SCMS Members' Meeting

2022 Virtual Conference

Saturday, March 12 | 1:00-2:00 PM CT



What/Who is “SCMS”?



Leslie LeMond
Director of
Conferences & Events



Margot Tievant
Communications
Coordinator



Molly Youngblood
Office Manager

- SCMS is a scholarly organization dedicated to cinema and media made up of members like you.
- Each level of SCMS governance—from the Officers and Board of Directors to members of Standing and Annual Committees—are volunteers.
- Three-Member Staff

2022

SCMS Board of Directors

Priscilla Peña Ovalle
PRESIDENT (21–23)
Victoria E. Johnson
PRESIDENT-ELECT (21-23)
Christine Becker
SECRETARY (21-24)
Alisa Perren
TREASURER (20–23)
Paula Massood
PAST PRESIDENT (21–23)
Racquel Gates
BOARD MEMBER (19–22)
Alfred L. Martin Jr.
BOARD MEMBER (20–23)
Jennifer Fuller
BOARD MEMBER (20–23)
Neil Verma
BOARD MEMBER (21–24)

Courtney Brannon Donoghue
BOARD MEMBER (21–24)
Rebecca Gordon
PRECARIOUS LABOR REPRESENTATIVE (19–22)
Joseph Roskos
GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE (21-23)
Caetlin Benson-Allott
JCMS: JOURNAL OF CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES, EDITOR (18–22), ex-officio
Leslie LeMond
SCMS, ex-officio
Man Fung Yip
OU FMS DIRECTOR, ex-officio

2022

2022 Discussion Points

1. How is the SCMS Board making organizational governance more accessible or transparent?
2. How are future SCMS conferences being planned and are they sustainable?
3. What remains to be done in the coming year?
4. How can members get involved?



Making organizational governance more accessible/transparent

- Year-round, accessible opportunities for membership
- Communication methods for timely/practical information & support
- Refined training/evaluation methods for proposals
- Providing accessible information about finances, conferencing, and the future of SCMS



Treasurer's Report

- How are SCMS's finances?
  - We are doing OK
  - Staff and board have managed resources w/skeleton crew
  - Careful negotiation with venues has helped us remain stable
- Some contextual information:
  - SCMS is a mid-size organization
  - Unlike sister organizations, we do not have endowments or major sponsors so our margin of error is slim
  - Our size limits where can go for in-person conferences, etc.
- SCMS annual operating budget (in a "normal" year) = approx. $1m
  - We currently have roughly this amount in reserves per non-profit best practices



Managing Resources for SCMS

- Recent challenges: Staffing changes, pandemic
- Moving forward = long-term planning for sustainability

Since March 2020, we have negotiated:

- Cancellation of 2020
- Cancellation of 2021
- Virtual conference with Pathable and other vendors (2021)
- Cancellation of 2022
- Virtual conference with Pathable & other vendors (2022)
- New contracts for 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026



SCMS Conference Planning

- Pandemic revealed impact of conferences on society budgets
- Virtual conferencing a long-standing interest of board and various committees
  - Pre-Covid: Costs and infrastructure uncertain or untested
  - Covid: Virtual format necessary, still costly and labor-intensive
  - Post-Covid: How will virtual/hybrid options be most useful?
- Exploring online options, but must meet in-person contractual obligations & determine how to pay for and staff new conference models



SCMS Conference Commitments

- 2020 Cancelled (Denver contract, re-booked for 2023)
- 2021 Virtual (Chicago contract, re-booked for 2026)
- 2022 Virtual (Chicago contract, re-booked to 2025)
- 2023 Denver

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- 2024 Boston
- 2025 Chicago
- 2026 Chicago



How can members get involved?

- What does it mean to be a board member?
- Why is there a president, incoming-president, and former president?
- How can people volunteer themselves or nominate others?
- Can SIGs, Caucuses, or other committees support these efforts?
- Interested in more participation? Ask!



What remains to be done?

- Member Survey
- Compensated labor opportunities
- Committee collaborations (larger initiatives)
- Global Equity & Diversity Committee
- Exploratory planning:
  - 2027 Conference
  - Revenue building to support initiatives
  - Library Access



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