

Standards Committee Meeting March 18th , 2026

In Attendance: Tika Thomas (co-chair), Jessie Gustafson, Chuck Roehrich

Absent: Ram Shucart, Jacob Young

Prospective Members: Chris White (2nd?), Leah Holiday (2nd), Jim Young (1st)

Staff: Sonia Ostendorf, Shannon Lee-Hutson (periodic)

Note Taker: Tika Thomas

The Standards Committee is rebuilding and is critically understaffed. There were only 2 screeners available for a process designed for 4. This causes a slower new member intake, risking Holiday Market vacancies. Solutions given were to request volunteers in the first Market newsletter. Ask alumni members to return temporarily. Use the Facebook members page to recruit.

*****Motion to approve agenda (Chuck/Jessie 3-0-0)**

*****Motion to approve minutes from February 18th, 2026. (Chuck/Jessie 3-0-0)**

Old Business:

Scent Sensitivity Conflict: A member's persistent, unsubstantiated scent complaints (9 NOCs) are consuming excessive staff time. Resolution: The committee will draft a letter shifting responsibility to the member for self-mitigation (e.g., wearing a mask), as all reasonable accommodations have been exhausted. The possibility was brought up of having a specified area for scented vendors to sell in.

Pre-Screening Database: A proposal for a pre-screening database was postponed to September due to the ongoing website rebuild. Future Vision: The new website could create temporary profiles for applicants to upload photos and screening forms, streamlining the process.

New Business:

The Notice of Concern (NOC) Process/Procedure: The current process (anonymous NOC → private staff follow-up) was affirmed as more compassionate than public confrontation.

A final Holiday Market screening is tentatively scheduled for November 4th, but only if staffing allows for two screening tables.

Plastic clip/giveaways moved to April work plan.

Screening Etiquette Guidelines were discussed to ensure a consistent, positive screening experience. These included: Welcome applicants and put them at ease. Provide positive feedback and cite guidelines for denials. A reminder that we don't judge the artistic level of their product. Stay on topic to maintain momentum. If inquiring about price/process, do so to assess maker status, not to judge value.

Using Zoom as a means to attend meetings was discussed as a solution to make it easier for people to become members of the Standards Committee. We would continue to keep sensitive topics to in-person only, conducting that part of the meeting at the beginning, before turning on Zoom. Access to Zoom would be limited to committee and potential members only and, for potential members, their first meeting would have to be in-person.

*****Motion to use Zoom for Standards and prospective members only. Sensitive topics would be in-person (no zoom). First meeting must be in-person. (Tika/Chuck 2-0-1 Jessie)**

*****Motion to adjourn (Chuck/Tika 3-0-0)**