



AgX Meeting
Saturday, January 21, 2017, 4:00 PM
300 Summer Street, Unit 13
Boston

Present:

Janet Benn
Ethan Berry
Nicolas Brynolfson
Genevieve Carmel
Susan DeLeo
Brittany Gravely
Stefan Grabowski

Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Valery Lyman
Bryan Mckeon
Matthew McWilliams
Robert Todd
Douglas Urbank

AGENDA

Dwolla, Gateway & Dues Payments
Budget & Finance Update
Fundraising & Contacts Update
Fundraiser Perk Delivery
AgX Website & Promotion
Workshop Schedule
Paul Turano Workshop
Equipment Review
Darkroom Protocol
Inventory & Cataloging
Somerville Open Studios Program
Emerson Film Organization Meeting
SMFA Equipment Donation
Welcoming Working Group Review

FUNDRAISER PERK DELIVERY

Matt reported that the perk spreadsheet had been updated to indicate completed perk deliveries. Ethan will review and propose another group work session. He will purchase some extra-large t-shirts which are needed to complete the perk delivery. Gen volunteered to contact people whose perks are outstanding to let them know they haven't been forgotten.

END-OF-YEAR NEWSLETTER AND DONATIONS

Stefan reported that we received close to \$1,000 in donations from Gen's newsletter, via PayPal. Gen suggested we discuss pending expenses and prioritize them.

EQUIPMENT REVIEW

The group listed and reviewed pending expenses:

- Adding 220v Electrical for Oxberry
- Flatbed Editor Repair
- Workshop Seed Funding
- New Door Lock System

Ethan has been in contact with our Building Manager, Susan Murphy. AgX would need to pay for the electrical upgrade. The electrician, Barry Kutz, had told Ethan he'd sent her the quote which was something below \$2,000, but Susan has said she hadn't seen it, and we do not have it. Barry is ready to go. The group agreed that this is a priority that will add significant capability to AgX. The group agreed that if the quote is \$1,200 or below, we will go ahead; anything over \$1,200 will require additional group discussion.

Repair of the flatbed editor is not a priority, particularly in light of the possible SMFA equipment donation. Dwight Cody charges a minimum of \$1,000 per day to look at any equipment. Bryan Papciak owns both the JK and the Steenbeck and has said he would cover the cost to repair the Steenbeck, but he will eventually move both machines to Detroit.

Workshops should at least break even so expenses should not be an issue.

Regarding locks, Ethan reported that he looked into a more inexpensive system from Home Depot as an alternative to the Building 36 proposal. The Home Depot locks cost \$240 each. Installation is a question. This alternative may not have the features of the Building 36 system, such as online programming which allows us to add or remove individual access. The simpler Home Depot lock could possibly be used for the storage closet, however. Gen suggested that adding a lock system might reduce our insurance premium cost. Doug argued that we have functioned without the lock system for 1-1/2 years. If we are eventually successful with a grant proposal such as the Boston Foundation grant, we could go ahead with that upgrade. Ethan reported that with the AgX members currently covering weekday evenings, there is not a pressing need to increase access.

WORKSHOPS

The group discussed workshop schedules, costs and rationales. Workshops scheduled for January need to be rescheduled. All agreed that at least one month is needed for promotion. The group discussed the reasoning behind scheduling seasonal or quarterly workshops rather than scheduling them arbitrarily. For example, they can be planned and promoted more effectively. Upcoming workshops planned for the following season could be promoted along with the current workshops. The group debated the issue of cost and amount of income AgX should require. For some members it is important that workshops be extremely affordable, that AgX workshops should be less expensive than what Mono No Aware charges. This means that income to AgX would be minimal.

Doug suggested it was important for the group to discuss our rationale for doing workshops, arguing that they require a lot of preparation, significant labor from the instructor(s), most likely uncompensated, plus the time and effort to promote them. Since we also don't see them as a good revenue source, we should be clear on why we want to do them. Reasons discussed included bringing in new members and introducing people to filmmaking, particularly young people, as well as simply promoting AgX. Ernesto argued that we are not meeting our expenses through dues and need income. We should consider making them more profitable. Ethan reported that Boston Film & Video Foundation (BFVF) workshops were always a loss leader. He argued that AgX estimates of workshop expense weren't accounting for hidden costs.

Stefan reported on the materials needed for the 16 mm workshops, the materials costs, and need for teaching assistants. He proposed a 2-day workshop in which day 1 would be for production and day 2 would be for processing. He and Mike would teach them without compensation. Stefan is committed to doing workshops at low cost to participants. He has researched a vendor for bulk chemicals and estimated that \$150 would provide D19, fix, and bleach for 25 workshops,

approximately \$6 per workshop. Janet expects costs for her direct film workshop to be minimal. Rob also said his editing workshop would require minimal cost. Doug suggested that rather than working out details of proposed workshops at the meeting, the instructors should determine those independently and then propose them to the group, including the proposed cost to participants.

Ethan and Gen proposed that workshop review and promotion be handled by our Outreach Working Group. Promotion would be via our website plus email and Facebook. He suggested we give students an assessment form and that it could help us with grant applications. Sign-up could be via email.

Stefan reported that Zack Hart from Mono No Aware is scheduled to visit Boston and had offered to teach a cross-processing color reversal workshop at AgX. This would probably appeal to members in particular. Proposed cost would be \$75. Stefan will propose date of February 9. Zack has also been designing 16 mm loopers at a cost of \$150 that might be of interest to members.

SMFA EQUIPMENT DONATION

Rob reported on the tentative equipment donation from School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA), including the following:

- Steenbeck, 6-plate
- Steenbeck, 4-plate
- 16mm Mag Dubbers (3)
- K-105 Optical Printer with accessories
- Super 8 Sound Flatbed editor
- 16mm Contact Printer
- Elmo TRV-16H
- Elmo Transvideo Super8
- 16mm Rewinds (6)
- 16mm Trim Bins (9)
- 16mm Sync Block
- 16mm Sync Block with Squawk Box
- 16mm Hot Splicer (2)
- Bell & Howell 346A (2)
- Dual 8mm Handcrank Editor/viewer (4)

SMFA will meet to discuss the donation on January 25 and Rob will connect with them the following week. Rob suggested that they lend AgX the equipment as opposed to donating it, with the ability to take the equipment back if their programming required it. Currently AgX has two Steenbecks needing repair: Bryan Papciak's and Sean Fisher's. Bryan plans to eventually take the JK and the Steenbeck with him to Detroit, so the SMFA equipment could replace those.

SMFA is interested in contracting AgX to provide workshops to their students. Rob suggested they might invest \$2,500 per semester. AgX could become part of the [professional arts consortium](#) perhaps as a vendor. Valery raised the possibility the AgX would need insurance; Gen suggested the schools' insurance might provide coverage. Rob spoke with Tufts officials and they confirmed that students are interested in analog filmmaking.

Nic questioned soliciting students. The group discussed the possibility that AgX may be aiding schools in eliminating film programs. Rob would prefer to target schools that do not currently have film programs. Ethan raised the possibility of an arts administration or service group similar to the role BFVF performed.

FUNDRAISING & GRANT APPLICATIONS

Rob reported that he was informed that he will get a follow-up call regarding AgX's Boston Open Door grant application.

AGX PAYMENT GATEWAY & WEBSITE

Matt's gateway is ready to go and will make donations much easier. Matt reported that website is also ready to launch, but lacks copy. He will send reminder to membership about adding text. All members with access can add copy.

WELCOMING WORKING GROUP

The group discussed Doug's suggestion that the Welcoming Working Group invite new members, in groups, to meet a working group contact an hour prior to an AgX meeting for an introduction and tour of our space. The goal is to personalize early contact with the new members, to introduce them to the space and our facilities, and to encourage dues payment. It might also lessen the work of the committee. Gen suggested that the meeting could also be prior to a work-in-progress screening or other AgX event.

Valery asked Bryan to comment on the welcoming process, as he is the newest member attending the meeting. His feeling is that the form could be simpler.

Gen suggested that rather than have prospective members join, interested parties could contact a member of the working group via email and the meeting could be arranged prior to membership. The prospective member could then decide to join and complete the membership form, and the working group contact could follow up with an invoice. Doug suggested that a formal invoice might not be necessary if the working group contact promoted dues payment during the meeting.

Stefan recommended that working group contacts ask new members to introduce themselves via list-serve email.

Ethan and Matt both reported that non-members frequently show up at the space asking to try out our lab.

End of Meeting

NEXT MEETING & OTHER SCHEDULING

The next AgX Meeting is scheduled Sunday, February 19, at AgX and beginning at 1:00 PM.

Valery and Susan will organize the next Work-in-Progress screening.

The next Boston Filmmaker Potluck schedule is to be determined.

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

Workshops proposed for January will be rescheduled, possibly for February:

- Direct Animation, organized by Janet, needing an assistant
- 16 mm Production, organized by Stefan and Mike
- 16 mm Processing, organized by Stefan and Mike, needing 2 assistants
- Editing, organized by Rob, could include structural, continuity, in-camera

Zack Hart color negative cross-processing workshop date is to be determined, possibly February 9.

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