



AgX Meeting
Saturday, December 19, 2015, 1:00 PM
AgX Space
144 Moody Street, Waltham

Present:

Frank Aveni
Ethan Berry
Alex Bickford
Sarah Bliss
Nic Brynolfson (1:40)
Genevieve Carmel
Sean Fisher
Isaac Fuhrman

Stefan Grabowski
Luke Jumes
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Mike Piso
Kathryn Ramey
Robert Todd
Douglas Urbank

AGENDA

Budget & Finance Update
Membership Update, AgX Website & Membership Promotion
Member Listserve
Fundraiser Perk Delivery
Darkroom/Lab Buildout Update
Equipment Donations
5-Year Lease
FilmLabs Conference
City Feed and Supply Book Signing Opportunity

OTHER ITEMS

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

INTRODUCTIONS

The members introduced themselves to new members, Sean Fisher and Luke Jumes.

BUDGET & FINANCE UPDATE

Stefan reported that to date AgX has 24 committed members, whose monthly dues commitments total around \$1,000. Combined with Imagivision payments of \$400, the total leaves us \$600 short of the \$2,000 monthly minimum needed to meet rent and utilities. Stefan reviewed the proposed membership amounts for the new members and reiterated the need for some members to pay more than \$40 per month for the time being. Doug reported that some of the members have yet to begin making payments, and agreed to send a message asking them to start and encouraging automatic payments through Dwolla. Doug discussed the difficulty of keeping track of the various payment methods (Dwolla, PayPal, direct bank transfer, bank transfer via Eastern Bank Mail Teller, and personal check) and it was agreed that we should try to limit payment methods. The group discussed the possibility of using Quickbooks to track payments. Stefan will create a MailChimp account to remind members to pay dues. The Budget & Finance committee will schedule a meeting to discuss improving the payment situation. Stefan will follow up with Indiegogo on the fundraiser payment.

MEMBER LISTSERVE

The group discussed the transition to a new listserve for AgX members. The main listserve would be used for public screening and public workshop announcements. Gen suggested it could also be used to advertise meetings. For the member listserve, the group discussed the possibility of establishing Google groups for the different working groups, or the option of including the working group name in an email subject line. It was agreed that the latter is preferable rather than to exclude members outside a particular working group from information.

WEBSITE UPDATE & MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

Website Update

Doug suggested that before we can transition to a new listserve, we need both promotion of AgX membership and the membership application available on a website. In addition to the AgX website being developed, Facebook was mentioned as a possible promotional tool. Frank reviewed the status of the website design. AgX will use Drupal, which has a number of advantages including powerful modules that could be used to track lab and equipment availability and scheduling. Drupal is also very easy to maintain and update. Matt McWilliams did the initial work on the site before leaving AgX. Frank is more familiar with Wordpress so progress has been slower on Drupal. Corrine will help with work on the front end. They had planned to work on it between Christmas

and New Year's holidays, but the Balagan/AgX site was down for several days. Stefan can also help with Drupal. Regarding management of the lab and equipment inventory Stefan suggested FileMaker as an option until the website is ready. The group discussed possible benefits of having lab and equipment use managed by an individual member. Sarah raised the possibility of creating a temporary Wordpress site to get the basic promotion and membership information established. Frank set a goal to set up a basic site using Drupal, with promotion and membership information, by the beginning of February, if possible.

Membership Promotion and Local Institutions

Doug again suggested AgX have a presence in all local teaching institutions. The group compiled a list of schools including Harvard, SMFA, MassArt, Emerson, Montserrat, Boston College, Boston University, Leslie College, Framingham, Fitchburg, Wellesley, Brandeis and Northeastern. Sean works at Harvard History of Art and Architecture Department and could make inroads at the Fogg. Ethan can work with Salem, Gordon, and Endicott, as well as Montserrat. Ernesto is at BC. The group has faculty at others. Gen announced that journalist, Jake Mulligan, wants to write about AgX and that Gen and Stefan are meeting with him tomorrow, and will invite him to an upcoming workshop. Doug suggested that any general press outreach include Heather Kapplow who has also expressed interest in writing about AgX. Luke has connections at Boston Compass. Luke volunteered to work on a flyer or postcard to promote AgX. Doug recommended he contact Brittany who designed the AgX logo and has created past promotional materials.

FUNDRAISER PERK DELIVERY

Regarding the silkscreened t-shirts and tote bags Ethan reported that the screens have been acquired and the film positives are burned. He has t-shirts in different colors. He suggested silver spray paint underneath the blank logo. The group scheduled January 24 for printing. Stefan repeated request for hi-res files for DVD/Blu-ray, which could be sent to him via wetransfer.com or Google drive. Isaac reported that he delivered the CinemaScope and Cabinet magazine perks. Ethan added that he's also working on vinyl and stickers with the AgX logo.

DARKROOM/LAB REVIEW

The group took a short break, while Ethan gave a tour of the lab progress for those interested. There is a leak coming from the floor above which needs to be addressed. Ethan has been in touch with the property manager, Susan Murphy, who has been very responsive, and that issue should be resolved reasonably soon. There are also a number of remaining light leaks, and Stefan and Ethan will work to close those Tuesday. Ethan described the ventilation and reviewed some other particulars about use of the lab, including maximum number of simultaneous participants, Lomo setup, donated shelving, and storage.

LEASE

Doug reported on his meeting with property manager, Susan Murphy, accompanied by Bryan. The landlord uses a standard City of Boston lease with amendments, and Susan sent a copy to Doug for review. Doug will probably review it with a friend who's a lawyer. Susan agreed to postpone the rent increase to \$1,800 per month until April. The final lease with specific language about AgX rental amount will come later. Doug came away from the meeting feeling that AgX will have a good relationship with Susan.

EQUIPMENT DONATION

Kevin Rice would like to postpone the schedule for transport of the Oxberry optical printer until at least late March. There is also Harvard's Oxberry animation stand which is currently disassembled. Stefan reported that there is no urgency to collect it. It will need space around it and 220 volt current. We'll most likely need to hire an electrician. Luke added that he will donate a 16 mm titler. Stefan reported that he talked with a Fogg Art Museum conservator who claimed to have 8,000 cameras, mostly 8 and 16 mm with some 35 mm, that he would be interested in donating. Ethan suggested inviting him to do an equipment demonstration workshop. Stefan will follow up. Vassar College may also donate equipment, including an Elmo 16 mm video transfer unit. Ethan raised the issue of whether we could have a yard sale to sell off excess equipment. Stefan responded that, as AgX has non-profit status, any equipment owned by AgX cannot be sold, which is why equipment in the space is considered to be on long-term loan from individuals. Gen suggested that AgX develop a policy on equipment. The group discussed the need to organize the space and make room for the new equipment prior to delivery. There is some space in the storage closet, but it's largely filled. Stefan suggested we need a locking cabinet. Rob reported that an inventory of equipment had been started, but needed to be updated. Ethan recommended a group work day to set up shelving and organize, and the group scheduled a drop-in date Saturday, February 6.

CITY FEED & SUPPLY BOOK SIGNING OPPORTUNITY

Kathryn's friends who own City Feed in Jamaica Plain want to have a book signing party to celebrate publication of her book, Break the Machine. City Feed hosts regular events including participation in JP's "First Thursdays." Her idea is to organize a direct animation workshop possibly geared toward kids, including splicing a loop together and projecting it, plus also screening some AgX member short films. She will apply to Emerson for funds for expenses including a postcard featuring AgX, City Feed, and her book. She will contact Matt McWilliams who is the only filmmaker connected with AgX who is featured in her book. She can purchase copies of her book at a 30% discount and make them available to AgX members and others at the same discount. Ethan stated that the book is excellent and the only one of its kind. Kathryn will talk with City Feed and suggest February 4, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

FILMLABS CONFERENCE JULY 2016

Ethan reported that he had registered 3 AgX member slots for the conference, and indicated that AgX would want FilmLabs to provide housing for those attending. (Ethan would attend as a representative of ANYEYE at Montserrat but would also promote AgX.) He identified possible workshops and panel discussions for AgX, and provided the example of a panel discussion on the relationship between independent labs and local teaching institutions, which may be somewhat particular to AgX. Ethan has priced airfare at \$1,500 per person. Doug and Stefan reported that it is possible to find lower fares. Doug and Stefan would like to attend and Doug will investigate travel grants. Kathryn also registered and may attend as well.

SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

Doug reviewed the offer from Sandra of the The Firehouse Space, which recently hosted Kevin Rice's program co-curated by Mariya, *Frenkel Defects III*. The group agreed we would want to curate a program of AgX films to present. Doug reported that the screening could probably be scheduled at any time.

Ethan reviewed the Salem Film Fest opportunity (March 3-10, 2016). The fest is all documentary and Gen reported that it's usually excellent. AgX participation would entail producing 90-second vignettes or "bumpers" centered on Salem. Ethan has already done some super-8 shooting at a local propellor shop. He suggests a group shoot and will alert members the next time he plans to go.

Doug reviewed the offer by Marc Miller of Fort Point Theatre Channel who is programming a series called Senses at Internal Matter cafe in Fort Point and would like to present one or more AgX screening programs. Doug reported that the program would most likely be video run by DVD and that the ideal program would be films that don't require constant focus, as people would be eating, drinking and talking. Another possibility is the DVD Stefan authored for Open Studios.

Stefan reported on an offer from Susanna Bolle of Non-Event to collaborate on a Metropolitan Waterworks Museum program. Waterworks is preservation of an old pumping station in Chestnut Hill as a historic museum. Balagan/AgX would work with Non-Event on a program combining screenings with experimental sound performance. Stefan reported that old brass and metal equipment is preserved in the space and that loud, droning sound is amazing there. He envisions a multi projection performance of AgX works designed specifically for Waterworks. He does not think a single channel screening makes sense in the space. This would probably not be scheduled before the fall of this year.

Rob reported on meeting some of our neighbors from the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation (154 Moody Street) during Open Studios who would like to discuss a possible AgX event.

NEXT MEETING & OTHER SCHEDULING

The next AgX Meeting was scheduled for Saturday, February 27, at 1:00 PM at AgX in Waltham.

The Silkscreening work day to produce fundraiser perks is scheduled for January 24 at AgX.

The Studio Organization work day is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, as a drop-in day for volunteers to build shelving and organize equipment in preparation for large equipment donation. It will be followed by a meeting of the Budget & Finance Working Group.

The 16 mm Workshop is scheduled for Sunday, February 7, at 1:00 PM.

The next Work-in-Progress screening will be organized by Valery, date to be determined.

The Kevin Rice visit and equipment donation will be rescheduled, tentatively around the end of March.

WORKING GROUPS

Sarah requested that the Working Group list (attached) be posted so that newer members could review opportunities to participate in various areas. Doug reported that the list used to be appended to the meeting minutes, but that the groups needed to be updated.

End of Meeting Notes
Notes by Douglas Urbank

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