

VISUAL EFFECTS SOCIETY – VANCOUVER SECTION
Board Meeting, September 12, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Shauna Bryan, Marshall Krasser, Steve Garrad, Mat Krentz, Gayle Munro
Apology : Anuj Patil, Chris Downs

Action Points:

Steve

- Invite DNeg to a screening at Sony (Tuesday 9/18 or Thursday 9/20) as this may put his mind at ease re sound at their theatre.
- Steve is to email Ben at HQ for approvals on the three retro screenings.
- Steve to send electronic copy of the list of all potential films and guests.
- Steve to reach out to a high end programmer who was at DNeg and lives in Seattle (D&! event).
- Steve to talk to Gail Sexsmith who used to head up BC Hydro for one of the TED talks (D&! event).
- Steve to come up with a list of potential education events and presenters to select at our next meeting.

Gayle

- Email Neill Blomkamp re being our Regional Awards Celebration honouree.
- Send a draft of the Neill email to the Vancouver Board for approval.
- Investigate alternative venues for this event.
- Once key sponsor/s locked in (Sept/Oct) approach local facilities for smaller sponsorship, eg \$500.
- Gayle to write down what she did in the lead up to Mat Leonard's presentation.

Marta

- Send update on finances.
- Confirm that we have sent HQ our bank statements.

Shauna

- Provide contact for the Unconscious Bias to Sue.
- Send Sue the D&! section report she has already sent to HQ.
- Shauna to email Habib, cc'ing Steve, to find out when he's going to be back in Vancouver.

Sue

- Sue send to board a summary of the format and suggested people for feedback prior to sending out a follow up email to people she has informally spoken for responses by the end of next week (September 21st).

1. Call Meeting to Order

- Shauna called the meeting to order at 6.36pm.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Marta was unable to attend.
- Will send update remotely.
- We may still owe HQ our bank statements – were these sent so we can trigger our stipend payment.

3. Screenings

Regular Screenings

- Will continue to do these at Sony.
- Attendance generally around the 20 or so mark, with the exception of the one held during Siggraph week which had no-one attend.
- IE Theatre: Need to sort out DCHP issue.
- DNeg Theatre: Gun shy as they aren't happy with their sound quality. Steve to invite him to a Sony screening on either Tuesday 18th or Thursday 20th September to show him the sound quality there which may put his mind at ease.
- Sue talking with Paul Lambert about doing a The First Man screening.

Retro Screenings:

- Can be at IE as would be off Blu-Ray.
- Format would be that we would screen the movie and then have post movie drinks nearby.
- Priority films from the list (Steve to email full list to the Board):
 1. Galaxy Quest with Marshall Krasser – schedule for October.
 2. Hunger Games w Francis Lawrence / Adrian De Wet who are in Vancouver (Francis leaves December) – Schedule for November.
 3. The Maze Runner w Sue Rowe – Early in 2019.
- Steve is going to email Ben at HQ for approvals.
- Steve to send electronic copy of the list of all potential films and guests.

4. Social Events

Report from Regional Awards subcommittee

- Subcommittee have had several meetings with ongoing status report to HQ every three weeks.
- HQ are happy with progress so far.
- They did feel our proposal was ambitious given for example NY are only up to about 150 after doing it for a couple of years.
- We're doing a pass based on 125-150 attendees (including sponsors).
- Using Grouse in the meantime with a hold for March 16th, but are looking at alt venue options that are equally ideal. Would be either a Saturday or Thursday night depending on availability.

- Format would be cocktail with served food and food stations. Presentation would be 30 minutes maximum and have another space so that there's two areas.
- Shortlist of nominees was presented to HQ but as most Van people live in LA and we are only allowed to pay for flights and accommodation costs, but not pay them.
- Stephanie (event planner via Matt) is happy to help, we can identify to what level we would like her to contribute.
- Gayle investigating alternate venues, local facility sponsorship and approaching Neil Blomkamp re being our honoree. Gayle will send draft out for approval prior to sending.
- Need better information on who attends to be able to give our sponsors.

Pub Nights

- Method are sponsoring the next Pub Night, which is being held at Craft on W 1st Ave on Wednesday September 19th. Spread the word!
- Have been approached via the VES website by an immigration firm who are interested in talking about sponsoring the October one – Gayle is in communication with them.

5. Education

Report from D&I subcommittee

- Diversity and Inclusion may not be the best thing to call it. Can everyone have a think about what we could call it that is more indicative of what the event is, eg visibility and inclusion within the VFX industry for women.
- Sue is going to dig further into the fact that 60% of VFX, Anim, Games and VR students are female yet only 30% of applications are female.
- Women who Code have opened up a Vancouver chapter, but nobody has really engaged with Sue beyond a few emails.
- After the event, if we end up at Emily Carr then we could do drinks and nibbles in their Atrium area. Would only cost \$700 to cover their direct costs, eg janitorial and AV costs. This space can hold up to 400 people, but even if only 100 people came it would feel like a good attendance.
- November 3rd was the target date, half day from 1pm-5pm with mixer after that. If time gets away on us then we could push to January.
- Event would be recorded.
- Need to keep in mind the alcohol vs minors issue, so if we are targeting students and people early in their career. Also hope to attract males as well.
- Clementine Lowe has been approached.
- Steve to reach out to a high end programmer who was at DNeg and lives in Seattle.
- Steve to talk to Gail Sexsmith who used to head up BC Hydro for one of the TED talks.
- Shauna to provide contact for the Unconscious Bias to Sue.
- Total of 3 TED talks each being 7-10 minutes.
- Want to have a mixed panel, not just females.
- Key speaker, then TED talks, then Panel discussion and hopefully ending with someone from local government.
- Sue send to board a summary of the format and suggested people for feedback prior to sending out a follow up email to people she has informally spoken for responses by the end of next week (September 21st).

- Shauna sending Sue the section report she has already sent to HQ.
- Need to decide whether it would be an all free event for anyone to attend, or just free for students and VES members plus one guest.
- Habib Zargarpour would be happy to do an education event on Virtual Cameras and Real Time Rendering, etc. Shauna to email him cc'ing Steve to find out when he's going to be back in Vancouver.

General education events:

- Steve to come up with a list of potential education events and presenters to select at our next meeting.
- Gayle to write down what she did in the lead up to Mat Leonard's presentation.

6. Health Benefits

- No update.

7. Sponsorship

- Kerry putting together a proposal for sponsorship packages for the Regional Awards.
- Need to supply a list of who we are approaching to make sure multiple VES locations aren't approaching the same people.
- Sohonet and Teradici definitely will be approached.
- AnnexPro and AMD will also be approached.
- Teradici and Sohonet follow up Lunch or call for sponsorship moving forward.

8. Membership

- Next intake is September 15th.
- If anyone needs a endorsement letter from an existing member we should direct them to Matt who will try to find someone.
- Currently Vancouver has 193 members.

9. New Business

- Marshall wondered if we should have an immigration lawyer give a talk to VFX artists. However VES shouldn't attach themselves to this kind of presentation. Shauna to confirm with Callie at HQ on immigration, tax, rebate, etc for advice on how to deal with those questions.
- Variety hard copy deliveries are annoying some members – when you get email Variety saying that as a member you get a free Variety subscription there is an opt out button. Sue to email Ben letting him know this feedback.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held at Sony Imageworks, 725 Granville Street on Wednesday 10th October 2018.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm