

Danielle Alba

Region 2 Question Responses

Why are you uniquely qualified to represent Region 2?

I have experience coordinating and leading quilt and sewing groups. I have held a leadership position as Founding President of The Nampa Modern Quilt Guild, and have developed relationships within the retail community of quilting as I have my own shop and business.

I think what more specifically distinguishes me is that I have extensive experience in research, writing, teaching, and general project management. I come from a scientific research background and have experience collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data.

How would you solicit input on issues from Region 2?

I believe there are several effective methods to solicit input. My personal favorite is collecting feedback via Google Forms or other means which can be analyzed statistically to make empirically based recommendations.

What is your history of service?

I learned the value of service at an early age and have been doing volunteer work in one form or another since high school. My service has gone from volunteering time to do various service projects to organizing group efforts and taking on a leadership position. I have become confident in my ability to seek out information and guidance on various initiatives as well as my ability to communicate my work and processes via documentation.

Describe your leadership style.

In short, I endeavor to lead by example and from a point of view of empathy. My college teaching career included several professional development trainings which has opened my eyes to several best practices when it comes to leading groups and clear communication. I also stick to the general rule of not asking someone to do something that I would not be willing to do myself, and see good leadership as a means of making connections between individuals to accomplish common goals instead of a hierarchy of power.

What other unique skills and/or perspective do you feel you would bring to the MQG board?

I believe myself to be a generally capable person. I am comfortable planning out projects into attainable goals, searching for information and previous examples of how a task may be approached, and a scientific methodology in my approach to new experiences. On the other side of the coin, I also have experience with Latin-American culture and the humanities which has given me a broader perspective on cultural interpretations and sensitivities which should be considered when making decisions and policies.

How would you de-escalate a public situation?

I believe the most important steps in de-escalation is to first check my own emotions prior to making statements or decisions to rectify a situation. Secondly, I work to take an empathetic approach - specifically acknowledging any harm which may have been caused by myself or an organization I represent. I genuinely believe that most people wish to be acknowledged and heard, and granting them this courtesy always reduces the tension and natural defensiveness that can happen in moments of conflict. I also believe it is important to make an action list of what will be done about the situation with appropriate explanation of the decisions made related to these actions and then finally following up with the individual or organization after the conflict is resolved to be sure that there are no unresolved concerns.

How would you handle conflict resolution?

In addition to my statement in the previous question - I think it is important to be as transparent as possible and to do my best to approach all parties involved with respect and acknowledgement of their concerns. I do my best to remove myself from the situation and take the perspective of an outsider looking at the situation and try to maintain a neutral ground. I also believe there is great value to be found in discussing the situation with those who may have similar experiences to seek their perspective on a best course of action. De-escalation and reassurance can do a lot to protect relationships during conflicts.

How would you embrace diversity and encourage inclusivity in Region 2?

My perspective has always been to live and let live. I believe all human beings to have innate value and deserve respect and empathy. People are people and we all can make simple accommodations to make others comfortable and feel welcomed.

What do you love about modern quilting?

I love the raw expression of the creator that modern quilting affords. Modern quilts can say so much in such a simple way. I love the emphasis on the complementary nature of piecing and quilting and how they can help lead the viewer to the statement or reality the creator is expressing. I find modern quilting to be cathartic. I find I connect with strangers at an emotional level when I view their modern quilts which I think would be more difficult to attempt via conversation alone.

What color do you have the least of in your stash?

Orange or yellow. They are great accent colors, but I don't use either much as foundation colors. Furthermore, orange is the least produced color in the fabric industry, so there's just a more limited supply to choose from in shops.

Which quilting book, blog, or magazine has been influential in your quilting journey and why?

Youtube was my first introduction to the quilting world and the Missouri Star tutorials taught me enough in the privacy of my own home to get the confidence to branch out to learn via the quilting community. Currently I would say my greatest influencer is Bonnie Hunter, not so much because of her style of quilting, but her personality, personal values, and strength of character. I relate to her business goals and she inspires me to keep working to my goals.

What do you think are the next three trends in modern quilting?

I believe we'll begin to see more and more environmental and social advocacy in the quilting world. Younger generations of quilters, specifically millennials, have been coming into their own as an economic force as they are replacing baby boomers in the workforce and they tend to have more education on environmental issues - specifically sustainability, waste-reduction, and climate change. I believe we'll see more environmentalism in the products purchased, and statements made in their works. I also believe that documentation of the work will continue to increase as the ability to self-publish and document one's journey as continued to grow. Finally, I believe there will be a shift towards inclusivity as a moral value will continue to grow and will be reflected in the diversity of participants and contributors to the movement.