PHOTOGRAPHIC CENTER NORTHWEST

PCNW Board of Trustees Overview and FAQs

Mission and Vision:
Photographic Center Northwest (PCNW) is an educational institution teaching people how to see. Through our 53-credit Certificate Program, classes and workshops; free exhibitions and public programs; and publicly accessible facilities where we teach the history and future of photography. More information can be found at www.pcnw.org

Budget and Fundraising:
PCNW has an annual operating budget of approximately $1M of which 55-60% is earned income through tuition and facilities usage; the remainder contributed through grants, individual donations, events, membership, corporate sponsorship, and other campaigns and partnerships. The fiscal year begins July 1st and the organization has four major funding efforts: in May (GiveBIG, a city-wide initiative), June (community pop-up exhibition and fundraiser), October (major benefit) and December (end of year giving campaign). We are in the process of paying off our building at 900 12th Avenue; our loan is held by the founder. We are also in the process of exploring a new home for the institution via development of our site.

Staff and Community Served:
The staff consists of nine full-time and part-time employees; an additional 15-20 adjunct faculty teach with us throughout a 4-quarter academic year. We serve an average of 7,000 individuals annually. Of those nearly 1,000 are students enrolled in one-day to 10-week classes, including summer teen workshops hosted by PCNW and/or in partnership with Coyote Central and the Seattle World School; BFA students through a partnership with Seattle University; and adults pursuing continuing education, from 17 to 80 years old. We provide approximately $10,000 annually in full-tuition scholarships through the Names Family Scholarship, this compliments the $10,000 in partial scholarships we underwrite annually. Our community also includes 275 members, 100 volunteers, countless practitioners, donors, collectors, partners, and the general public.

The Board of Trustees Provides:

1) Leadership and guidance in compliance with the mission and vision
2) Fiscal oversight of the organization with direction by the Executive Director
3) Financial support personally and through personal and professional networks
4) Visibility by serving as an ambassador of the organization

The Board of Trustees has a current maximum of sixteen members and a minimum of five. FAQs are below:

What is the time commitment as a Board Member?

Terms are three years, with the possibility of two term renewals for a potential maximum of nine consecutive years. The board meets approximately ten times a year on the first Tuesday of the month, which may be subject to change. Trustees are expected to attend the meetings in person or via other means, as well as interact with the institution and its constituents by attending openings, lectures, and the two major fundraisers annually.

What is the financial commitment as a Board Member?

A total minimum of approximately $5,000 annually—we ask board members to commit to a table at the October benefit (currently $2,500), $1,500 as a suggested minimum for an unrestricted gift, and $1,000 toward an experience at PCNW such as taking a class or workshop, participating in an event, or purchasing artwork through our gallery.

What expertise or interests are you seeking in a Board Member?

Organizationally we are currently seeking those with expertise in:
Fundraising, Legal, Technology, Strategic Planning, and Capacity building / Capital

Programmatically we also seek expertise in:
Corporate Connections and Partnerships, Communications, and Marketing

What benefits do Board Members receive?

- Access to an amazing community
- 50% off all gift memberships
- 50% discount on PCNW classes and workshops
- 10% discount on purchases of artwork (does not apply to annual fundraiser)
- Free attendance to lectures, panel discussions, openings
- First opportunity on all special paid patron events
- Visibility online, in public marketing materials, and on site
- Invitations to patron dinners and special events

Thank you for your interest in PCNW, we look forward to connecting with you. For additional information, please contact:

William Holderman, Board Chair, at wmholdmd@aol.com
Terry Novak, Executive Director, at tnovak@pcnw.org / 708-299-3046