

VISUAL EFFECTS SOCIETY – VANCOUVER SECTION

Board Meeting, November 20th, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Shauna Bryan, Sue Rowe, Matt Krantz, Dennis Hoffman, Marshall Krasser, Gayle Munro, Steve Garrad, Marta Mintenko & Carly Cook

VIA HANGOUT : Kerry Corlett

Action Points

Everyone

- Spread the word about the VES Awards judging on 1/12/2019.
- Think about names for the Regional Award.
- Provide feedback on the sponsorship doc by 9pm on Friday 11/23
- Give Dennis your thoughts on how you would like intern's time to be treated with regards to it contributing to the 5 years experience to become a member.

Marta

- Handoff of the Treasurer's responsibilities including signing over the account and debit card to Matt. Also to get a second card for Sue to hold. All 3 need to need at a TD to achieve this before Christmas.
- Send bank records to HQ.
- Follow up with Callie on payment and calculation of stipend.

Steve

- Provide Lorin with food and beverage requirements for education event on 11/27.

Sue

- Update education event flyer to attract people who might think they don't need lessons on creating a showreel.
- Talk to SPARK about opening up this event to them also.

Shauna

- Email HQ as to why Ryan Reynolds and Seth Rogen are important to Vancouver in consideration of one being our inaugural honoree.
- Find out what Sohonet are doing for their industry day in Montreal.

1. Call meeting to Order

- Shauna called the meeting to order at 6.38pm

2. Treasurer's Report

- No change in bank balance, awaiting \$5kUS for Siggraph from Sohonet.
- Invoice went to Labeau Law firm for Pub Night \$500CA
- Awaiting Method payment for previous pub night, \$500CA

- Expenses for SPARK sponsorship \$2.5k for WIM event plus our Diversity Event
- Voting event on 1/12 but HQ will cover costs up to \$1K US.
- Christmas thank you gifts for supporters @ \$50CA per person.
- Bank records to be sent to HQ.
- Marta needs to do a handoff of the Treasurer's responsibilities including signing over the account and the card to Matt. Second card for now will be Sue Rowe. Marta, Sue and Matt to meet at the bank to do this – Marta to organize.
- Shauna motioned for Matt, Carried unanimously.

3. Screenings

- Ralph wrecks the internet – 45-50 people attended, including security.
- Around 30 of these attendees were from Capilano.
- Is around \$275 to rent their theatre, but we are providing free seats to them. Steve to talk to Cap to see if we can get it reduced. Best not to promise any number of screenings.
- If we use DNeg though we may not need Cap any more. Steve G to talk to them about utilizing it moving forward.
- Upcoming screenings, Carly sending out update.
- Overlord, The Grinch confirmed and waiting on confirmation for next week.
- Attendance at Sony screenings is usually around 20-30.

4. VES Awards Nominations Judging Event

- Chris taking the main role again this year, with support from Sue.
- Went really smoothly last year at IE and with the electronic voting it makes it much easier.
- Everyone needs to get as many people as possible, so spread the word.
- Theatre takes 45 people and in 2018 around 30 people turned up.
- Sign up here : <https://www.visualeffectssociety.com/webform/ves-awards-nomination-judging-2019>
- Starts at 9.00am and the goal would be to finish by 3.00pm.
- Lorin sorting the food for this event.

5. Education Events

a. Show reel education

- Event on 11/27 @ 6.30pm with a 6.00pm mixer before. Using IE again.
- Putting seats at the front for the panel.
- Using Method's reel and stills as examples since they are already approved for public domain.
- Steve coming up with a list of dos and don'ts.
- Can plug into IE's projector.
- Nibbles and a drink beforehand. Give IE a heads up, ok to spend up to \$300.
- Give them an advance heads up and Lorin/IE will sort the nibbles and beer/wine. Steve to reach out.
- Low response to date, only 7 people.
- Potentially reach out to schools and give each school 5 x seats.

- Shauna suggested we add more details to attract industry professionals pointing out that a showreel is an ongoing thing throughout their careers and gives an opportunity to what VFX Supervisors and Recruiters are looking for. It's an opportunity to get an inside look at dos and don'ts from the people who make the hiring decisions.
 - Pitch along the lines of "You might think your reel is good, etc". Sue to update the flyer material and re-send.
 - Open the event up to SPARK, Sue to mention when she's talking to Sly tomorrow and will bring this up.
 - HOLD ON APPROACHING SCHOOLS FOR NOW UNTIL WE HAVE FEEDBACK ON THE SPARK APPROACH.
- b. Ongoing reel submission & feedback (suggestion from Sohonet)**
- Sohonet suggested that we could hold an event maybe twice a year to critique people's existing showreels.

6. Social Events

a. Women in Media, Tools for Change, SPARK

- Looking like this will be on 2/10/2019 jumping onto the coat tails of SPARK's event.
- Sue proposes that we sponsor SPARK for \$2,500 for which we get their email database and their volunteers on the Sunday.
- Want to get some kind of discount, even if only 10%, for VES members to purchase tickets.
- Also allows us to potentially share their speakers.
- Would like Victoria Alonso as the keynote speaker, who is already in discussion with SPARK
- Speaker's Brunch in the morning.
- 12-3pm duration.
- 4-5 TED talks
- Panel to talk about organized subjects, eg gender pay gap, unconscious bias.
- Feedback is that we need it to be motivating and about tools for change, rather than "this happened"
- Really hoping for Mitzi Dean as closing speaker.
- This would be a free event HQ could contribute \$1,000, but it might be at the expense of not having this available for another event.
- Block out \$6k for this event.

b. Regional Awards celebration

- Lots of activity here!
- Sponsorship – Shauna has had good communication with Sohonet and Pixstone.
- Sponsors want to customize throughout the year.
- Sohonet 8-10k for an annual package including a gold sponsorship of this event.
- Pixstone want to do platinum or gold for the Regional Awards.
- Gala event needs 10% discount on tickets. Gayle to check on levels of discount that Shauna suggested and run numbers through the budget.

- Honorees – Neill Blomkamp declined as he said we was out of the country. Shauna reached out to Kathleen Kennedy who came back and said that she's entrenched in production over this time, but would like to be considered for next year.
- Shauna talked to Nancy just before our meeting, their PR person has worked with both Ryan Reynolds and Seth Rogen's team. Shauna to email Nancy with why these people are important to Vancouver so they can send off.
- Approach Seth Rogen first and then Ryan Reynolds as a backup.
- Could go out to Victoria Alonso as a thought.
- Another potential is Kevin Smith.
- Vince Gilligan and Michelle McLaren also are options.
- Shauna to get in touch with Naomi at HQ with these names.
- Award name and design – need to think of a name for the award – EVERYONE.
- Once we have the name we can look at designers.

7. Sponsorship – 10 minutes

a. Review sponsorship deck

- Shauna ran through the sponsorship document including breakdowns of benefits.

b. Update on potential sponsors

- AMD update from Kerry, Nancy at HQ is aware that we are in discussions with them.
- AWS have pulled out, but Kerry can go back to them about hopping in at a lower level along with AMD.
- Sohonet discussions have been about pub nights as well as regional awards.
- Custom events can range in price and what they are, depending on the sponsor.
- Sohonet are doing an industry day in Montreal. Shauna finding out what this event entails as it may be something we want to do.
- Shotgun as a potential sponsor of a custom event. Maybe like a master class with a launch of new benefits. Dennis suggested it could even be a master class series on Autodesk products since they are owned by Autodesk. Could be a one day event and probably better on a weekend.
- Also could do a similar thing with The Foundry, ie Nuke, Mari and Katana.
- Screening sponsorship – HQ approved. Kerry thought that an annual screening package of around \$2,500 for all screenings would be a good thing. Need to think more and tweak this.
- Need to lock in 2019 by December 13th.
- Kerry said to lock down the prices, update the doc and Kerry will start distributing.
- EVERYONE – provide feedback on the sponsorship doc by 9pm on Friday, Shauna sending out and please reply to all with your feedback to update and finalise for sending Monday.

8. Membership

a. New members

- We are at 205 members, Vancouver had around 14 new and returning members for Vancouver.
- 191 total members worldwide.
- Marta to follow up with Callie on payment and calculation of stipend.

- Dennis brought up the issues with applications, the first one being that some endorsement letters looked like form letters. Secondary issue as the VES tries to expand globally that in some new small markets but doesn't have people to endorse them they can go to Tim who will talk to a VES member to write a secondary letter. Committee is trying to formulate a structure of what the procedures are for the secondary letter.
- A lot of applications counted their intern days, when not all are legitimate in all markets depending on what an intern does. Need to standardize how to deal with this and provide feedback to Dennis.
- Matt and Sue feel that internships should count, as does Gayle.
- Marta suggested that we cap the amount of paid internship/academy up to one year and allow it to be part of the 5 years experience. Most are only 3-6 months and still leaves 4 years of experience after this to be eligible.

b. Additional Board Member

- Dennis and Sue suggested that we wait until January elections.
- Could reach out to specific people to see if they'd be interested in joining the board.
- No maximum board size, but generally around 10 or 11 people.
- Shauna sending the list out so we can all see if there's anyone that we think would be good to approach for volunteering in the meantime while we await the January election.

c. Volunteers

- Hannah Cook from DNeg has indicated she would like to be a volunteer.

9. Any Other Business

Marta would like to include the small studios in events to be discussed in next meeting.

10. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be January 9th, 2019 at 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed at 8.31pm