ACM SIGGRAPH Executive Committee Minutes

Saturday, 18 July 2026

9-5 PM PT

Attendees:
Darin Grant, Executive Committee Chair
June Kim, Executive Committee Chair-elect
David Spoelstra, Executive Committee Treasurer
Jenny Dana, Executive Committee Treasurer-Elect
Kalina Borkiewicz, Executive Committee Director
Courtney Starrett, Executive Committee Director
Alla Sheffer, Executive Committee Director
Chris Bregler, Executive Committee Director
Scott Owen, GAB Chair
Erik Bruvand, Conference Advisory Group Chair
Tomasz Bednarz, SIGGRAPH Asia Conference Advisory Group Chair
Dena DeBry, Nominations Committee Chair
Katherine Ruff-Piccirilli, ACM SIGGRAPH Project Manager
Ashley Cozzi, Associate Director of SIG Services
Chris Redmann, SIGGRAPH 2026 Conference Chair
Frank Guam, SIGGRAPH Asia 2026 Conference Chair
Jeff Jortner, Awards Committee Chair
Bonnie Mitchell, History & Archive Committee Chair
Ed Kramer, Pioneers Affinity Group Chair
Miho Aoki, External Relations Committee Chair
Glenn Goldman, Education Committee Chair
Victoria Szabo, Arts Advisory Group Chair
Derek Ham, Executive Committee Nominee
Brad Lawrence, Executive Committee Nominee
Barb Helfer, Membership & Communications Chair
Michael Collins, Early Career Development Committee Chair
Deepali, WiGRAPH Affinity Group Chair
Stephen Spencer, Publications Committee Chair
Mikki Rose, WOSC Chair

<u>**AGENDA ITEM**</u>	<u>**PRESENTER**</u>
Welcome and Overview The EC Chair welcomed everyone and reminded them of the meeting guiding principles. He reviewed the agenda with the group, highlighting key activities and decision points. EC Nominees were invited to introduce themselves in the event that some of the attendees didn’t know them. The EC and committees engaged in a brief icebreaker.	Darin Grant

Conference Updates *S2026 Updates* The S2026 Committee Chair joined to share information ahead of the conference. He highlighted some new changes for this year, noting ACM Open, the Games Summit, the deferral process and other activities that have been expanded or updated. He also shared some conference planning changes, noting the budget process was moved up this year and some previously contractor-owned activities were moved to volunteers. Exhibits and sponsorships have also been altered this year to have new sponsored courses, sponsor keynotes, and additional updates. He also shared specific conference week activities. Registration is lower than anticipated, specifically with international attendees. The in person Technical Papers Committee meeting is valuable, but it was touch and go until December. The Chair noted a need to think strategically about the role of the Technical Papers Chair and not devalue the role. He also highlighted the need to evaluate conference programming, which the EC will be discussing later in the meeting. The EC asked a few questions, one of which was a request to clarify some of the activities that were moved to volunteers from contractors. He shared that there was a learning curve to understand the number of moving parts associated with some of these activities. As a result, he's doing it for 2027 to develop a document associated with some of these processes. As budgets become leaner, larger parts of the activities will be handed back to volunteers. The EC discussed the need to show support for volunteers as more activities shift to volunteers. *SA2026 Updates* The SA2026 Committee Chair presented updates for SA2026. 1-4 December are the conference dates and 2 December is when the exhibition begins. There were no major changes made in the composition of the conference compared to previous years. He shared that the number of submissions increased to 1303 for technical papers, which is an 18% increase compared to last year. Art paper submissions have increased by almost 20% compared to the prior year. There are still 7 programs that are opened for submissions. 2 keynote speakers are confirmed, and a 3rd will be invited. A few new initiatives have been created, including the papers deferral process, and the CAF and frontiers programs have been planned to encourage students to attend the sessions and/or submit. There was a point that workshops have different meanings between the two conferences. There was a discussion over how attendees will understand which programs they should be attending between conferences if the names are different. Workshops are considered cutting edge whereas courses are more university-type. There was a question raised about Pioneers involvement at SA2026, and the EC affirmed that Pioneers is welcome to host an event if they choose to. It was noted that CAF submissions declined, and there were questions about whether or not there was an AI limit, though no specific AI limit was enforced.	Chris Redmann and Frank Guan
Notebook LM The GAB Chair shared that Notebook LM is accessible through ACM SIGGRAPH accounts and that he has been using it to compile relevant governing documents for volunteers to quickly reference.	
Member Portal	Dena DeBry and

The EC and Chairs engaged in an activity brainstorming activities and changes that can be made to improve member benefits, specifically related to the portal. Specific notes were captured by the session leaders with photos and will be shared with a PDF with the EC. Action: 1. Dena DeBry and Courtney Starrett to share the brainstorming photos with the EC.	Courtney Starrett
Mission, Vision, and Values The Chair-elect shared that the EC has been working on rethinking the mission, vision, and values. She reminded the attendees of the existing mission, vision, and values, and shared the updated ones. She provided insight into the rationale for each of the changes. She noted that the SIGGRAPH community has expanded beyond the groups listed in the mission currently, and expanded beyond computer graphics & interactive techniques to also include visual computing. There were also conversations around the importance of leading the industry not following. The changes are reflective of the discussions and recognition of how the industry landscape has changed and continues to change. The Chairs were invited to provide input. There were specific questions about “render the unimagined” as it’s a negative. There were also concerns raised with volunteer leadership, noting that there are many volunteers who may not be in leadership but are heavily involved in the tasks they’re fulfilling. The values need to be refined some. Attendees raised that finding the mission, vision, and values on the website is challenging. The Membership and Communications chair outlined potential next steps for sharing this information: be more deliberate on where it includes the website, and integrate it into all ACM SIGGRAPH activities. The idea is that chair and volunteers will be able to point to the mission and vision and that they act as an overarching theme through the organization. All of the changes will be shared via the various platforms, included in various handbooks, and shared publicly. She also reviewed the importance of having a communication hierarchy within the organization that includes information dissipating out from the EC down to other volunteers and members to support the organization activities. The Membership and Communications Chair noted that the member benefits/portal session helped demonstrate a lot of the values related to the organization and can be incorporated into additional discussions surrounding the values. Many of the meeting attendees agreed that the values need additional review and improvement. Action: 1. Chair-elect to create a Slack channel to encourage continued conversation and discussion on the values and to share any thoughts on communications.	June Kim
Town Hall for Chairs and EC The EC and Chairs had a town hall to discuss any items that needed to be discussed. Some of the topics covered included transparency between chairs and the EC (such as having more year-round discussions and conversation), having chairs come to in person EC meetings. Transparency of budget between the organization and the conferences. There were concerns raised about Vimeo and using YouTube to have different hosting options. There was also discussion on the	All

ability for affinity groups and chapters to connect together. Chairs expressed interest in having additional meetings where they can all connect and discuss. There was a concern raised that awards have been pushed back from being a part of the main program area. One of the benefits for the membership is what people have done as members of the organization beyond the conference. The awards highlight that information. Awards show what excellence in the organization year round looks like. Award value and importance was a large topic during the town hall. Action: 1. Investigate the Vimeo issues and figure out the next step for Vimeo challenges.	
Conference Program Scorecard The CAG Chair opened discussion on the existing challenges with SIGGRAPH's programs. While new programs are relatively easy to launch, they are much harder to retire because each one has a dedicated community of supporters. The EC discussed the need for objective metrics that could help determine when a program should be reviewed or sunsetted, potentially by evaluating attendee value alongside program cost. Recent attendance and engagement data may be especially meaningful because current attendees likely represent the conference's most committed participants despite recent challenges. The EC reviewed a relative cost for each program at previous EC meetings providing some data on cost compared to perceived value or attendance. It was noted that, due to scope cuts, contractors will no longer be consistently completing room counts, which has been discussed as an important metric for evaluating programs. The CAG Chair instead suggested the EC complete room counts for session rooms they're in. Kalina presented findings from the pre-conference survey, which received 611 responses. The programs attendees were most interested in attending included the Exhibition, Electronic Theater, Art Gallery, Technical Papers, and Emerging Technologies. Similarly, the strongest factors influencing attendance decisions were the Electronic Theater, Talks, Emerging Technologies, Exhibition, and Technical Papers. At the other end of the spectrum, Educators Forum, Educators Day, Frontier's Workshop, Appy Hour, and Frontier's Talks ranked lowest in both planned attendance and attendance influence. The EC noted that post-conference survey results will provide additional insight into which programs attendees actually valued after participating. Notably, Technical Workshops, despite being relatively new, received strong ratings. The EC agreed that the post-conference survey will help identify what people enjoyed once they actually attended. The EC discussed the need to establish threshold metrics for programs that account for both attendee demand and cost and to align program decisions with financial impact. The EC discussed how SIGGRAPH used to be larger, and noted that it continues to be run on a scale that reflects the previous level of attendance. There are smaller conferences, even within ACM, that sell out. It could be worth the conference being restructured to have a more balanced budget and considering smaller locations. The EC liked the idea of having a visioning session that focuses on the question "what would SIGGRAPH look like if it was being built from the ground up?" The EC agreed that a visioning session, in conjunction with information on other conference business models that ACM, SIGGRAPH Asia, and Smithbucklin could provide, may give the EC better insight into how the conference could reduce its footprint.	Erik Brunvand

It was noted that a large part of the cost comes from the conference management. The EC considered whether there are opportunities to shift some of these responsibilities onto volunteers or eliminate the need for the activity altogether. One particular topic of conversation was how to shrink the conference without compromising attendee experience: some EC members feel that if the conference is presented/marketed as a smaller event than it is currently then attendees may see more of the value and/or the conference can provide greater value. However, if it's a smaller event, some of the smaller groups may no longer be represented. There were discussions surrounding opportunities outside of the conference to engage some of the smaller groups represented at the conference.Need some kind of criteria to think about how we can fit in a smaller convention center. The EC also noted that some of the key players at SIGGRAPH have evolved much within the past 20 years, but that SIGGRAPH hasn't evolved in the same way. Additionally, as things have shifted over the years, and some past attendees are no longer attending, surveys haven't been capturing their input. The EC agreed that outreach to past attendees could help capture some data on what drives attendance decisions. Action: 1. EC to enter in the number of people they think are in the room for each session they're attending, time of day, general impressions of engagement, especially looking at the experience hall. 2. CAG chair to review some of the lower performing programs immediately after the conference. 3. Have an EC meeting to rethink the roots of SIGGRAPH and evaluate how it may be a victim of its success. 4. Investigate scaling the conference down by reviewing other SIGs who are successful and SIGGRAPH Asia structure. 5. Conduct a survey of why people chose not to come to the conference who have previously attended from last year's registrants.	
Volunteer Development Committee The Chair provided a history of the conversations about the VDC and the challenges that continue to exist with the committee. There have been concerns with the output of the committee and whether it fulfills its intended role. It was meant to create a volunteer pipeline to fulfill match making with open volunteer roles and matching open volunteers. There have not been clear outcomes or next steps. EC directors have provided suggestions to the VDC Chair on next steps and how to place people, though there has been minimal success with that volunteer follow up. It was acknowledged that there has been poor tracking of volunteers, and the EC agreed that there needs to be changes to allow for some volunteer tracking to help facilitate volunteer placement. The EC discussed options for where this work could live including underneath the Nominations Committee and within the database that the History & Archive Committee has been working on. Potential suggestions for changes include: 1. Sunset the VDC and reform with a new chair and focus. 2. Give feedback with clear instructions on what needs to happen in order for it to change.	Darin Grant

Motion: Motion made to kill the VDC and reform with a new chair, mission, and focus at the point where the structure is better in place to support the VDC. Motion made by Alla Sheffer and seconded by Elizabeth Baron. 1. Motion passed with all in favor. 11 voting yes, 0 no, 0 abstain 2. Voting is yes Darin Grant, June Kim, David Spolestra, Jenny Dana, Kalina Borkiewicz, Boaquan Chen, Tomasz Bednarz, Chris Bregler, Elizabeth Baron, Courtney Starrett, and Alla Sheffer. Action: 1. Place some of the VDC placement work under the Nominations Committee. 2. Create a volunteer database to track volunteer terms and interest. 3. EC Chair to inform VDC Chair that VDC has been dissolved.	
Elections Timeline The Nominations Committee Chair reviewed the existing timeline and shared the proposed timeline. Falling into the ACM set timeline would provide a cost savings, though the exact amount is unclear. No other SIGs have yearly elections, so the cost would vary year over year as cost is split between the SIGs. The other outstanding question was whether the term start time needs to match the standard ACM one (Term starting July 1). ACM confirmed that if the election dates are changed then July 1 has to be the EC term start dates. July 1 still does give a longer period of time for candidates knowing they've been elected and needing to start their term. There were discussions over the benefits of keeping the current timeline, noting that SIGGRAPH used to have a "meet the candidates" event. This event was not well attended, and the organization would switch to a virtual "meet the candidate" event instead. The timeline does substantially change the slate and move up the interview timeline, which could help existing challenges surrounding the timeline being close to technical papers deadlines. It was also clarified that this bylaws change would not need to be voted on for the larger membership and can be approved directly by the ACM SIG Governing Board. The Nominations Chair noted that this change does not require a term change deadline for SC Chairs or other appointed positions, only for elected candidates. There were also discussions surrounding expenses coverage at SIGGRAPH, noting that the term change would happen right before SIGGRAPH. The EC discussed potential options, such as allowing incoming and outgoing to be covered, or other potential options. A final decision for how to handle this will be decided once the change is approved by the SIG Governing Board. **Motion:** A motion made to shift the timeline to the ACM standard. Motion made by David Spoelstra and seconded by Jenny Dana 1. Approved with all in favor, 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain	

2. Voting yes are Darin Grant, June Kim, David Spolestra, Jenny Dana, Kalina Borkiewicz, Boaquan Chen, Erik Brunvand, Tomasz Bednarz, Chris Bregler, Elizabeth Baron, Courtney Starrett, and Alla Sheffer. Action: 1. Nominations Committee Chair to review timeline changes necessary for her committee based on this change. 2. GAB to make a bylaws change language recommendation for the EC to review.	

Fall Meeting Planning
The Chair-elect shared her meeting ideas for in person meetings during the 2026-2027 term. The meeting ideas are:
1. Fall meeting
    a. Potentially early October
2. Winter meeting
    a. She would like the EC to have a meeting in conjunction with SIGGRAPH Asia, as the EC does with SIGGRAPH. She is exploring funding options to help support EC travel. This meeting would incorporate evaluating the differences between SIGGRAPH and SIGGRAPH Asia.
3. Spring meeting
    a. Held in March/April
4. Summer meeting
    a. At S2027
She hopes to have information in early September for next steps. Potential locations for an in person meeting are Chicago and Santa Clara.
She shared that the main focus for next year will be evaluating what to preserve and change for next year to address financial challenges, noting that, while there are geopolitical issues that SIGGRAPH can't control, it could be beneficial to consider a new conference business model. She also highlighted the importance of making firm decisions when the EC does meet in person. Main next steps ahead of the next in person meeting include finalizing programs to keep/let go/shrink with a dedicated plan for how to reduce programs if they're not sunset. Additional challenges will be clarifying volunteer vs contractor roles, increasing revenue, and reconnecting the organization with each of its branches.
There was a question around how the EC will oversee the changes that they give to CAG. There were concerns raised about changes now directing 2027 programs because of already-selected volunteer leaders. It was acknowledged that there would be a transition year for any changes, and that 2028 may reflect the majority of changes.
There was a brief discussion over whether the number of EC directors fits the organization's needs, though the EC determined that was a conversation for another time.
	June Kim

Action: 1. Poll EC nominees and EC on fall 2026 meeting dates.	
Wrap The EC Chair shared his slides for the opening session at the conference, specifically requesting feedback on the slide detailing EC achievements. The EC provided feedback on the slides, suggesting additional achievements to highlight and how to discuss some of the topics, such as transparency. He thanked the group for their time and noted that action items will be shared in the coming weeks.	Darin Grant
Meeting Adjourned.	Darin Grant