

AgX Fundraising Group Meeting minutes

June 4, 2016

Present: Stefan Grabowski, Mike Piso, Gen Carmel, Rob Todd, Isaac Fuhrmann, Sarah Bliss

Boston Foundation Grant

Update from Rob: The BF has focused on the performing arts. We need to make a strong pitch for film. We need to connect with the Director of Arts and Culture Programming at BF to do this.

Consider reshaping our proposal's educational mission to help fund the bringing-together of Boston's patchwork of film organizations. Include in the proposal clear links with partners we can work with, such as: Boston Neighborhood Network cable station. They're based in Jackson Square, where we might develop a satellite AgX. BNN director is Chris Hendersoin. They do after-school video programs for Boston kids, and could endorse/support our BF grant.

Also: the potluck dinner meeting we're hosting with our Boston-area filmmakers who are outside the institutional structure: Tech Poets, hackers, screeners, Film Fatales, etc.

Project Timeline:

By June 30: Stefan will get budget info input in Common App.

July 1: We should then be able to access the full Boston Foundation app.

Thursday July 14, 6-8 pm, at Waltham AgX: Next Fundraising Group meeting.

Brainstorm approach and ideas for the proposal.

Before August AgX Business meeting: create draft of proposal using Google Docs.

Email to AgX membership prior to August meeting.

August Business Meeting: ask for feedback from members

September: rework proposal

September 27: proposal due

Who's interested in helping on what:

Assessment: Gen and Mike

Financials and Budget: Rob, with input from Stefan

Fill in the blanks: Isaac and Sarah

Outreach to foundation reps, as needed: Isaac

Next steps:

- Isaac will cleanup the Google Doc we've been working on
- Stefan will input Balagan/AgX budget info into Common App by June 30

Berkshire Taconic Trust A.R.T. Grant

We decided to hold off on this grant until 2017, focusing on energy on the BF and MCC LCC grants. We'll write a proposal to fund a filmmaker for an AgX residency, to commission a new film by her/him, for them to give a workshop, and to host a screening of the commissioned film. Be thinking about artists we'd like to collaborate with on this. They must be a resident of New England or Columbia and Northeast Dutchess counties in New York state. One possibility is Peter Hutton. Anticipated proposal deadline: August 10, 2017.

MCC LCC grants

We brainstormed project ideas for proposals, including:

A) Community-based 16 mm filmmaking workshop/s at subway stops. City infrastructure. Mapping. Exploring. Placemaking. The place where you live. People would sign up for a stop near the and they'd be connected with an AgX person who'd coach them thru' it. Edit in camera? Include developing, or have AgX do developing? Funding for developing costs, film, super 8 cameras. Then screen in subway stops. Could be done in Boston, Malden, Everett, Waltham, etc

Next steps:

- Gen will organize an AgX T Stop Field Day. Saturday July 16?
- Gen will flesh idea out more

B) Boston's Artist in Residence Program: The T stop idea might also be developed into a proposal for Boston's new AiR program that works with social issues, connects new populations to art as problem solver.

→ Note: need someone to look into this.

C) Neighborhood history: Screen old films on film that are about history of neighborhoods (e.g.: Richard Rogers: Neighbors: Conservation in a Changing Community) and then revisit those issues and people, now. Pair old and new filmmakers. DER/AgX collaboration? Destruction of West End (urban renewal putting the highway in, destroying neighborhoods). What does it mean to do urban development, and how is it impacting the city? (the "Innovation District"). Bezya Boyacioglu might be interested

in this project; has some background in it. [Post-meeting note: Gen and Sarah spoke with Beyza and she's quite interested.]

C) Partner with community access tv stations to host/develop events there that tie into their existing teaching for kids. Could be in Cambridge, Brookline, Somerville, Boston. Isaac has contacts in Somerville. They're interested in doing more screenings.

E) Waltham and the River: A pilot program: involve people getting to know their river and their city, thru' film. Document Waltham thru' the river. Film in and along the river (by boat and foot and....) Document changes in industry and land use along the river. Collaborate with Charles River Conservancy?

F) Waltham: partnerships with Brandeis or Wellesley's Davis Museum. (Rob's done screenings at Brandeis' art department.) Something relating to the river? Laurie Kahn is a visiting filmmaker Brandeis' Women's Studies Research Center for Art and Activism. Gen will research this.

G) For 2017: Expanded Waterworks: this will be a test run for their doing screening events. They've done music events. If it goes well, apply for a 2017 LCC grant for the second annual next year.

H) Charles River upstream and downstream. Mills. This may be a focus for our 2016 Waterworks show.

Next steps:

- Isaac will identify the decisionmaker/s for Waltham's LCC.
- Gen will research Brandeis' Women's Studies Research Center for Art and Activism.

MCC Cultural Investment Portfolio Grant: Due May 16. Missed this year's cycle. Be sure it's on our docket for next year. Funds unrestricted infrastructure & operating support, range of \$6000- \$56,000.

6/7/16: Minutes submitted by Sarah Bliss