

WEAVERS' GUILD OF BOSTON 2016 SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

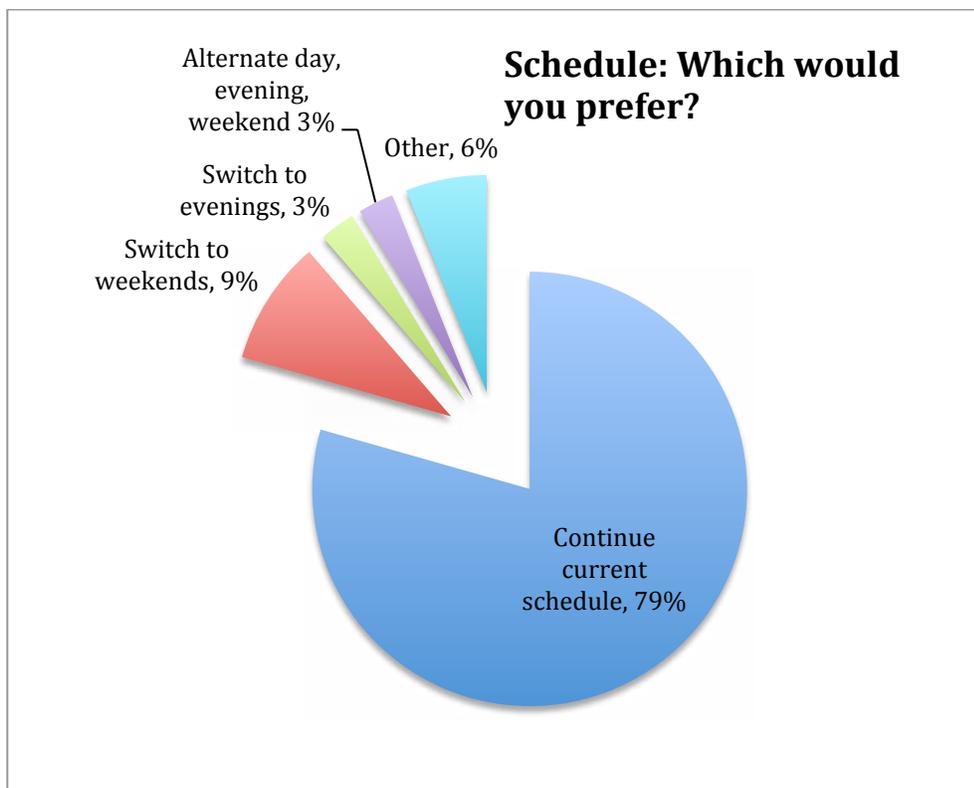
The Weavers Guild of Boston Board of Directors conducts periodic surveys to find out what members think about Guild programs and operations. The latest survey, conducted in May 2016, covered a range of topics, and elicited a robust response. Eighty members completed the survey, representing about one-third of the total membership – a very high rate of survey response. The survey contained 63 items. Some items included opportunity for written responses. These generated many thoughtful comments.

This brief report uses charts and tables to highlight responses to selected items in major areas: meetings, education, sale and communication. Some survey items offered 3 choices of response; some used a 5-point response; and some asked that items be ranked. To make it easy to review, scores at either end of a scale are consolidated, providing a clear picture of the direction of responses. For example, on a 5-point scale where 5 = excellent, 4's and 5's are consolidated.

Details of survey responses, original survey questions, and this report, are available on the Guild's website Membership page: <http://weaversguildofboston.org/Membership.htm>; scroll to the bottom of the page for links to the documents. You are encouraged to review the full survey findings.

1. Meeting Schedule, Location, Process:

Most respondents prefer to continue the same meeting schedule:



The current location generates less agreement:

What do you think about our current location
 (scale of 1-5 where 1 = dislike very much and 5 = like very much)

Like or Like very much (4's and 5's)	44%
Dislike or Dislike very much (1's and 2's)	26%
Neutral (3's)	30%

Respondents provided helpful insight into what is important to them at meetings:

How Important are the following to your enjoyment of the meeting?
 (On a scale of 1-5, where 1 = not at all important and 5 = very important)

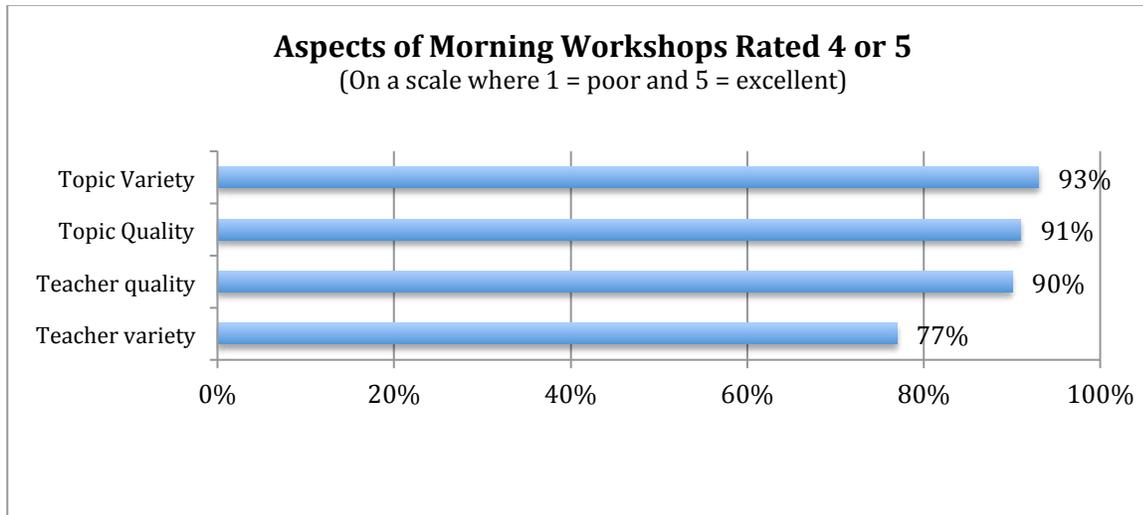
	Meeting Component	% Ranking item 4 or 5
More important	Bulletin Samples	78%
	Show and Tell	78%
	Morning Workshop Table	74%
	Business Meeting	64%
	Yarn Sales	64%
	Bulletin Board	64%
	Sign-in Table	55%
	Morning Class Review	53%
	Membership Table	52%
	Books and Monographs Table	52%
Less Important	Door Prizes	35%



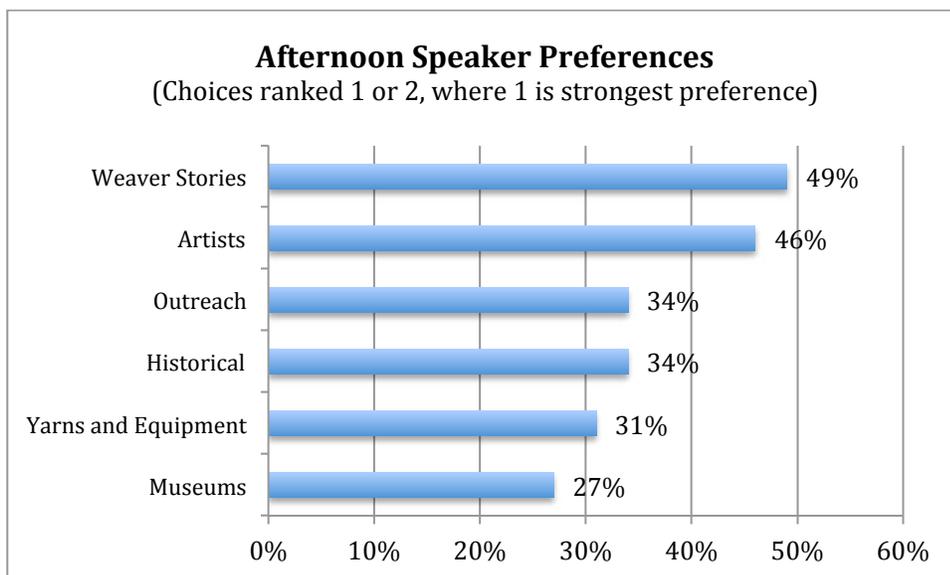
2. Education:

Education is a primary mission of the Guild. Respondents provided their views about Morning Workshops, Afternoon Speakers, Ratings, the Library and Education Grants.

Morning Workshops: Morning workshops are highly regarded: 9 out of 10 respondents rated topic variety, quality and teacher quality at 4 or 5, where 5 = excellent. Most respondents thought the class size was 'about right'.



Afternoon Speakers: This item asked respondents to rank afternoon speaker subjects in order of preference. Respondents' preferences seem to represent the range of interests of members, with no item emerging as a preference of the majority. Most respondents thought the length of the presentations was 'about right'.



Ratings Program: A number of survey items addressed interest and wishes of members related to the Ratings Program. About half of respondents rated the Ratings Program as an important value to them as a weaver. Three-fifths thought mentors and support are important. Mentors and concrete examples seem likely to increase participation in the Ratings Program.

Please rate current and possible future aspects of the Ratings Program

(on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = not at all important and 5 = very important)

Aspect	% Rating aspect 4 or 5
Mentors	63%
Support	61%
Value to you as a weaver	50%
Ratings classes	41%

Likelihood of Participating in Ratings

How likely would you be to:	Somewhat or Very Likely
Seek a Rating if samplers, practice pieces and resources for the different weaving structures were available as suggestions or guides?	66%
Seek a Rating if mentors were available?	63%
Seek a Rating if your sample or practice weaving could be critiqued by a mentor?	60%
Participate in an ongoing ratings group that would get together at meetings like Weavers Helping Weavers?	56%

Library: Respondents rated the three aspects of the library as helpful, especially the display of library resources related to morning workshops and the availability of the catalog.

Library

(On a scale of 1-5, where 1 = not helpful and 5 = very helpful)

	Library hours	Morning workshop topics books displayed in vestry	Library catalog availability
Helpful (4's and 5's)	61%	74%	72%
Not helpful (1's and 2's)	11%	8%	6%
Neutral (3's)	27%	17%	22%

Education Grants: More than half of respondents reported it ‘not at all likely’ that they would apply for an education grant, and, in fact, very few members apply for grants.

Education Grants

How likely are you to apply for an education grant?

Very Likely	9%
Somewhat Likely	29%
Not at all likely	61%

3. Sale:

While less than half of respondents had participated in the sale as a weaver, two-thirds have participated as a volunteer:

Sale

Have you participated in the sale as a weaver?

YES	46%
NO	53%

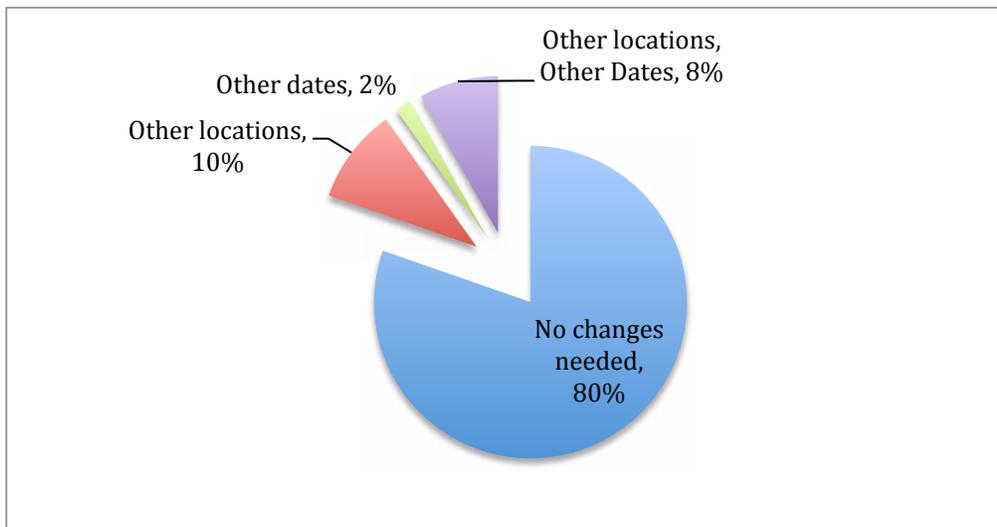
Have you participated as a volunteer?

YES	68%
NO	32%

Most thought no changes are needed to the location and dates of the sale:

Do you think WGB should consider other arrangements for the sale?

(select all that apply)



4. Communication:

The Board and Guild members use a variety of methods to communicate. While respondents reported they rely on all methods, they rely most on email blasts and the bulletin:

Please rank the following from 1 to 5 where 1 = the method you rely on most for Guild communication and 5 = the method you rely on least or not at all?

Rely on Most		Number ranking item 1 = rely on most	Number ranking item 2 = rely on second most	Total 1's and 2's
	Email blasts	44	4	48
	Bulletin	29	14	43
	Yearbook	19	13	32
	Website	15	9	24
	Yahoo Group	14	8	22
Rely on Least				

5. Conclusion: The Board appreciates the many thoughtful responses to this survey, and uses results in considering program and operational changes. For example, the Board has expanded opportunities for new membership by modifying the Education Grant program to establish free Guild memberships to one or two students at each of three area colleges offering fibers programs. Efforts are underway to increase engagement in the Ratings Program. And the website home page has been redesigned to make it easier to find major areas, and to increase interest of the general public in Guild offerings. The Board encourages members to review the details of the survey findings, and welcomes further comment.