



AgX Meeting
Saturday, February 27, 2016, 1:00 PM
AgX Space
144 Moody Street, Waltham

Present:

Frank Aveni (1:40)
Alex Bickford
Nic Brynolfson
Genevieve Carmel
Peaches Goodrich
Stefan Grabowski
Morgan Hoyle-Combs (2:20)

Luke Jumes (2:10)
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Yangqiao Lu (visitor)
Natalie Minik
Jesse Sherman
Douglas Urbank

AGENDA

Budget & Finance Update
Membership Update, AgX Website & Membership Promotion
Member Listserv
Fundraiser Perk Delivery: Silkscreen Work Day
Darkroom/Lab Buildout Update
Equipment Donations
Contacts Update
FilmLabs Conference
City Feed and Supply Book Signing Review
Filmmakers Collaborative High School Workshops
AgX Fiscal Sponsorships
Waltham Mills Open Studios
Regularly Scheduled Meetings
Visiting Filmmaker Workshops
Dark Ops Meeting: Chemical Order & Spring Workshops
Equipment Check-out Management

OTHER ITEMS

Liability Insurance
Firehouse Space, Brooklyn
Salem Film Fest Opportunity
Fort Point Screening Opportunity

INTRODUCTIONS

The members introduced themselves to new members, Natalie Minik and Jesse Sherman, as well as our guest visitor, Yangqiao Lu, who writes about cinema for ArtForum China, La Furia Umana, Brooklyn Rail and LEAP magazine.

BUDGET & FINANCE UPDATE

Stefan reported that at present with the lower end of current membership commitments we are raising \$1,190 in dues of our approximately \$1,600 monthly costs. Imagivision's \$400 makes up the monthly balance. So we are currently about \$400 short of meeting monthly costs. We received and deposited the Indiegogo funds, less their cut, totaling \$9,866.30, and we still have perk production and shipping costs to be determined.

FUNDRAISER PERK DELIVERY

Stefan would like more members to submit work to include on the DVD/Blu-ray perk. Currently he has work from 6 AgX members. The best format to provide him is HD pro-res 1080P which will work for Blu-ray and can be converted for DVD. Four contributors requested Blu-ray and 2 requested DVD. Stefan will solicit AgX members individually.

Doug reported that the silkscreens for t-shirts and tote bags are ready and Ethan would like to schedule a silkscreening work day sometime in March, to be determined.

MEMBER LISTSERVE

The group agreed that we will hold off on the members-only listserve until the AgX website is launched.

DARKROOM/LAB BUILDOUT

Several AgX members have been processing film in the lab. Ethan has usually been in the lab Tuesday evenings and generally updates the listserve on his schedule.

KEYS & ACCESS

Stefan, Nic, Gen, Mike, Ethan, Frank and Doug have keys, at a minimum. Stefan mentioned that Ethan lent a key out to the party that rented the Steenbeck, and that key may need to be retrieved. Alex has requested a key and Doug will get one made and send it. More keys are needed. Stefan recommended we keep better track of keys.

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

Stefan will contact Kevin Rice to check in about pickup of the Oxberry optical printer and the Bell & Howell Model C Contact Printer. Stefan also talked again with JK at Harvard about the Oxberry animation stand, which is currently disassembled. We can pick it up at any time, but will need a van and probably a few trips. Stefan also talked again with the Fogg Art Museum conservator about the potential donation of approximately 2,000 cameras. Stefan will get a better idea of what might be offered.

INVENTORY & INSURANCE

Stefan created a FileMaker template for Harvard which could also be modified for AgX use, and he reviewed it with the group. The database can be hosted to a synced Google drive, and can include such information as equipment available to be borrowed, checkout and due dates, darkroom schedule, etc.

Rob, Stefan, and Matt began inventory of equipment last year and that work needs to continue. Stefan will consider possible dates for an inventory work day, to be determined. Ernesto and Jesse offered to help with inventory.

Frank reported that the draft Drupel website already has the MERCI (Manage Equipment Reservations, Checkout and Inventory) module integrated which can be used to reserve and manage equipment. Frank will explore it.

Gen raised the subject of liability insurance for the equipment. Doug will look into general liability insurance with the insurance agent he works with at his job. Stefan reminded the group that a portion of the equipment at AgX should be considered “on loan” rather than AgX property.

AGX WEBSITE

Frank showed the group his progress with the AgX website. The current home page includes the AgX logo, a slider image, and the following links: Home, About, News, Membership, Calendar, Donate, Contact, plus a News and Events sections. It was suggested that “Donate” be changed to “Support” to expand the possibilities beyond a financial donation. For example, we could post an equipment wantlist. Doug suggested we confirm that the official mission statement is included. Stefan raised the issue of people signing up for membership but not being aware that they should get on the listserve. This should be added to the membership form. Ernesto recommended expanding the possibilities for the Membership link to include member profile, work

sample, individual website and contact information. This could be offered as an optional perk to membership. Ernesto also suggested a special feature, something like a Filmmaker of the Month. Nic expressed interest in the possibility of AgX email addresses. Stefan already established one for himself and reviewed how it works.

There was discussion of the need for a website content work session, which was scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 PM at Ernesto's house in Cambridge. [Members interested in attending should contact Ernesto.]

FILMLABS CONFERENCE

Ethan, Stefan, Kathryn, and Doug would all like to attend the bi-annual FilmLabs conference held this July in Nantes, France, and hosted by the MIRE Lab. MIRE reported that interest is high and they will favor labs over individuals by partially subsidizing travel for each lab (about 500 euros for travel, 100 euros for housing). Ethan registered under ANYEYE and so will be entitled to that subsidy. Kathryn may be able to get Emerson funding. Doug proposed that—as now is the time to purchase plane tickets—AgX front the balance of the cost with the hope that the money could be raised through grants or other means. Gen raised the concern that AgX is still short in raising basic monthly expenses through dues. She also reminded the group that the fundraiser money was allocated toward specific costs: lab buildout, large equipment transport, reimbursement. Doug suggested that attendance at the conference will benefit AgX by providing opportunities for cultural exchange among other things. Ernesto added that it would also be important for outreach, networking and distribution, something which he has advocated in particular. The group was supportive of advancing the funds provided there is an independent effort to raise them later. Gen suggested that primary responsibility for that be the responsibility of the attendees. Doug said he would appreciate help from others in the group.

FILMMAKERS COLLABORATIVE HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Gen reported that Laura at Filmmakers Collaborative has proposed collaborating on workshops for middle school students during their break April 19-21. They will provide contacts to 5 area middle schools for which they usually provide video workshops. Laura floated the idea of a 3-day workshop in which each student is charged a daily rate, and a 50/50 split of the proceeds with AgX. They would provide the school contacts and the event promotion. She suggested possibly charging \$60 per student per day. This would be a good way to test the viability of hosting public workshops for kids.

Ernesto suggested as a parent that the ideal would be a 5-day workshop to benefit parents with regular jobs during the kids' break. Kathryn had stated via email that based on her book signing event there is interest out there in activities for kids. Several parents went up to her at the book signing and asked "when are the kids workshops?" She suggested direct animation would be a great start.

Morgan and Luke both expressed interest in running the workshop. Gen reported that Corrin was also interested. The group's various suggestions included super 8, hand

painting and direct animation, caffenol processing and a kids' screening. Doug suggested adding one or two AgX films to show the kids some of the possibilities of working with film. Luke stated that he started making films as a kid and suggested surveying the students about what type of workshop they'd be interested in.

Stefan argued that the split should be more like 80/20 since there is a materials cost in addition to the labor involved. Gen agreed to counter with that. The group decided that first we'd need an outline of the workshop, ideal number of students, and an estimate of materials cost. Morgan and Luke will work on that and report back. Get will ask Laura for input based on their video classes.

Both Natalie, who works for CCTV, and Jesse mentioned CCTV as a possible future partner because CCTV has established youth programs.

AGX WORKSHOPS

Stefan has done the Bolex workshop and stated that the next one should be a processing workshop.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIPS

Stefan reported that AgX, as a non-profit can provide fiscal sponsorships to individual filmmakers for use in applying for grants and residencies.

WALTHAM MILLS OPEN STUDIOS

Sarah Leon who was Building 18 rep for last year's Open Studios event posted a message soliciting a volunteer to be building rep this year. The group decided that we are still new to the area and have a lot to do without committing to this. For now, we will not volunteer.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Doug reported that Sarah Bliss proposed that AgX consider setting a regular repeating schedule for meetings—such as the first Saturday of each month—and the group discussed the possibility. It was suggested that often AgX meetings are scheduled around other events such as visiting filmmakers, workshops, or AgX work days. Also some prefer Saturdays, some Sundays and others week nights. For now we will schedule the next two meetings.

VISITING FILMMAKERS

Stefan reviewed likely visiting filmmakers. Adam Paradis was based in Boston, but moved to Chicago several years ago. He will be here April 4-11 and is interested in both screenings and teaching a workshop. He can teach one on direct animation involving reassembled film cuttings or one on rayograms.

Alex MacKenzie (<http://www.alexmackenzie.ca>) is a Vancouver-based filmmaker doing a tour which includes teaching workshops. He'll be in Baltimore April 7-8, then NYC, so he'd likely be here mid-April. His workshop possibilities are expanded cinema, color and/or black and white rayograms, contact printing, and handmade emulsion. The group agreed that handmade emulsion would be premature for our group. There was interest in expanded cinema and rayograms.

Jesse Cumming, based in Toronto, is a member of Pleasure Dome (<http://pdome.org>). He would like to present new Toronto films Thursday, March 24.

CONTACTS UPDATE

No update, but Gen recommended AgX pursue Lawn on D as a possible summer screening venue.

NEXT MEETING & OTHER SCHEDULING

The next two AgX Meetings were scheduled for Saturday, March 26, at 1 PM and Sunday, April 24, at 1 PM, both at AgX in Waltham.

The Website Content working session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 PM at Ernesto's house.

[Note: Rob Todd will be screening a program at MassArt Film Society (<http://massartfilmsociety.blogspot.com>) this Wednesday, March 2, 8:00 PM.]

Visiting Filmmakers

Adam Paradis, April 4-11, events to be determined.

Alex MacKenzie, mid-April, events to be determined.

Jesse Cumming, Thursday, March 24, events to be determined.

The Silkscreening work day to produce fundraiser perks will be scheduled separately by Ethan, possibly in March.

The Inventory work day schedule is to be determined.

The next Work-in-Progress screening schedule is to be determined.

The Kevin Rice visit and equipment donation 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
Gen Carmel
Libbie Cohn
Matthew McWilliams
Mike Piso
Robert Todd

Lab & Operations

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

Outreach & Website

Anto Astudillo
Brittany Gravely
Corrin Barnes
Frank Aveni
Matthew McWilliams
Nicholas Bunch