

NSPG - Year in review

This past year has been my first as guild president. I have been very fortunate to have Sharon and Judy, as past presidents, to always only be a text away, and to continue as contributing board members. Over this past year their insights and perspectives have been invaluable. If I had questions about what the guild has tried or not tried in the past...it was only ever a text away and then would immediately be followed up with a phone call and a great guild story.

When I agreed to take on the guild president role my three personal goals were around sustainable pottery practices, mentorship and succession planning within the guild board.

With regard to sustainability, I think as potters we can make a difference in our clay practice and greening our studios and you will be hearing more about this, this year, and invited to participate in this conversation.

With mentorship, we are currently working on this. Carol Smeraldo, along with Judy and Sharon will be involved in our mentorship team and we will be putting a call out to experienced potters who might like to join our mentorship team. The goal with this team will be to help potters at all stages, but most likely those who are just setting up their studios, or learning to fire kilns, or mix custom glazes, so that help is only ever a phone call or FaceTime away. We have a talented group in our membership. Internationally known studio potters, instructors, production potters and our community knowledge is vast. So I am really looking forward to helping our membership tap into all of this experience.

Lastly, the other area I have felt passionately about was succession planning within the guild. As an organization that is over 30 years old, it is my job to ask how we continue on for another 30 years and that means that there has to be opportunity for new board members. I think it is important that guild executive positions, like president, have term limits, and we are currently working on these by-laws. Next year we will be looking for a 1st Vice President and this person will become Guild president when my term is over, but will have the advantage of working with our board and myself in my final year as President. There will be other volunteer opportunities to get your feet wet as we will need show committee members, workshop coordinators, and instructors in the coming year. The guild has had a long history and we want that history to continue on.

Speaking of growing the board, as you may know we have had new additions to our board. We have our website design coordinator, Jocelyn Fortier, and our

social media coordinator, Madeline Tweel. We also have a dedicated Supply Coordinator in Natalie Burns, and our wonderful NSCAD rep Kirsten Nichols. I am delighted with this group sitting before you. We are a strong team.

So while last year for me involved a lot of learning how to run meetings and understand fully what the role was, we also had a show planned for November at The Craig Gallery. Judy and Sharon were the leads on this show, so they want to speak to you about it and the lessons learned there.