

Report of the Regional Organization 7 Comprising the United States and Canada

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I. INTRODUCTION

The North American Steering Committee for the UN International Year of Glass (NASCIYOG) was formed in August 2021 to provide a common platform to the diverse communities of glass academe, research institutions, industry, artists, museums, and the wider community for the planning, organizing, and the execution of the International Year of Glass (IYOG) events in the US and Canada. These two countries constituted the Regional Organization 7 (RO7). The Committee acted as a forum not only for collaboration, coordination and communication among the glass constituencies in RO7 but also for engagement of RO7 with other ROs and the International Commission on Glass (ICG). The NASCIYOG represented a historic and an unprecedented coalition of the glass communities in the RO7 geographical domain. It organized, facilitated, supported, and participated in over 50 major events during December 2021-December 2022 in the US and Canada. It also organized the Debriefing Ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City on December 13-14, 2022. This brief report provides a highly abridged catalog of the immense range of events the NASCIYOG was involved in.

II. STRUCTURE of the NASCIYOG

The NASCIYOG was sponsored by the American Ceramic Society (ACerS). It was chaired by Manoj Choudhary and co-chaired by Younès Messadeq and Kathy Jordan. During October-November 2022, Laurence Sibrack was its acting chair. Sue LaBute was the Executive Assistant. Figure 1 shows the photos of the members of the Steering Committee. The NASCIYOG consisted of 9 working groups. The groups and their members are listed below.

- **Art & Museum Coordination Committee** – Kathy Jordan (Chair, the American Glass Guild), Karol Wight (Corning Museum of Glass), Lawrence Sibrack (Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass), Brandi Clark (Glass Art Society).
- **National Day of Glass Coordination Committee** – Kathleen Richardson (Chair, Central Florida University), Mario Affatigato (co-Chair, Coe College), David Pye (Alfred University)
- **Finance Committee** – Arun Varshneya (Chair, Saxon Glass), Robert Lipetz (Glass Manufacturing Industry Council), Marcus Fish (the American Ceramic Society)
- **Canada IYOG Committee** – Younès Messadeq (Chair, Université Laval), Federico Rosei (INRS, Canada)
- **Glass & Optical Materials Division** – Gang Chen (Chair, Ohio University), Steve Martin (Iowa State University), Doris Möncke (Alfred University), John Mauro (Penn State University), Hong Li (NEG)
- **Glass Industry Committee** – Robert Lipetz (Glass Manufacturing Industry Council)
- **Architectural Glass Committee** – Urmilla Jokhu-Sowell (Chair, National Glass Association)
- **Ceramic & Glass Industry Foundation** – Marcus Fish (the American Ceramic Society)
- **The American Ceramic Society Liaison Committee** - Mark Mecklenborg (Chair), Eileen De Guire, Andrea Ross

Each working group represented many organizations and individuals. For example, the Art & Museum Coordination Committee represented an immensely diverse community of the glass artist, arts organizations, and museums, including Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, the American Glass Guild, and the Corning Museum of Glass to organize glass art, workshop, and museum events in US Canada throughout 2022. Similarly, the National Day of Glass Committee worked with a very broad range of glass communities, the wider community beyond glass (e.g., high schools), and relevant governmental entities to organize the National Glass Day events in Washington DC during April 5-7, 2022.

III. Summary of Key IYOG Events

A video catalog of the North American IYOG Celebrations was provided to the ICG in December 2022. It is not possible to include here all the information contained in that 27.5 MB file. Given below is a brief but representative sample of the myriads of North American IYOG activities. It should be noted that many of the events catalogued here had multifaceted attributes (e.g., they combined glass art, science, and education) and putting them in a specific category is somewhat arbitrary, albeit necessary for the ease of writing.

2021-2022: Introducing the IYOG

- International Year of Glass Keynote Lecture by Manoj Choudhary at the 82nd Conference on Glass Problems, Columbus, Ohio, November 1-4, 2021.
- International Year of Glass Keynote Lecture by Manoj Choudhary at the 14th Pacific Rim Conference on Glass Science & Technology, Virtual Conference, December 13-16, 2021.
- Welcome to the IYOG 2022 Podcast by Manoj Choudhary and Kathleen Richardson, February 9, 2022.

2022: IYOG Events

- **National Day of Glass, Washington D.C., April 5-7, 2022**

The National Day of Glass Conference, co-chaired by Drs. Kathleen Richardson and Mario Affatigato, brought together eminent glass artists, scientists, engineers from North America to commence, on a grand scale, the IYOG celebrations in US and Canada. The landmark commemorative book, “National Day of Glass”, edited by Varshneya, Choudhary, and Pye contains brief but authoritative updates on glass science, engineering, and art as well as abridged versions of the presentations at the conference (See Figure 2).

- **Glass Art & Museum IYOG Celebrations**

- Capturing the Light: Glass Art Inspired by Nature; June 22, 2021- June 16, 2022, Santa Fe Botanical Gardens, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Chameleon Effects: Glass (Un)Defined; Toledo Museum of Art, May 27, 2021-March 27, 2022, Toledo, Ohio
- Celebrating 50 Years of Glass Art Society; May 18-21, 2022, Tacoma, Washington
- Past/Present: Expanding the Stories of Glass; May 14, 2022 – January 8, 2023, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, New York
- Blown Away Session 3: Netflix Series; Corning Museum of Glass, launched July 22, 2022

- American Glass Guild Summer Conference; July 14-17, 2022, Corning Museum of Glass, New York
- Glass Art Exhibition at Coppin State University; May-June 2022, Baltimore, Maryland
- The 2022 Annual Conference of the Stained Glass Association of America and the Society of American Mosaic Artists; June 27-30, Toledo, Ohio
- The Canadian Clay & Glass Exhibit “Voices”; September 24, 2022- January 15, 2023, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- GlassArt 22 Exhibition (Saskatoon Glass Workers’ Guild); September 30-October, 2022, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
- Glass Art Installation (Recycled Glass, LED, Optical Fibers) at the Center for Optics, Photonics, and Lasers at Université Laval, May 9-13, 2022, Québec, Canada
- Wildfire Sculpture by Natalie Tyler at UN Headquarters, December 13, 2022- January 5, 2023.

- **Glass Science, Engineering, and Education IYOG Events**

- 89th Congress of the Association Francophone pour le Savoir (ACFAS); May 9-May, 13, 2022, Université Laval, Québec, Canada
- GOMD Annual Meeting; May 22-26, 2022, Baltimore, Maryland
- Baltimore High School Outreach Event; May 27, 2022, Baltimore, Maryland
- Iberoamerican Year of Glass: Webinar on Glass Science and Art; summer 2022, University of San Diego CaliBaja Center for Resilient Materials and Systems.
- Glass Science Kit; summer 2022, developed Ceramic and Glass Industry Foundation (ACerS) in collaboration with Ursinus College.
- All Iowa Glass Conference; July 28, 2022; Iowa State University
- Glass Sustainability Conference; September 8-9, 2022, Alfred University, Alfred, New York
- International K-12 Educator Workshop held at Albright College and at the MS&T meeting, October 6-12, 2022.
- 60th Annual Seminar on Glass, Corning Museum of Glass, October 7-8, 2022.
- Toledo: The Glass City; Twelve-part Lecture Series; September 15-October 28, 2022, Libbey House Foundation, and the Toledo Arts Commission, Toledo, Ohio
- Glass / Glazing Career Opportunities to Students of Prairie View A&M University: November 15, 2022, National Glass Association
- IYOG International Graduate Course on the Structure of Glass; September 6-December 8, 2022, Iowa State University [sponsored by GOMD and ICG].
- International Journal of Applied Glass Science, Special Issue: Celebrating the International Year of Glass, Vol. 13, Issue 3, July 2022.
- The Journal of American Ceramic Society collection of legacy and contemporary articles issued on a monthly basis on the theme Glass: Then and Now
- ACerS Bulletin feature articles on glass topics (April – August, 2022)

- **Glass Industry and IYOG**

Robert Lipetz, the then Executive Director of GMIC, played a key role in engaging the GMIC members and the glass manufacturers in general throughout the 2021-2022 period. Several companies provided letters of support for the IYOG petition to the UN, and extended financial

support for several activities listed above, including the National Day of Glass, the Commemorative Book, and the closing ceremony at the UN Headquarters. Wendell Weeks CEO of Corning, Ludovic Gallette, VP of O-I, and Sheldon Davis, VP of Guardian spoke at the National Day of Glass. Scott Cooper of O-I participated in a panel on workforce education.

- **Outreach to the International Glass Community**

Manoj Choudhary was a member of the International Executive Committee for the IYOG and was the principal liaison between the North American and the International IYOG working groups and organizations throughout 2021 and 2022. In addition many other members of the NASCIYOG (Karol Wight, Robert Lipetz, Arun Varshneya, Laurence Sibrack, Kathy Jordan, Urmilla Jokhu-Sowell, Steve Martin, Hong Li, and Doris Möncke) interacted with the International Commission on Glass in various capacities. Given below are highlights of the outreach to the international IYOG groups

- Manoj Choudhary gave the closing keynote lecture on “Glass: An Indispensable Material for Sustainable Development” at the International Conference on Advances in Glass and Glass Ceramics” organized by the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute of India in August 2022.
- Karol Wight, Laurence Sibrack, Kathy Jordan collaborated closely with Teresa Medici of the International Council of Museums to coordinate glass art and museum related programs.
- Urmilla Jokhu-Sowell, and through her the NGA, provided crucial support for the IYOG debriefing ceremony at the UN Headquarters.
- Manoj Choudhary taught a short course on “Special Topics in Glass Melting” during June 28-July 2, 2022 at the Alexander Dubček University of Trenčín, Slovakia. He was invited by the Centre for Functional and Surface Functionalized Glass (FunGlass).
- Manoj Choudhary and Irene Patterson represented ACerS at the International Congress on Glass held in Berlin during July 3-8, 2022 and presented ACerS’ gift to the German Glass Society (DGG) on its centennial.
- Manoj Choudhary gave a plenary lecture on Glass and Sustainability at the IYOG Closing Ceremony in Tokyo (December 8-9, 2022) and also pointed out that the idea of IYOG was first proposed to the ICG by David Pye and Manoj Choudhary in Yokohama, Japan in 2018.
- Arun Varshneya gave talks on Wonders of Glass and IYOG, emphasizing Mahatma Gandhi’s teaching “Keep the Earth Clean” to students at St. Thomas Girls School and at Delhi Technical College, both on November 30, 2022, at the invitation of All India Glass Manufacturers’ Federation.
- Arun Varshneya conveyed greetings from ACerS and the Society of Glass Technology at the Tokyo Closing Ceremony and provided a brief update on the National Day of Glass.
- Two of the three entries submitted by RO7 were selected among the “Seven Glass Wonders of the World”. These were the Hubble Space Telescope and the Optical Fibers. In addition Corning Museum of Glass was also selected as one of the Seven Glass Wonders.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The NASCIYOG was an incredibly productive and collegial group as even a cursory outline of its activities included in this report makes abundantly clear. It put together a historic and an unprecedented alliance of the diverse glass communities in US and Canada. The alliances forged among these communities working together for over 16 months will endure well beyond the

IYOG-2022. For the author of this report it was a most fulfilling end of the journey that began in 2016 during his presidency of the ICG. With the encouragement of and in partnership with David Pye he became a global ambassador for the Glass Age, an endeavor that culminated in the two of them bringing the idea of the IYOG to the ICG in 2018. The author deeply appreciates and extends heartfelt gratitude to David Pye, Alicia Duran, Mark Mecklenborg, Sue LaBute, as well as colleagues within NASCIYOG and the worldwide glass community, for crafting a truly unforgettable celebration of glass.



Figure 1. Members of the North American Steering Committee for the International Year of Glass. The photos are identified left to right in each row from the top to the bottom.

Top: Manoj Choudhary, Younès Messadeq, Kathy Jordan, Mark Mecklenborg, Kathleen Richardson, Mario Affatigato

2nd Row: David Pye, Arun Varshneya, Karol Wight, Sue LaBute

3rd Row: Laurence Sibrack, Gang Chen, Steve Martin, Andrea Ross, Robert Lipetz, Eileen De Guire

4th Row: Doris Möncke, Urmilla Jokhu-Sowell, Marcus Fish, Hong Li, Federico Rosei, Brandi Clark

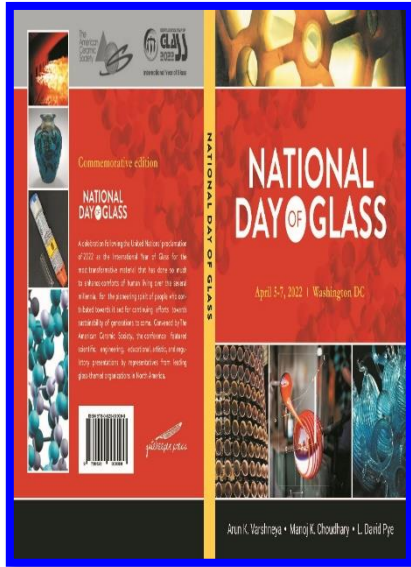


Figure 2. The National Day of Glass back and front covers (eds. Varshneya, Choudhary, Pye)



Figure 3. The Wildfire sculpture at the UN building. **Left to right:** Natalie Tyler (Artist), Kathy Jordan,

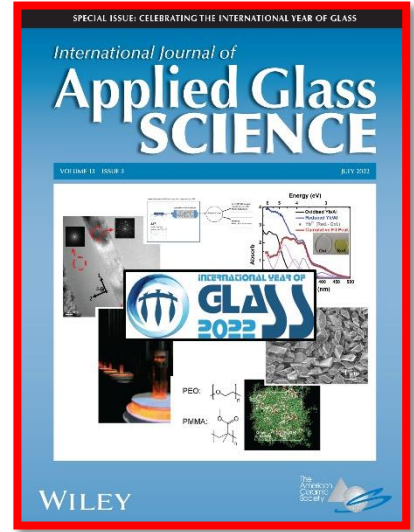


Figure 4. Special issue of IJAGS celebrating IYOG (May 2022)

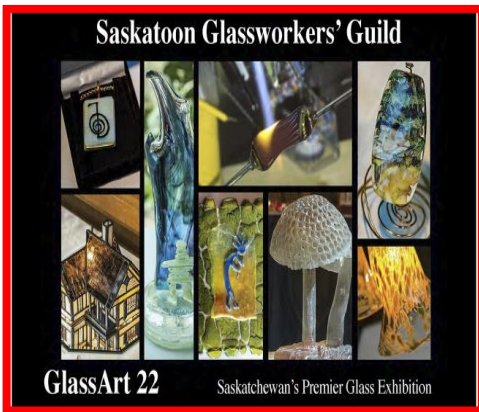
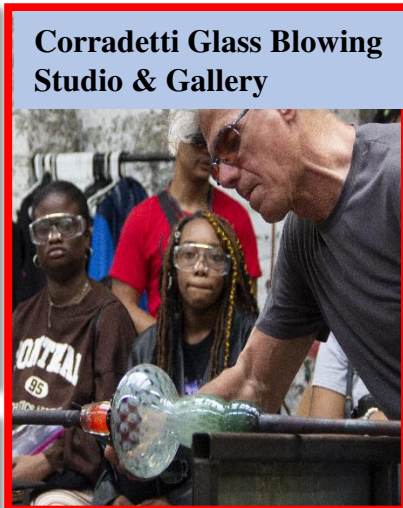
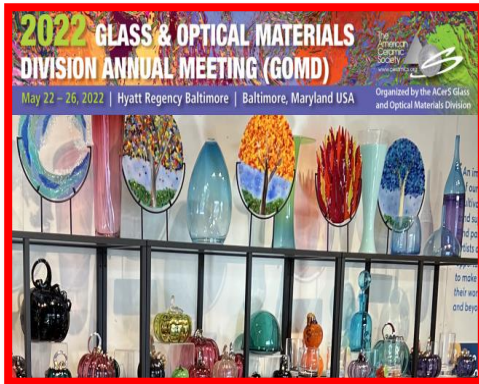


Figure 5. A collage of a few of the over 50 glass art, museum, science, engineering, education, industry, and community outreach events held in US and Canada to celebrate IYOG.