



AgX Meeting
Saturday, November 19, 2016, 1:00 PM
AgX Space
144 Moody Street, Waltham

Present:

Janet Benn
Nicolas Brynolfson
Susan DeLeo
Stefan Grabowski

Mike Piso
Robert Todd
Douglas Urbank

AGENDA

Dwolla
Budget & Finance Update
Membership Update, AgX Website & Membership Promotion
Fundraising & Contacts Update
Fundraiser Perk Delivery
Workshops
AgX North Field Day at ANYEYE
Waltham Mills Open Studios & Rosebud Review
Jonathan Schwartz and Kathryn Ramey Class Visits
Equipment Review
Inventory & Cataloging Schedule
AgX West Field Day Footage
Somerville Open Studios Program
FPTC Onscreen/Offscreen

DWOLLA, BUDGET & FINANCE UPDATE

Dwolla has notified users that as of December 7 they will no longer support person-to-person "send" feature that AgX has been relying upon. The group discussed possible options. Assuming December's dues payments can go through as usual, a solution must be found before the new year. Doug stressed that AgX cannot afford interrupted dues collection. Dwolla can still be used provided AgX sends "requests" for dues payments. This presents a possibility but we would need to investigate the amount of management required. Other options considered were reverting to PayPal and/or accepting check payment, both with drawbacks, bank transfers which have always been an option using Automated Clearing House (ACH), as well as new options such as Google Wallet and credit card processing through our website, which Matt has suggested as a possibility. Doug suggested that since there was considerable resistance to signing up for Dwolla, it might be best to try to keep it, or use a service such as PayPal, which many in the group likely already use. The finance working group will look into possibilities. In the meantime, our website and membership form need to be changed and Doug will send a notice to the membership about the Dwolla situation.

FUNDRAISING

Rob reported that the fundraising working group had submitted AgX's MassDevelopment Collaborative Workspace Program grant application, and Stefan said that we should know be notified of the results "very soon." He suggested the grant would expand our capabilities and bring in new members. Rob reported on the Boston Foundation grant due December 1. A total of [\$35,500 per budget] is proposed, including \$6,000 for workshops (8 days at \$750 per day). Members donate by offering in-kind teaching time. Also included is \$12,000 for rent and utilities at \$2,000 per month, \$14,200 for equipment, transport, repairs, maintenance and a contract person at \$600 per month. An additional cost of perhaps \$500 could be included for costs for a Kevin Rice visit. One of the requirements of the application is to list "challenges." Rob suggests that increasing membership might fit that requirement. The deadline for the Mass. Cultural Council grant for organizations is in May. Individual filmmaker grant applications are due [January 23](#). (Janet reported that it would cost \$4-500 to move the Oxberry animation stand. It will be crucial to have the setup done by someone who knows the machine. Dave Waller, Joey Colby, and Adam Savje were mentioned as being knowledgeable.)

CONSULTING FOR NON-PROFITS

Rob introduced the idea of hiring a consultant to advise on AgX structure. He mentioned the Boston Film and Video Foundation (BFVF), its history and problems created by the direction the organization took over time, becoming too top-heavy and with too broad a program. He talked about how the BFVF collaborated with related organizations, which could be a model for AgX.

Janet mentioned the organization [Women Make Movies, Inc.](#) which started as a collective but also ended up expanding its mission. She feels this is something AgX should probably avoid. Stefan suggested Providence's [AS220](#), which provides live and work studios, galleries, performance and educational spaces, and a community darkroom, as a model for AgX. Gen visited them and has information on income and spending, which may be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Rob said the organization was founded during the Cianci administration and benefited from that administration's strong support for the arts.

Rob reported that he had toured Jamaica Plain with artist, Sheila Gallagher, and Julie Burros. Sheila has developed relationships with several of the property owners, and wants to investigate possibilities for artist spaces. Julie expressed interest in some underdeveloped properties. They toured a sculpture cooperative with facilities for welding and clay work. Rob floated the possibility of a satellite space for AgX. He also reported that [CatLABS of JP](#) may be kicked out of their space. Stefan suggested Omar could be an excellent anchor tenant for AgX.

Doug mentioned that Fort Point Theatre Channel had hired a consultant and had also been advised by Heather Kapplow, who works as a consultant to organizations and is a current member of FPTC. He will mention the possibility of hiring a consultant, if AgX receives grant money.

KATHRYN RAMEY EMERSON CLASS VISIT

Around a dozen students are expected. Doug and Mike will host Kathryn's class visit. Rob is unable to attend. Doug had requested member films, but didn't receive any. He and Mike will provide some of their own films. There may be a possibility to screen films from the AgX North Field Day. Stefan reported that the Jonathan Schwartz class visit went well, that the students were very engaged, and that Jonathan may want AgX to visit his class next semester.

WORKSHOPS

Rob volunteered to be informal Workshop Coordinator and will solicit interest from the membership. Stefan recommends focus on 16 mm: shooting, processing editing. Doug suggests a digital editing workshop would be a way to expand interest and membership. Stefan suggested that, if we get the Workspace grant, funds would be used for computer workstations. Rob emphasized the individual effort to produce a workshop, mentioning Joe's recent work to organize the Rosebud workshop. He also emphasized the need to populate our calendar and advertise

with flyers. Instructor knowledge, participant list, resources and equipment list all have to be planned. Our website could link to resources. Doug mentioned Process Reversal's archive and Susan suggested Mono No Aware as a resource. Janet expressed concern that members be certified through an orientation before taking on a workshop. The group discussed possible public workshops for December and early 2017. Mike suggested school intersession as a possibility, however Rob thought students would be away. Stefan discussed the difference in approach between workshops for kids, which are about introducing them to the medium vs. workshops for older students and adults with more serious interest. Janet suggesting advertising in cafes and arts organizations and discussed potential for bringing in new members. She suggested 1 to 2 "youth intro" courses and said she is interested in running direct animation workshops. Susan would like to see an alternative processing workshop. Nic suggested found a footage workshop.

The following workshops were tentatively scheduled, pending support:

- January 7: DIRECT ANIMATION, organized by Janet, needing an assistant.
- January 14: 16 mm SHOOTING, organized by Stefan and Mike.
- January 15: PROCESSING, organized by Stefan and Mike, needing 2 assistants (possible discount for signing up for both January 14 and 15).
- February 11: EDITING, organized by Rob, could include structural, continuity, in-camera.

Other possible workshops discussed include Alternative Processing, Optical Printing, Titles, and Found Footage. Also discussed was the possibility for an Aesthetics or History course.

Stefan reported that Brandeis University has requested an AgX workshop for its students sometime after January 17, organized by SCRAM (Student Committee for the Rose Art Museum). The best time for students is weekday evenings, although weekends are also possible.

Rob will email the group to begin organizing upcoming and future workshops.

SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

Doug reported on his visit to Boston's Church of the Advent, where events are programmed by his friend, Matt Samolis [who attended the recent Filmmaker Potluck]. Matt has been programming mostly experimental music events at the Church Library, but the Church has recently presented an additional space as available for events. Doug toured that space which could be very good for screenings and could seat 50 people. There would be some amount of ambient light since the space has large windows facing a courtyard space, but Matt thinks it would work. However, Church of the Advent would probably not work for expanded cinema. They are happy to have Matt program events as long as they're not too disruptive, so things such as bringing in lots of gear, tech rehearsals and multiple access requirements would not be desirable. Matt would like to see a screening early next year.

Doug reported that he also has contacts with two Somerville venues: Opensound which typically holds events at Third Life Studio in Union Square and the Washington Street Art Center just outside Union Square. Michael Rosenstein who programs WSAC approached Doug at Waterworks and offered the space "anytime." Both venues might be possibilities for expanded cinema, although AgX would probably need to be in and out over the course of a day. Doug will inquire.

INVENTORY

The group discussed the need for equipment inventory which has been on the agenda for months. It was reported that Ethan has started the process. Stefan reported that he had gone ahead and purchased a label-maker, and that it could be used to identify the items which have been already cataloged. Suggestions were made about inventory codes such as "AgX Bolex #1" or "AgX Super 8 #1" Stefan will follow up with Ethan.

MISCELLANEOUS

Doug briefly mentioned the need to follow up on delivery of remaining fundraiser perks. T-shirts have been printed, but may need to be shipped. An additional silkscreening session may be required.

Rob suggested it was time for an AgX party and suggested combining it with the December 18 meeting. Mike suggested the possibility of a screening of AgX West and North field trip films.

End of Meeting

NEXT MEETING & OTHER SCHEDULING

The next AgX Meeting is scheduled Sunday, December 18, at AgX and beginning at 1:00 PM.

Valery and Susan will organize the next Work-in-Progress screening for December and should be posting possible dates for that soon.

The AgX North event at ANYEYE is scheduled for November 20.

Kathryn Ramey's Emerson class visit to AgX is schedule for Monday, November 21, between 1:00 and 3:00 PM.

The next Boston Filmmaker Potluck schedule is to be determined.

Part 2 of Paul Turano's JK workshop schedule is to be determined.

End of Meeting Notes

Notes by Douglas Urbank

ORIGINAL WORKING GROUP SIGNUP

Exhibitions & Screenings

Anto Astudillo
Carmine Grimaldi
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Kathryn Ramey
Susan DeLeo
Valery Lyman

Planning & Administration

Brittany Gravely
Corrin Barnes
Douglas Urbank
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Gen Carmel
Mike Piso
Anto Astudillo

Budget & Finance

Christina Hunt
Ethan Berry
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Libbie Cohn
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Mike Piso
Robert Todd

Lab & Operations

Christina Hunt
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Frank Aveni
Kathryn Ramey
Laura Ryan
Mike Piso
Nic Brynolfson
Nicholas Bunch

Outreach & Website

Anto Astudillo
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