**6.30.21 SICA-USA Board Meeting Minutes**

Attending: Paul Nelson (Chair), Sanderson Morgan, Hamilton Cheifetz (Past Chair), Ralph Davila (Acting Treasurer), Lawrence Pevec, Jim Dehner (National Helper Liaison) and Lauren Stanley. Michal Brownell (excused), Susannah Rosenthal (Unexcused). Lawrence had to leave a bit early.

Call to order at 1:41 PM PDT (after ~10 minutes of latihan)

- Lauren recorded meeting minutes at last meeting. Hamilton moves to approve minutes; Sanderson seconds; unanimous approval.

**- Lauren agreed to take minutes again**; fireflies app is active and taking a full transcription of the meeting discussion.

- Ralph provided financial report for May, including statements, earlier by email; he posted the numbers in the chat. We are at $10,806.56 for the fund drive and the proceeds are continuing. Expenditures are minimal ($1,000 for Splab, a grant for the Poetry Postcard Fest).

- Ralph wanted to raise the topic of the music project by Halima Christy. To the best of his knowledge, nothing tangible or intended came out of SICA’s support for this project, such as the CD, crediting SICA for support, a video of the performances, etc. No one from the project side followed up with us. Halima and Latifah Taormina issued the request. It was rushed because they needed money for studio time. SICA-USA acted in two capacities: it organizationally facilitated their own fundraising, and it granted $1600. Others contributed to the project as well. Ralph feels there was no outcome or benefit to SICA, and the ask was rushed. All agreed we need to qualify everyone, not rush the deal, so to speak, and require time to raise money for a grant for a project. Lesson learned. **Ralph will reach out to them to inquire.**

- Annual Fund Drive: Consider it a success and move on! We broke 10K. Call it was “right-sized”. Sanderson says it’s not over yet. We can send out letters, show how we’re using funds, do more cultural things. In a few months we can come up with this articulation. Ralph says we can re-strategize on how to follow up, emphasize what we’ve done, and what we do. Not just focus on potential. Offer art work offer as a gift to donors at a certain level. Hamilton: thank the donors; let them know what we’ve done and what we’re doing. We can enumerate the grants. Let’s all come up with blog posts on this. There are still opportunities for additional donations and we should recruit others in the membership to do too.

**- Paul wants to co-create a blog post on the fund drive and its success. Hamilton can help to do this, by this Friday. Lawrence will be penning a blog about the opening of the archives at Amani.**

- Lawrence is super busy with work in DC. He plans a photo-based blog post on the archives project and wants to do a piece on Damanhuri Alkaitis’ painted portraits by Alice Neel. It was agreed at the July meeting we would have a long discussion about web content.

- Paul said that SICA International Facebook page had a crisis last month due to the lack of dedicated staff to monitor content. It became the domain of 1-2 posters. Accusations of anti-Semitism and demands for actions by the administrators ensued. Paul withdrew his participation. A meeting called by SICA-International led to the development of standards for monitoring SICA pages on Facebook. Paul proposed that one main SICA page be used for all countries and that was rejected. **SICA-USA Facebook page administrators are needed.**

- Sanderson and Lauren Stomel have had conversations about the content and substance of the blog posts. Sanderson can play a curatorial and oversight role in this to maintain level of quality. Paul encourages us all to be more prolific and less perfect - increase the number of blog posts and the diversity of posters. Ideas were mentioned for people and content to contribute. Recruit folks. The blog posts are the meat of what we currently do. Ralph wishes to have some time set aside for bandying around ideas for blogs and bloggers. **Sanderson is going to connect with Susannah to follow on the conversation they were having.**

- Menucha did not materialize as a venue to gather as a SICA board and to host an entertainment evening. Note sent to Paul indicated they wanted to keep it “regional and folksy.” Consensus was to explore other directions. Hamilton reported on testing he did with Paul about where to stage the first in-person meeting of the new board along with a Cultural Conversation workshop and night of entertainment. Hamilton recommended the board test on location and agenda. Ralph related that Santa Cruz is in the midst of an insurance crisis - in a fire zone; insurance was cancelled and can’t find property insurance. Now hoping to get liability insurance but it’s costly. The Subud house there would be a good place to host a board gathering and SICA thing, with regional participation. Timing could be something like December/January.

Paul envisions a board meeting where we can all get together and roll out a Cultural Conversation that is experiential, would draw on the many talents of the board members and serve as rehearsal for the 2022 Subud National Congress. Having events would show what we’re doing with funds and show how culture is at the root of the human. Call it a “cultural conversation” - this is the umbrella concept. **Ralph will reach out to Santa Cruz, LA, and Marin about hosting a board meeting and an evening of entertainment.**

- Hamilton brought up whether we’d decided as a board to act as umbrella for CoPLAY. Jim reported back on a recent meeting with helpers and Susannah about CoPLAY including some testing and discussion. In the end, Susannah decided she did not want to pursue a relationship with SICA -USA at this time. She did not have a concrete plan for how all the pieces would fit together at this time. The request of SICA-USA lacked focus. It was agreed that if SICA is going to support something, it has to have some kind of track record to support it.

**- Next Board Meeting is Sunday 7/18 at 3-5 PST.**

- On the agenda: Blog brainstorm; Discussion and possible testing about board gathering - where and when to have it.

- Meeting adjourned at 3:23 PM PDT.