would you like to apply for priority funding for individuals from minority or underrepresented groups? Yes or No”
 - [Modification to travel grant questionnaire - Google Docs](#)
 - **Lourdes** in DEI has mentioned that info could still be useful if there's a demonstrated need but Awards currently has no need for that level of detail
 - Bill will work with Kate to update the form once changes are finalized

Bill - And then, jumping to travel grant stuff, as we just reviewed the proposed budget. Everything more or less is staying the same as before, no increase, no decrease. Technically nominal decrease due to just reapportioning some of that budget in the line items, but more or less should be the same.

I sort of started work on adjusting some of the DEI related questions we were asking for the travel grant, to sort of remove a bulk of those very personal questions because it was weird for me as a chair. To be finding out a lot about people that I don't necessarily think I should know.

So we're just gonna more or less get rid of those detailed questions and there's a doc in there linking to what it was before and what's being proposed. All this is already thought of, but it was too late to implement for the last cycle. So we'll implement it for this upcoming cycle and I know Kate is already very involved with me on that.

Brooke - Thanks, Bill. Just a quick question. Is this something that you want the proposal for the board to approve now at this meeting? The modification to the travel grant questionnaire?

Bill - That's a great question. I think maybe since this is the first time I'm sharing it fully with the whole board, maybe we'll vote on it at the next board meeting? If people want to look through how we're asking a lot of very personal in-depth questions and we weren't doing anything with these information. So yeah, maybe vote on it.

Brooke - I think that's a good idea. Hopefully we'll get a March board meeting scheduled and that will give everyone on the board some more time to really take a closer look at this and provide any substantive edits before then. And then we can plan on approving it at the March meeting if that works for you?

Bill - Yeah

Martha - In the past we've had that registration form ready to go for when the CFP comes out. So is that planning to happen before our March board meeting? Cause it's usually released in February.

Hannah - So I'm currently working on the CFP. My working plan is to have it to Vicky for edit on the sixth. And the target, the working target, which can be pushed, is the mid of March. But I was hoping to send it out before April, just to give people more time.

Bill - Can I ask for clarification from that? From Martha. Do you mean like the travel grant applications need to go out along with CFP?

Martha - Usually the travel grant applications, the map gallery registration, and student awards things: all those registration forms are usually all live when the CFP goes out. Cause we advertise those on the CFP.

Or things can change, but just putting that on your radar. You know, the CFP could always say, look for the openings of these things on April 1st or something like that.

Hannah - I think it would be nice for them to just go out altogether so that people will have them in one place and I can work with Bill on the timing.

DEI Committee (Travis, 1 min)

- [DEI Session Impact Report](#) prepared by Lourdes Ginart
- We don't need any speaking time, I just wanted to include the link to this report which helps justify our budget request. We will discuss this in greater detail at SBM.

Travis - Yeah, as I put in, don't really have an update. I wanted to include the document that Lou put together, really just a justification for our budget requests. It's a very detailed impact report on why we think that the sessions that we had at last year's conference were successful and valuable to NACIS. And also since we're asking for a large sum of money, I mean over \$10,000. I think that justification is important to have in writing for the rest of you. So, please take time to look through it. I can answer any questions you have about it, or any of the items on our budget proposal.

Nominations Committee (Travis, 5 min)

- Nominee updates
- Bill, Sarah, Rebecca, Chelsea are retiring

Note - names withheld since this is a public document and nothing has been voted on or even approved by the relevant people

Travis - So we have good news, about the 2024 ballot. First, *President Candidate* has agreed to run for the presidency.

President Candidate was not the first candidate that we reached out to. The first candidate that declined was *President Candidate 2*. #2 is interested in running for the presidency in the future.

For student board members, we have a (*Student Board Member*), a grad student who has already started participating in DEI committee meetings. They will replace Chelsea, whose term is up in October.

And then speaking of terms that are coming, that are over in October, Bill, Becca, and Sarah will roll off the board and they have all declined to run again. And Chelsea too has declined to

run for regular director at large position. So we have 3 open spots and currently we have received 3 nominations on the website.

The deadline is March 30 first, so we will continue to recruit folks. And we will have more info and all of the candidate statements and bios ready for a perusal and discussion at the Spring Board Meeting.

Neil - I'm just curious the nominees that you have that were accepting the presidency and the one that postponed it for the time being. Do they have board experience? Have they been? I've been off the board for a decade prior to coming back and so I wasn't sure if they had served previously.

Bill - It's a mix. Some of them have been on the board in areas. But some of them have not.

Neil - Sure, my biggest concern is that if somebody doesn't have any board experience, then there's also that learning curve of just having to know how the board operates. Let alone run the board.

Brooke - I actually fall into that category. My most involvement was editor for Atlas of Design. I had run for the board, I think at 2017 Montreal, but wasn't nominated. So it's not unprecedented.

Hannah - Travis, I tried to take down the names of the people who are cycling out, but if you can add it to the document, please.

Bill - I'll also add that I'm also on the nomination committee and I'm also still working on trying to recruit some more people for the regular board member positions.

Jim - Same

Neil - I think technically I cycle out at the end of this year too, but I'm not gonna say that in front of Susan too loudly.

Susan - Oh, you're not. You're not going anywhere, buddy.

Atlas of Design (Nat, 7 mins)

- Progress report from team
- Need to boost sales/outreach

Nat - First progress report, judging is going well. Half the judges have started. We got 202 submissions. 136 were sent to the judges which is on kind of on par with the last couple of volumes. Our pre-filtering of only having a limited number of submissions per person has helped keep the count down to a dull roar.

The reason I wanted to get on the agenda is that I having worked on this budget for Neil. I realized that we need to face the fact that sales are just continuing to drop. Sales of Volume 5 were down but it was the plague year so we wrote that off as being weird. Volume 6 out of the box sales were also lower than expected and the sales of the reprints were a little lower than what we had projected so it's concerning. But sales in general have just been declining for Atlas of Design.

I don't think it's because it's not a useful thing. I think it's probably simply because of either our weird mechanism that we only sell through the Atlas of Design store. Lack of publicity. There's various possibilities. I would like to ask some help to convene, and I talked to the the team and they're happy to have a separate group work on this, to talk about ways to boost sales

of Atlas of Design, boost visibility. Do we need to propose changing the mechanism for sales at all? Just throw ideas about how can we get sales back up. It's clearly a great product that people love.

But it's not getting out there as much as we should. So if I bring it to the board and see if you have any thoughts about how to form a task force to work maybe the rest of this year. I'm talking through ideas about how to how to get sales back up.

Carl - I'm just wondering if any thought has ever been given to publishing EPUB versions of the Atlas. You can charge almost as much for an EPUB and not have the printing costs. People might want to consume it more that way. There's a lot more emphasis on digital publications, these days.

Nat - That's certainly one of the things to consider. But you'd also lose some sales of the physical book, which we're paying money for. Anyways, that is a discussion for the group to think about.

So thoughts about forming this group?

Brooke - I think we'd largely look to you and the current editorial team, especially when it comes to publicity. I know each editorial team has kind of taken a different approach to this. Some of the earlier versions, 2016, 2018, they did a lot of outreach. For volume 5, Vanessa really led that effort to try and reach out to publications like National Geographic, Bloomberg. I think Guardian wrote an article on one of them. So it might be worth trying to leverage some of the contract cartographers we know that work at some of these, we know a couple that work at New York Times in the graphics. We know a couple that work at Wall Street Journal. So trying to reach out to them to see if that's an avenue to pursue and trying to get some of the publicity.

You and I had discussed earlier, a couple months ago, about potentially moving to every 3 years instead of every 2 years. But yeah, that might just be pushing off the problem rather than ameliorating it. Those are just some initial thoughts that I have, but I think if you as the managing editor and the current editorial team can kind of put together a proposal of ideas for the board to consider that might be the clearest path forward.

Nat - So the current team is already up to its eyeballs. This is why we had me as the series editor. They don't have the bandwidth to develop a long-term strategy on this. And I think it would be good for us to look at long-term strategy rather than just having a year by year potshot.

So I can certainly, if the board doesn't have time to help, organize a team. Can I get your blessing to put together a team? I'll maybe call up former editors? Or if there's anyone on the board who would like to help that would be great too.

Susan - I was gonna suggest what about the former editors like you just mentioned. They know the ropes and they've had a chance to catch their breath. So they might be a good place to start. Call out to them to see if anyone would be willing to donate a little bit of time just for brainstorming.

Nat - Is there anyone on the board who would like to help?

Neil - I'm happy to sit in on that. Just having publishing experience and so forth that I can lend you what I know.

Josh - Nat, I can jump in as a former editor.

Brooke - I can sit in.

Nat - Thank you all. I will hopefully have something more for you at a later meeting.

Operations (Kate & Jenny, 6 mins)

- Kate out of the country (and mostly offline) March 13 - April 10
- Update on task management system

Kate - I want to make sure everybody is aware that I will be out of the country for almost a month. Coming up here pretty soon and probably not online or available for a lot of things. For any website needs, Joanna, I haven't asked you this yet, but you now have admin rights on the website and you're familiar. So for anything important and urgent while I'm gone, website related, Joanna can help you out. But in general, if you have things that I might need to do. You'll need to let me know very quickly or wait till April.

There have been some conversations about Teamwork and how we manage tasks at NACIS. Teamwork has been a struggle for a lot of us. And we're considering other options. For this year, I know that conference planning is happening already using a Trello board. So that's underway and doing okay. So we're gonna take the time to figure out what our next steps might be.

Jenny - We talked about moving to a different project management system. We talked very briefly about the need to do a better job of archiving documents and critical information. As part of this, I am going to be sending out to committee chairs requests for information about the committees that they are chairing. I'll be looking for some pretty standard information.

The committee charge. I have a foundational set of information that I will send to you for editing information about your committee's calendar or scheduling.

How the committee self documents and where you're keeping those documents right now.

Any subcommittee or tasks substructures that you have and other committees that your committee has collaborated with or worked along with that you see some affinity with.

We're gonna be using this to create more fulsome descriptions of the committees for possible volunteers and to include in some sort of onboarding packet for new board members and officers. This will also give us some information to test drive possible task management systems. Do an initial population of selected system once we figure out where we're going. And help us determine a structure for documenting NACIS, where to put the documents, how to set that system up, and also to make sure that we found everything that needs to be archived or kept in a central location.

I hope to send something out to everybody in March. And I'm not going to be looking for a response until the end of May to give you a couple months to think that through. I will send out a rather formulaic, build a box for me please, type thing so everybody's answers are set up exactly the same way and if I'm able to get it done, I will send out the information sheet that I will put together for the Ethics Committee so you have a sample of the kind of things I'm looking for. Brooke - Excellent. That's something I look forward to as the chair of the outreach committee. We met once, last week. That was our first meeting of the year and it was really helpful for me to get some background on the committee and I will benefit from this exercise in further sussing out what the ultimate goals of the average committee are.

Martha - If anybody that's currently a committee lead, that's gonna be putting together this stuff for Jenny Marie, wants examples of previous years when Teamwork was fully functional, I can do an export of a full year of a committee project from Teamwork for you so that you've got a list of all the task deadlines etc... that occurred, in a couple different years. Just send me a message and I can put that together for you.

2024 Conference Updates (Hannah & Vicky, 15 mins)

- Planning updates
<https://www.nickzentner.com/>
- Volunteers needed for reviewing proposals
- Thoughts on NACIS Night Out vs NACIS Night In
- PCD team - Nat and Lily!

Hannah - I'm working on the CFP. And I'm really working off of what Brooke had last year, but Vicky and I had meetings, and we also met with Jenny, to discuss the changes that we wanted to apply to the CFB. Like more detail, what does a lightning talk mean, what do you need, what is expected? So that people who are new would have a better grasp of what's happening, because I think last year we've had questions. About what kinds of talks they can give and what's needed from them. So that's one.

Then I have target dates that are more internal dates, but I can share that if it's helpful with anyone. I have on my target, by Wednesday, March 6th, I was gonna give Vicky my first pass of the CFP so she can look at it and give me edits.

The initial target for it to go out was March 20th. But this was all in my head, so I'll put it somewhere so that Bill and everyone else, it's in my Trello too, but not everyone has access to that. But if you want access and you want to just lurk in my planning Trello, happy to share. With all the chaos that's happening in my head, you can see it on my Trello board.

Volunteers needed for reviewing proposals and I put that on the document because I feel like this one I would need help from the board. Heavily. So I know it's too much for one person to go through all the proposals and read them and make sure that nothing is missed. So this time I would love help from at least 4 people on the board to look. This is a main conference one and I will leave the PCD to Vicky entirely on how her and her team wants to go through it, but for the main conference the goal is: split it up into 3 people. And then 2, so 5 people on the committee. 3 would be splitting off all of these and then I and the other person would look at all of them. To just spot like, you know. Style, wording, etc, etc...

(several volunteers in the chat)

I have volunteers! Just so we ensure that we don't miss something because you know, but it's too much to ask for Brooke or Travis or anyone else to have done it on their own. So I appreciate the volunteers and I need 2 more. But they don't have to be board, but if you have folks in mind that I can reach out to and say, please can you help us? I would love all the help.

I also have a very long list of volunteers. And I'm trying to match the folks that have already raised their hand on the conference day itself, but I have to organize it to share it with you. The few things that I wanted to add this year would be to ask if someone can volunteer to take pictures for us on the main events. Like the banquet, when we're giving out awards to students and all that. We rely on ourselves to remember to take pictures, but I think that'd be one thing

that would be nice to have. I have a camera I can bring as tribute. But someone has to be behind that camera so that after the conference it's something that we can share on our social media, or our newsletter. Pictures of the winners and stuff. But I can share that in our March meeting with a detailed list of what I have and what I hope to have.

Then, we don't have to decide on this now, but I would love for you to think about it. The NACIS night out versus NACIS night in. Vicky and I were thinking about the conference. Tacoma which will be big. And one place won't be able to take us all. So I was thinking also, with the responses to our survey of some people asking, what if I don't drink? Is there a possibility to do something else? So the rough idea of the Night-In:

One, the question is, do we have space? Which I am going to talk to Susan and Martha about it. The idea is we all stay in. You're on your own. We're not gonna take care of your food. We're not gonna take care of your drinks, but I was gonna look for people to volunteer as the grounding person. If you have an activity in mind, do you want to paint and sip? Do you wanna crochet, do you want to map? Do you want to just hang out and talk about things. If you wanted to order your own Uber eats, that's totally up to you, but we were gonna provide space for you to find people that actually just want to sit by the fire or stay in. You're not required to stay in if you'd rather go out with people. It's not very structured at the moment because I spoke to Jenny and Vicky about this like a few days ago. Just kind of figuring out in my head what other options we could provide so that the people who want to drink and explore can do that, but folks who are just kind of tired and just want to sit down and talk to folks can have that option as well.

If you have strong feelings, I would love to hear them now, but we can discuss it in the March meeting with more information. Unless Susan and Martha tells me now that's not a good idea.

Martha - My only initial hesitation is we'd have to be careful about bringing food into the hotel as a group because we cannot do that. It goes against our banquet order. So how that happened could be very questionable. We couldn't make big food orders to have them brought in.

Other than that, I think it's an interesting idea because I know a lot of people don't like going out and doing that and feel overwhelmed.

I did just put something in the chat. There is a food hall market that's supposed to be opening around the corner from our venue this spring sometime. So if we wanted to do an informal place like a few years ago. If it opens. I think we'd be very hard pressed to find a big enough place this year, because we had problems finding a big enough place in Tacoma before and that place is gone.

Jim - I don't think that's true. So the place we did go to is gone. That was called the Swiss. It closed with the pandemic. But just like 2 blocks further in either direction, 3 of the 4 directions. There's Alma Mater. There's 7 Seas and then there's a McMenamins. All of those could probably host us. I don't know what their deals are, those would just be offhand.

I'm not suggesting one way or another. It's just that if you need suggestions for big spaces in Tacoma, I'm happy to supply a bunch.

Susan - Yeah, I can talk to you about that, Jim. It's a really challenging situation because, the food court is now my favorite go-to because you just suggest the place and people go and they order what they want. Me organizing another buffet meal that doesn't work for everybody is not fun in any way.

Martha - It's turned into a logistical nightmare with the number of people we have, the space we have restaurants that would want us to buy out the entire restaurant for the night, which is a way above our price limit. Whether we have mingling space or it's overcrowded, we always get a lot of negative feedback from people who aren't happy with the food options that we were able to come up with.

Susan - And an affordable price. So it's a challenging thing. We're looking for the social aspect of it. We could talk to the hotel, but like Martha said, bringing in food is definitely verboten, and then we've already committed the space.

Hannah - Map gallery space, no? Like we usually have that anyway.

Martha - So we could repurpose some of the space we already have, yeah, for the evenings.

Susan - It's a funky space where they're just moving walls.

Martha - Yep. Or if we had multiple events going on, we could move people into each session space, but then we just have to make sure we got the chairs. That's another room flip potentially which could cost money.

Neil - Exactly. It's just gonna be another expense to some extent. I think it's going to be really hard to police people not wanting to bring their own food in and getting that message out without...

Susan - We'll talk more about it. There's good ideas and right now let's work on the conference and we'll pick some ideas by Spring Board Meeting. There's still time to figure stuff out in April.

Brooke - Maybe NACIS night in could be rebranded more like the lunch bunch where you can join groups, but those groups go outward for food. And we make that messaging as clear as we can.

I like the concept of breaking away from this NACIS night out tradition. It worked for a great number of years until our organization just grew too big, and I think Pittsburgh was a really good humbling moment of this model isn't really working for our large organization anymore. I worry that in Tacoma with that, hopefully that many more people, it's really a model that I don't see being as successful and will just kind of keep getting more and more negative feedback.

I appreciate this approach you're taking of how can we reorganize it in a way that's more fitting for where we are as an organization now, without getting too far away from the social aspect of it. Because I think people do really enjoy getting together in that kind of more laid back social food/drink environment. But maybe it could be done in a way that's a little less taxing on us as an organization and a little more fun for people to be able to choose where they end up going.

Susan - It leaves it up to them and the lunch bunch concept is something to explore. I think that might be a solution, especially in Tacoma with weather.

Kate - I understand the challenges, but I think one of the benefits of how NACIS night out has happened is that there is one thing that everyone can come to and it's a little bit more safe and accessible for people who don't know a lot of people, and if we're breaking up into groups there's a lot of social pressure to pick a group or know people to go with and I think that if we can do something where all or most of the people are at a thing, it's more welcoming to people who haven't made a lot of connections yet.

Vicky - Nat Douglass and Lily Houtman are the PCD team for this year. We're meeting next week or the week after to get the ball rolling on some ideas and we will be bringing back the pencils.

Hannah - The keynote that I have in mind is thanks to Sarah. Geology Nick. I watched his videos and he's very approachable the way he talks, etc, etc. I really liked it and he's also in the area so hopefully we don't have to spend so much money flying someone from another coast to another coast. I have not emailed him yet because I wanted to throw his name in the bigger group in case, you know, there are violent reactions, but I can share the link of his website, which I forgot to link. And that I plan to reach out to him this week just to see if he's interested.

And then I have another thing that Jenny suggested for the banquet. I'm looking for a speaker that can talk to us about indigenous lands. In the area or in indigenous communities. Or mapping or similar to that and I was gonna hit up our DEI community group if they had suggestions but I was trying to do my research on it. But I would really love input on that.

Carl - Hannah, I would reach out to someone at Northwest Indian College. There in the area, I might be able to provide that.

Jim - I know 2 indigenous faculty that both teach on Indigenous lands and give public talks on history in the local area if you'd like to be put in touch with either or both.

Sarah - Just another plug for Nick Zentner. He's a local star and I think he would draw a lot of people, because of the overlap of geology and geography.

2025 Meeting Location (Susan & Martha, 9 mins)

Susan - What a challenge. We sent RFPs to Colorado Springs because it was known. Tucson because Sarah suggested it. And Lexington because someone suggested it that it was in conjunction with another group. The result was similar. Antlers, where we met before, agreed to host us. It's just there's a little PTSD from the planning debacle that was last time we were there, but it's a possibility. Tucson, which we were kind of hoping for. Either the hotels were remote, or too small, or they would push us into a convention center and just the hotel for sleeping, which won't work for us. Lexington was similar in that the weeks were way off or the prices of hotels were well over \$200 a night, which would limit a lot of people.

Martha had done a map for Louisville. And she suggested we look there and we have a very strong possibility with Louisville at the Galt House. It's a historic hotel. And things are moving kind of rapidly because according to Michelle and others, there's a lot more traffic of people trying to book conferences now. And believe it or not, we have to sign something pretty quickly or we will lose anything.

To start this all over again is just very, very difficult. So I'm leaving Tuesday to drive to Louisville to check out the Galt House. And I'm crossing fingers and toes that it'll work. I mean on paper it does right Martha?

Martha - On paper it looks fantastic.

Rebecca - Galt House is one of the number one places that hosts a variety of different conferences and organizations. My sister-in-law who does a lot with educational groups and their technology group for education: they always host there. It's a great place. I know there's

lots of walkable things within reach of it. It's an excellent location as long as you get a good deal on the price.

Susan - The price isn't bad and they're agreeing to free Wi-Fi, which is now my new thing. Because honestly Wi-Fi will add 15 to \$20,000 to our hotel bill.

Michelle kind of scared us a little bit. She had a meeting there and said that it was tired. Even though they say they had a renovation in 2020. Tired and slacking staff. We looked it up on Tripadvisor and it got great reviews on Tripadvisor. So I have to go see it to know for sure. I'll know by Thursday if it's a go and then if I don't hear any objections I'm just gonna go for it. Everyone okay with that?

It looks like Louisville. The hotel is on the river. Looks very scenic and we know people. Bob and I know people that go there a lot for stuff and they have all sorts of places to check out. One of my criteria is you walk out the front door and you have places to go. To eat and to do whatever you want to do at night and apparently Fourth Street is very close by and there's a lot going on there. So I'm hopeful. Fingers crossed for Tuesday.

Rebecca - I know 2 professional mapping organizations within Kentucky that will definitely be able to draw people into. So I'll be able to get that information to them. Be like, yo, it's only like a 30 min drive for you or only a 2h drive for you. So we'll be able to pull some people in.

Susan - That would be great. They have multiple floors and it's like a big place with a walkway across like the street or something. And it looks like they'll let us just be on the second floor. Like all self-contained in one spot. So it's not up and down and all over the place.

Brooke - That'd be great because I know we have some accessibility concerns with some of our members.

Closing (Brooke, 1 min)

Brooke - Josh or I will be sending out some kind of a poll for a March board meeting. We'll work together on coming up with a larger poll looking at how we can start scheduling more regular board meetings. So keep an eye out for those 2 things and if anything comes up in the meantime please just send an email to the board.