Center for the Book

Book Arts Program

Coordinating Committee

October 10, 2022

Attending: Addeane Caelleigh, Josef Beery, Erica Goldfarb, Nancy Krober; and Kevin McFadden, Garrett Queen, and Kalela Williams

The meeting started with a discussion of the role of the meeting coordinator: Bonnie Bernstein is ending her service over the past three years, and Erica Goldfarb has volunteered to take on the task. The group agreed on the description of the role: pulling together an agenda for the upcoming meeting and communicating with the committee members about meeting (collecting agenda items, and occasionally moderating the meeting.

Then there was a wide-ranging discussion about the work of the coordinating committee and the Book Arts Program, assessing the current work of the program and exploring additional ideas about focus and activities.

- We need fresh committee members, and one way to introduce them to the committee and vice versa is to invite program members or others to meetings. Depending on agenda items, ahead of time relevant members and those with specialized members could be personally invited to attend and contribute to a particular discussion.
- Also, the meetings can fall into a rut and need enlivening – and having ad-hoc members attend could introduce lighter information about special skills or approaches to book arts.
- Some book centers have frequent members’ meetings rather than just committee members, which is involves more people and viewpoints to the work of the group
- In terms of the annual collaborative project, there is a tension between people with advances skills who want the project to be the highest quality of high concept, craft, and art—and people who want more accessible project. This is a long-standing challenge, and the topic will be put into an upcoming meeting for further discussion.
- The program should be a resource for the wider community, and there should be more community-oriented projects.
- Also, there is the question of how to display to the community both the project how a project is created.
- We always need to have sufficient staffing to follow through on project ideas. Otherwise, as very often happens, everything ends up falling on two or three people.
- Choosing new projects needs a process such as start with an idea list, winnow to a short list and/or cut to 2-3 finalists, then select the one for which there is not only a high level of interest but also sufficient staffing.
• In early thinking about possible projects, we need to ask what we want the project to do/accomplish: for example, get more people into classes? Involve schoolchildren in X? support current members? Recruit new members.
• Perhaps the program could have greater involvement with the Book Festival.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 5:00-6:00.