



AgX Meeting  
Sunday, August 21, 2016, 1:00 PM  
AgX Space  
144 Moody Street, Waltham

Present:

Frank Aveni  
Nic Brynolfson  
Sean Fisher  
Brittany Gravely  
Stefan Grabowski  
Ernesto Livon-Grosman  
Matthew McWilliams

Bryan Papciak (end of meeting)  
Robert Todd  
Douglas Urbank

guests:  
Benjamin Hassmann  
Wendy Wolf, WMAA

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## AGENDA

Budget & Finance Update  
Membership Update, AgX Website & Membership Promotion  
Member Listserve  
Fundraising & Contacts Update  
Fundraiser Perk Delivery  
Filmmaker Potluck Dinner Review  
Jonathan Schwartz and Kathryn Ramey Class Visits  
Alternative Reality Screening Review  
Waterworks Event Update  
Model C, Oxberry's, and JK Equipment Review  
Conversations Around Aesthetics  
CCTV June 30 Screening Review  
October Internal Matter Screening  
AgX North Field Day at ANYEYE  
AgX West Field Day Footage  
AgX T-Stop Field Day  
Waltham Mills Open Studios Update & Rosebud  
Waltham Film Factory, Museum of Industry & Innovation  
Inventory & Cataloging Schedule  
AgX Liability Insurance

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## VISITOR

The group welcomed Benjamin Hassmann, originally from Austria and currently enrolled at the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg, who will be studying for a semester at the SMFA as part of its exchange program. He was previously affiliated with the Filmkoop Wien lab in Austria and is interested in AgX. Doug gave Benni a tour of the space and told him a bit about the collective. Benni then stayed for the meeting.

## WALTHAM MILLS OPEN STUDIOS & ROSEBUD

Wendy Wolf, of Waltham Mills Artists Association (WMAA) is this year's Open Studios Coordinator. She has been a member of WMAA for 4 years. The WMAA was formed 40 years ago and Wendy believes this year's Open Studios should celebrate that, and is pushing for an expanded event with a larger presence within the community. However the WMAA has an aging population, and many are tired of the effort and have even considered eliminating Open Studios. In contrast Wendy has considered adding a second event such as a party or fundraiser. Doug suggested that the WMAA artists should consider the value of Open Studios as a community benefit that is likely to be important to the owner of their buildings.

[Rosebud](#) is a satellite gallery in Waltham Center featuring works from the Rose Art Museum's collection of video art, established about one year ago. Wendy suggested that Rosebud presents a particular opportunity for AgX as well as a way to achieve her goal of expanding this year's Open Studios into the Waltham community. The gallery is a small space at street level. They have limited hours weekday afternoons and Saturdays, but would like more exposure and are open to expanded hours. Wendy would like AgX to consider doing something at Rosebud for Open Studios in addition to the AgX space, perhaps for a whole month's exhibition. The group agreed that this is a good idea. Rob proposed an evening screening outside the space. He also suggested that something could be planned in tandem with the Waltham Film Factory workshop screening, either before or afterwards. However nothing specific was put forward.

Wendy also would like to feature promotion of AgX events in the Open Studios brochure, as well as the website, blog, and Facebook page. She reported that WMAA currently has two websites: one for the membership and one specifically for Open Studios participants. A new website with calendar of events is being developed. The schedule for Open Studios is November 5 and 6, noon to 6:00 PM.

## HIGH SCHOOL WORKSHOP

Matt and Rob reported that the Cambridge School of Weston week-long workshop was a success, however it was clear that more staffing was needed. The bottleneck was in processing of the students' films. They were fortunate that Ethan was there on several of the workshop days helping to process. Rob taught the workshop pro-bono and, at \$175 per student, he recommended that we double the fee for the next workshop. He also suggested doing four high school workshops annually. An AgX staff processing workshop could serve as a way to help process the student films. The students appeared to be mostly graduating seniors. Rob had proposed the workshop to his neighbor, Allison Safford, who teaches at the school.

The group discussed pursuing possible film discounts from Kodak and ORWO for these workshops. Matt reported that a member of the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation was one of the founders of Avid and has connections with Kodak, and will provide discounted film for Saturday's workshop.

Rob wants to contact the Middlesex Community College in Lowell to see if there's interest in a workshop. He proposed creating a working group to coordinate future workshops. AgX now has relevant contracts and release forms drafted. Stefan said he is planning an AgX and/or public workshop.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE & MEMBER LISTSERVE

Doug again suggested that AgX needs an email list limited to members. Rob agreed that one is needed and offered the example of the draft grant proposal, which he believes should not be shared with the wider list. Stefan cautioned that there are people on the extended listserve that we want to keep in the loop. Brittany suggested that a member listserve might be used only occasionally as needed for certain messages inappropriate for the wider group. Frank suggested that limiting operational correspondence to a member listserve and confining the wider listserve to event updates might improve the experience for that audience. Currently in addition to the listserve AgX has a mailing list for those who are interested in AgX activities, however nothing has been sent to that list since the fundraiser. Frank proposed an AgX newsletter listing past and

future events to send to the mailing list. Brittany said Mailchimp could be used to promote AgX events more. After additional discussion, Stefan agreed to create a separate member listserve.

Stefan reported that AgX currently has 43 members. New members now get a welcome message and an alert is sent to the welcoming group. Sarah and Gen have added a requirement that new members provide a phone number. They have begun to make personal contact with inactive members and those who haven't been contributing dues.

#### WEBSITE

Matt and Frank have new designs for the member profile page and that should be ready by the next meeting. Frank said the layout is dry and they are working on a more presentable design. Stefan suggests getting all members on the site prior to launch.

#### FUNDRAISING

Rob has forwarded the draft of the Boston Foundation grant proposal that the Fundraising Group has been working on. It is due around September 20. Their group will meet again before the deadline. Rob would like input on the draft as soon as possible.

#### FILMMAKER POTLUCK DINNER

Brittany reported that there was a good turnout at the last Potluck event, however the space was small and uncomfortable for the number of attendees (predominantly animators and documentary filmmakers, most of them women). She described an emphasis on networking, and interest in collaboration, particularly with musicians and interest in live performance. There was also a lot of interest in the common calendar. Gen and Matt are pushing for a common URL calendar. Our group discussed the value of a formal agenda. Rob suggested that some amount of structure would be beneficial. Ernesto countered that unstructured discussion can also be valuable, and can inspire creativity, that all meetings do not have to be practical.

The next dinner will be at Doug's studio on September 11.

#### CONVERSATIONS AROUND AESTHETICS

Ernesto suggested that initiating a conversation around AgX distribution could be a way to introduce the topic of aesthetics into group discussion. He suggested the group consider what makes an AgX film or video, whether there is an AgX identity that could be used to design a package for distribution. The group discussed possible definitions of AgX works, and agreed that "experimental" is not an appropriate description. Rob has described the group's work as "D.I.Y." Stefan has used the term "marginalized" and also proposed "arts-focussed" and "personal filmmaking." Frank mentioned the currently used phrase "personal documentary" and its separate meaning as a type of documentary different from personal filmmaking. Stefan suggested AgX can be whatever members want it to be. Rob mentioned that the New York Film Festival's Projections program lists categories of avant-garde film. He said we could create a focussed program or a "sampler." Rob proposed that AgX organize a distribution working group.

Ernesto argued against having a "salon" but instead stated that what he wants is stimulus. He argued that equipment has been the main focus of the group. He proposed occasional screenings and discussion of works outside AgX membership. Doug suggested that a small way to introduce more discussion of aesthetics would be to briefly solicit recommendations of films, books, music, etc. from members at each meeting. Stefan argued that meetings be devoted to pressing practical matters. He said he thought the work-in-progress screenings might provide enough discussion of aesthetics for some members, but perhaps not others.

#### WATERWORKS EVENT

Stefan requested an update on member participation and progress. He needs to try to structure the event. 12-19 members have expressed interest but he's actually worried that there won't be enough work. Doug has sent moire pattern sound film processed at AgX to Colorlab for both positive and negative prints. The resulting film could be long or short as needed. The group

discussed the possibility of loops and rewinding. Stefan suggested a rewinding station could be set up. Rob said he has a 17-minute AgX West film that could be used as "filler." Rob also has Waltham waterfall double-projection. Sean may have a short loop that could work. Frank has a slide projection which he would manipulate. Chrissy, Anto, and Sarah are working on two different pieces together, including possibly a projection within projection.

The group proposed different times for possible site meeting (August 27 or 28, possibly Wednesday nights), but did not set a date.

#### CLASS VISITS

Jonathan Schwartz wants to bring his Keene State College class for a visit to AgX. Stefan will inquire about his class and what he wants from a visit. Kathryn Ramey would also like to bring her Emerson class to AgX. The group speculated that Kathryn would want to introduce her class to the work of AgX members and tour our facilities. Rob suggested having our Model C working would be important for Kathryn's class. Kathryn is asking for a Monday in November; Jonathan for a Thursday morning in late October or early November.

The group briefly discussed other contacts including the negative cutter, [Matt Wageknecht](#), and [Josh Lewis](#). Stefan would like to invite Josh for a Balagan screening or workshop.

#### EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Sean has a 6-plate, single-screen Steenbeck available to donate to AgX or a member, however he has to move within a week. Sean would have Dwight Cody give the machine a once-over. Matt suggested Dwight could also take care of moving the Steenbeck. The group discussed the state of the existing Steenbeck, owned by Bryan. It also needs work. Stefan reminded the group that Bryan has repeatedly said he would eventually want to move the Steenbeck to his Detroit facility. At this point Bryan joined the group and confirmed that he would eventually move the Steenbeck, but did not see that happening any time soon. He said if any work was to be done on the Steenbeck, he should pay a substantial portion of the cost. Bryan also mentioned that RISD has several Steenbecks, 4-, 6-, and 8-plate, and may be downsizing in the future. Stefan mentioned that Robert Gardner's widow has two excellent Steenbecks and might be willing to donate one to AgX. The group discussed the possibility of AgX taking the Steenbeck initially and passing it on to either Sarah or Pam, who have both expressed interest, if AgX decides against keeping it. It was argued that if Dwight is engaged to work on Bryan's Steenbeck, he could also work on Sean's at AgX, saving travel cost. Rob contacted Chrissy at Emerson who said Dwight was scheduled at Emerson between August 29 and September 2.

Ernesto suggested that the equipment inventory is important. Rob will follow up.

#### NEXT MEETING & OTHER SCHEDULING

The next AgX Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, at 1:00 PM at AgX. The following meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 23, at 1:00 PM at Doug's studio (300 Summer Street, Unit 13, Boston).

The next Boston Filmmaker Potluck is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, from 7 to 9:00 PM at Doug's studio.

Balagan will present *Formal Subversions: Films from Cologne and Bonn, Germany*, at the Coolidge Corner Theatre Tuesday, September 6, at 7:00 PM.

The Waterworks event is scheduled for Friday, September 16, at 7:00 PM.

The Waltham Film Factory screening at the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, at 7:00 PM, with a followup workshop Saturday, October 22, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Matt is organizing this and has called for work from members.

The next Work-in-Progress screenings are as yet unscheduled. Ernesto will contact Valery to see if she plans to schedule one.

Ethan had postponed the AgX North event at ANYEYE and this also remains to be scheduled.

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

The Inventory work day schedule is to be determined. Rob will coordinate.

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