

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: Marianne McGrath

PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT: Art

ACTIVITY TITLE: NCECA Conference 2019

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: March 25-30, 2019

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at david.daniels@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
 - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
 - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
 - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
 - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
 - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
 - (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
 - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
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B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document*, attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

C. IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

Five students and myself traveled to the 2019 National Council on the Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) International Conference held this year from March 25-30th in Minneapolis, MN. (Four students travelled with funding from this IRA grant, and one other travelled with support provided from a \$700 Student Research Travel Grant.). NCECA is a 54-year-old organization that supports the education and service to the ceramic arts. A member since 2001 and curator of one of their most well-known exhibitions since 2011, NCECA is a professional organization it is an entity I am very dedicated to and rely on it to further the creative research and practice of my students and former students. I have taken student groups to 5 conferences over my teaching career. This was my first trip attending with students since coming to CI in the fall 2017.

Held annually at locations throughout North America, NCECA was held in Minneapolis, MN this past year and attracted over 10,000 participants from 39 countries. The conference hosted scores of activities focusing on the ceramic medium, including: presentations covering everything from glaze chemistry to the role of clay in the abstract expressionism movement; numerous demonstrations displaying techniques from surface carving to traditional Japanese anagama kiln building; and over 100 exhibitions held throughout the city, exhibiting work from current students to world-renowned ceramic artists.

Over the course of the five days, my students attended numerous lectures, presentations, gatherings, and demonstrations on their own, and together we attended 15 exhibitions. Throughout the conference, my students worked alongside me while I coordinated the international Projects Space Exhibition which I curate for NCECA each year. This exhibition invites artists from around the world who are working in the medium of clay in unique and unconventional ways, with most artists presenting works that are installation or performance based. Our students were able to work alongside these artists while helping them realize their projects.

In the evenings, we attended artist openings each night, where artist talks and presentations we also made. My students met leaders in the field and peers of their own from all corners of the world. The event was all-encompassing and went well beyond the walls of the convention center, with students meeting peers and mentors and discussing their research in the field on the bus, in line for coffee, and in the lines at the airport.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

My students who attended this activity were from courses ART 329, ART 421, and ART 494. They were able to gain instruction, experience and networking on a level that is

just not possible unless it is offered at an international event like the NCECA conference. Specific areas in which my students gained exposure and knowledge of their medium, directly related to our studies in the classroom, are discussed and outlined in great detail in the section below.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

It is almost impossible for me to list every single strength of this activity for my students, as the benefits for each one was catered to the student's own interests and current research. However, a general list explaining the strengths of the activity and benefits to their current research experienced by all my students who attended would include the following:

- Professional & education networking to continue current research
 - o Including future post-baccalaureate, graduate and PhD programs
 - Students were able to visit with current students and educators from over 155 educational programs offering MFA and PhD programs in the arts from all over the world
 - o Future international internship opportunities
 - o Future international artist residency opportunities
 - o Future job prospects
 - o Future collaborations including facilities currently not available to us on our campus
 - o Opportunities to meet and collaborate with an international group of their peers
- Technical instruction applying to current research
 - o Students were able to receive technical instruction in numerous areas where our facilities at CI cannot currently support them. Topics that were covered included:
 - Atmospheric firings
 - Glaze chemistry
 - Clay body chemistry
 - Kiln building, firing and maintenance
- Mentorship
 - o A portion of each students' responsibility of each student was to research, schedule and attend a mentoring session with a professional in the field that each student felt paired well with their own current research and futures goals in the field.
- Contemporary & historical art world exposure
 - o The amount of contemporary and historical artwork that was available for us to see during our visit to Minneapolis was unbelievable, and will continue to inspire my students for a great time to come
 - o The opportunity for our students to work alongside practicing professional artists in the Projects Space Exhibition was incredibly valuable for our students

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

I can truly honestly say that there was no weakness to this activity at all. Every student was simply blow away by their experience at the conference, traveled well together acted

responsibly and were fantastic representatives of our campus community. This opportunity opened countless doors for these students and all our currently planning on graduate school in the field. For two of this group, it was their first time traveling outside of our state.

This *only* drawback to this activity was the time table: due to the need for air travel and lodging for this activity, and the timing of the IRA application schedule, if we had been able to make travel arrangements earlier, we would have been able to save greatly on the cost of this activity.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

Simply having earlier knowledge of the IRA's approval would allow us to plan the activity earlier and thus save a great amount of the cost.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

It's impossible to put into words everything I took from this experience, but one thing that stood out to me more than anything, was just how eager my students were to learn more about everything they were exposed to and experienced during this trip, and just how eager they were to continue their research once we returned. It emphasized to me just how important student research is to our students, and just how important it is to offer them every possible opportunity to continue their ability to research beyond our classrooms and our campus. IRA activities like this one, just open more doors to our students by showing them a glimpse of what can lie beyond their own community.

(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)

Student responses are attached to this email with all identifiable student information removed.

(8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

(Faculty and student activity totals)
Airfare ~\$3000.000
Lodging ~\$3000.00
Food ~\$1500.00
Museums ~ \$500.00
CA & MN ground transportation ~ \$500.00
Total ~ \$8500.00

B. ON SEPARATE DOCUMENT, PLEASE ATTACH ATTENDEE LIST (PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFO REMOVED)

Attached

C. PLEASE INCLUDE UP TO 6 IMAGES AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR SUBMISSION

Also Attached.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR SUPPORTING THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR MY STUDENTS!

IRA # 1084 NCECA Conference 2019
Attendee List

Sponser:

Assistant Professor Marianne McGrath, CSCUI Art Department

Students:

Jynell Bosacki, senior ART 421

Natalie Gula, junior ART 421

Patricia Keller, senior ART 421

Macgregor Mason, junior ART 329

Caitlin Stine, senior, ART 494

Thank You

~~REDACTED~~

Sun 3/31/2019 12:26 PM

To: McGrath, Marianne <marianne.mcgrath@csuci.edu>

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Dearest Marianne,

What an extraordinary experience my trip to NCECA was. I had a wonderful time with my clay crew and seeing you in action.

I am learning the art of networking and was eventually quite please with the connections I made while there, namely Matt Levy (finishing his MFA at Archie Bray), T Pacini from Laguna Clay (Installation artist, Assistant to Fred Olsen, and who invited me to her paper clay workshop this summer in Kansas City), crew at Watershed (who encouraged me to submit a lesson plan to run a residency), and Diane and Marv from Muddy Fingers Pottery (they were such a quintessentially charming British couple).

Rest assured, I will be sending follow-up emails to each of my new contacts to re-introduce myself and say thank you for their willingness to be a resource, for their open invitations to fire, and/or the incredible opportunity to participate.

I can never seem to thank you enough for seeing the potential in me and your everlasting support. This year promises to be an exciting one and although I am eager to graduate, it will be bittersweet.

BTW, I will pitch the presentation idea to the group. It's not only another opportunity to represent the ceramics department, but another opportunity to show our professionalism, as well as our gratitude to the scholarship.

Always,

~~REDACTED~~

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ART 421

Prof. McGrath

23 April 2019

Reflection Paper on NCECA 2019: Claytopia

The 53rd Annual Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota this year. This was not my first NCECA conference, however it was my first time to Minnesota. While there, I made sure to take advantage of opportunities to visit gallery exhibitions, participate in an art installation, volunteer at a world record attempt, interview prospective institutions for artists residencies, workshops, and/or MFA programs, and learn at demonstrations, presentations, and lectures.

The exhibitions, presentations/lectures, and networking were the most valuable aspects of my attendance. As a ceramic artist I find satisfying artistic expression in not only functional pottery but sculptural abstraction as well; both areas allow me to experiment and discover, whether it be with technique, skill, or metaphor. The exhibition *The Form Will Find its Way: Contemporary Sculptural Abstraction* at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota was particularly inspiring for me in that there were profound pieces of artwork that demonstrated a wide variety of ways clay can be used sculpturally. The presentation *Wild Clay Research Project* by Montana State University Bozeman and lecture *Hot Alchemy* were especially intriguing because I wish to pursue my artwork through materiality and research. The networking I did led to a contact with a workshop artist I met a few years ago—she invited me to an upcoming summer workshop—and a new contact from Montana State University. Both new

contacts will help me explore my artistic expression and prepare for future research and/or portfolio building for MFA applications.

I am very thankful for CSUCI funding this excursion through the IRA Fund, and especially grateful for Professor McGrath for having those funds allocated for us. Being able to attend with my fellow ceramic students, we were able to do and learn more.

CLAYTOPIA

RESOURCE HALL HOURS

Wednesday, March 27
9:00am-5:00pm

Thursday, March 28
9:00am-5:00pm

Friday, March 29
8:30am-4:30pm

Saturday, March 30



reca





