

2026 Annual Meeting Standards Committee Report

The Standards Committee held three Image Juries, two Object Juries at the FAC, and Object Juries at both Fairs – new members for each were 5 at the July Fair, 23 in August, 1 at the October Fair, and 12 in January.

Fair jurying has been piloted in previous years at a smaller scale, and July was the first time it was offered to more applicants – this time 12. There are plusses and minuses to that option. Concern was raised that applicants might have work that is not of equal quality of other exhibitors. To address that, Standards has had more members in the Image Jury and was more strict in what passes that benchmark. Additionally, we're looking into timing, capping numbers, and staff workload in running Fair juries. In consultation with the Board, it was decided to continue the process in 2026, see the results, and evaluate whether to continue this process.

Standards continued to have a presence in the Mentoring workshops, with one member at each. This has been very helpful in keeping the two committees' information aligned for prospective applicants. The Mentoring Subcommittee deserves recognition for their work – we see a marked increase in success rates for applicants who attend workshops and pair with a mentor.

In conjunction with the January 23 jury at the Folk Art Center, the Standards Committee held a retreat, addressing topics of Fair jurying, the Image Jury process, image quality expectations, the Object Jury process, defining “body of work,” committee membership, and ultimately the question of work quality expected. On many, particularly that last, Board members and two shop managers were invited to provide input. While there is no easy definition of that expectation, the consensus is that there is both a need to welcome in new members, but also to still maintain the requirement that applicants display high levels of craft and design appropriate to the Guild. As always, members at large are welcome to give feedback to Standards on that as well.

Lastly, the activities of the Standards Committee, by the nature of needing to keep distance between us and applicants, rely heavily on Guild staff. Laura Lanier in particular deserves praise for not only putting together the materials to run these juries, but in patiently corresponding with applicants with varied needs. Beth Renne also has stepped up and helped with the process, which has been of great assistance.