

Ace Monster Toys
d.b.a. Ace Makerspace
6050 Lowell Street, Ste. 214
Oakland, CA 94608
acemakerspace.org



EIN: 27-3573767
RCT #: CT0268352
SOS/FTB: 3322572

Ace Monster Toys (dba Ace Makerspace) Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025

Time: 8pm

Location: Remote (on Zoom)

Board of Directors Present:

Matti Cridland (they/them)
David R. Perry (he/him), aka drp
Sylvia Gonzalez (she/her), Chair of the Board
Steven Sheffield (he/him)
Katie Harrell (she/her)

Officers Present:

Katie Harrell (she/her), interim Secretary
Steven Sheffield (he/him), interim Treasurer
(*President role is vacant*)

Guests Auditing:

Jamie Solomon, voting member, volunteer coordinator, Finance Advisory Committee member
Mark Graham, voting member, Finance Advisory Committee member

Agenda:

- Review of Established Meeting Norms and Expectations for Guests
- Mission Moment
- Proposal to the Board from a full voting member of Ace Monster Toys
- Program and Operations Updates
- Executive Session

Minutes:

- The meeting was called to order by Sylvia at 8:02 pm.
- The Board confirmed attendance quorum with 5 directors present for the meeting.
- Mission moment
 - Take a moment to reflect on wins for Ace still being here
 - Invitation to be a community hub for East Bay Open studios
 - With volunteer help, we've continued our outreach efforts with Berkeley Rep Theater



- With one of our instructors, we've continued our outreach efforts in program delivery via a makers series at the Berkeley Public Library
- The Board heard from Mark Graham regarding his proposal for Ace Makerspace to partner in a workforce development program. Mark requested a response to his proposal by March 15, 2025.

Mark Graham's Proposal for Ace Makerspace to Partner with Alameda Point Collective

Mark presented his proposal for Ace Makerspace to partner in the establishment of a workforce development program with Alameda Point Collective, a facility with 200-300 beds located on the grounds of a decommissioned military base in the city of Alameda. The workforce program would offer hands-on training at Ace Makerspace twice a month, with classroom sessions potentially on a weekday but possibly on a weekend. Mark's proposal would aim to involve at least 20% of the Ace membership in the classes, which would be about 3-4 people. He believes this initiative could expand Ace from just a creative space to also include job training. Mark also mentioned a \$200 million fund from the State of California for job training, with a 1-to-4 match. Alameda Point Collective is willing to sponsor the program and grant tools to the participants upon completion. Mark has already committed to Alameda Point Collective and is working on the curriculum without Ace Makerspace involvement and is proposing to the board that Ace Makerspace consider a partnership that he would serve as liaison. He anticipates the program to be between 4 and 6 months long, with about 4 visits to Ace. With respect to long-term vision, the program could potentially generate funds for Ace and attract a \$100,000 grant. In the short term, the trade off would include reducing services available to members.

- Discussion of the proposal took place with a lively Q&A session ending with the Board stating their concern that member and volunteer support for this initiative is not available, a concern also raised in Finance Advisory Committee meetings.
- The Board thanked Mark and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.
- The board also discussed the results of a member survey, with a focus on the gaps in the metal shop program. The board decided to set aside a more detailed review of the survey results for a later meeting.
- The board discussed the scholarship review process.
- Sylvia updated the board on the progress of the volunteer agreement drafted with the help of East Bay Community Law Clinic.
- Katie, Sylvia, and David discussed the class cancellation policy, deciding to keep running classes with as few as two students. They agreed to update the policy and inform instructors about the change.

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- They also discussed the financial advisory committee and the need to update the capitalization policy, to be addressed at a later date.
 - Sylvia updated the board on the workers' compensation audit and insurance premiums reduction.
 - The board discussed and approved Cody's proposal to teach resin pour and polymer clay classes.
 - The board agreed to move forward with a simplified process for approving classes.
 - The board also addressed the need for more Google admin access among board members, with Matti offering to help develop guidelines.
 - The board did not go into executive session.
 - Sylvia adjourned the meeting at 9:59pm.