

OFVO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

4th Quarter 2024 (Friday, December 13, 2024)

IN ATTENDANCE

Attending via teleconference were Executive Director Tim Williams, Nathan Cherrington, Board Chair Anish Savjani, and board members Andrew Gay, Rosemary Colliver, Elyse Taylor Liburd, and Liz Mowe.

CALL TO ORDER

Recognizing a quorum of board members, Anish called the meeting to order on December 13, 2024 at 12:02pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Anish moved that the board accept the 3rd Quarter 2024 Board Meeting minutes. Rosemary seconded. All in favor. The 3rd Quarter 2024 minutes were approved.

BOARD UPDATE

- Tim asked what board members' availability would be to possibly have an in-person gathering in the new year. Tim mentioned that he would like to plan to meet on a Wednesday or Thursday the week of Feb. 10th if possible. The majority of the board seemed to think that should work. More to come in the new year.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Tim mentioned that the OFVO budget is looking ok and there are no major issues to note at the present time for the upcoming (last) 6 months for the biennium budget. He did address that there are currently some cash-flow issues regarding the Creative Opportunity Fund, but that there is a plan in place to deal with that. There are no other foreseen issues.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tim discussed the year-end numbers and data and noted that production work and numbers are substantially higher this year than they have been in the past few years. As an example, the office worked with 55 different projects in the incentive program this year, this is a large increase from the 30-35 we work with in any given year and marks a 64% increase in work since the pandemic. Although we are ending the year on a positive note, there is still quite a bit of room for improvement.
- Tim noted that the Governor's budget is out and the OFVO is in the budget without a proposed cut at this time. That is good news. He continued that the non-positive news is that there is not a proposed increase to the OPIF program that the office had requested.
- Tim mentioned that there was a second OPIF Tax Credit Auction this past week for the remaining credits that were still available after the previous auction. The good news is that it looks like all of the remaining credits will be purchased and there will be no need for a third auction.

Tim paused to ask if there were any questions. There were none.

OLD BUSINESS

- Tim discussed that a marketing video is currently being produced with the assistance of Cine Rent West. It should be ready in the New Year.
- He noted that there are still unpaid crew wages and vendors expenses on the Salem project "Flash Before the Bang." He also mentioned that there isn't much that the OFVO can do to help get these people paid other than withholding any production rebate moneys from the production until all outstanding payments have been made. Rosemary asked if there is a mechanism to use OPIF funds to pay unpaid crew/vendors. Tim replied that there is not a way for that to happen within the current statute and rules of the program.

Rosemary asked about utilizing incentive funds to pay unpaid vendors and crew and Tim explained that he had explored this option with another "bad acting" production a few years ago, and it appeared to be more complicated than beneficial and sets a not-so-good precedent of paying incentives on productions that have not lived up to their contractual and personnel agreements. BOLI will pay some of the unclaimed wages for payroll but the vendors will need to resort to small claims court. This is an imperfect solution to a bad situation.

- The Governor's set visit on 9/16 went well and she seemed generally supportive of the industry and pleased with what she saw during her visit.
- Creative Opp Program Update/Pathways.

The new COP budget is available and contracts are being enacted with partner programs. The new "project grants" will launch next year. It has also been a good growth year for the Pathways program and, with the addition of a permanent "careers coordinator" for the program there is much more consistency and stability than before.

Rosemary mentioned that with a currently quiet studio space, Shadow Machine currently has a program that is assisting with people producing their own projects and moving ahead within the animation industry.

- Tim discussed the current infrastructure search. He and Elyse recently looked at a space in NE Portland that could be a good possibility but the problem still revolves around finding local investment in the idea. Neither the city nor the state can be "first money in" and outside investment does not see the state's incentive program as large enough to building stages from scratch. The current search is focusing on marrying space with investment and then working to increase the OPIF program alongside.
- Tim updated on the work being done by Jane on the KGW/Pioneer Sq Office space. There are currently architect's plans and those have been broken out into 3 phases. Grant funds are being sought for the first phase of development. The space is being developed as an education community support space, a showcase for Oregon's film history and a starting point for the Oregon Film Trail. Current partners include, KGW, Pioneer Courthouse Sq, The Hollywood Theatre, Outside the Frame and the Oregon Film Museum.

Elyse mentioned that KGW is committed to another 3 to 5 years of renting the space, so the space will be sitting there and available. There just needs to be a decision made as to who/what will be the best fit for that space.

Tim asked if there were any questions. There were none.

OMCF:

- Tim noted that there is a current project underway for a film tourism video with the Oregon Film Trail and SetJetters. It should be available for the new legislative session in 2025. It uses animated graphics to highlight the data illustrating the value of Film Tourism to Oregon
- There is a new OFT Sign in LaGrande that recognizes the new Eastern Oregon shot film “Breakup Season”. It was placed in partnership with the Eastern Oregon Visitors Association and the Eastern Oregon Film Festival.

Tim asked if there were any questions. There were none.

PROJECT UPDATE

- A new feature has been shooting in Portland this past month and it will be de done at the end of this week. That will be the last production project in the state this calendar year.
- Tim mentioned that there are several projects lining up in Oregon in early 2025. This includes several episodes for an Apple TV series, a large feature film, a feature film for Central Oregon and two medium sized features.
- Recent productions like the Amazon series and three other feature films completed their production work in the state in November.
- Tim explained that there are currently funds still available in the OPIF fund for future projects. He did note that the available amount is quickly decreasing and that it will eventually limit how many projects we are able to attract to Oregon if the OPIF fund is not increased in the upcoming legislative session.

Tim asked if there were any questions. Rosemary mentioned that ShadowMachine should have a project coming up in early 2025. More to come on that soon.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-

- Tim discussed that there will be proposed legislation to increase the OPIF fund from \$20M to \$28M annually in the upcoming legislative session. Rosemary asked who is heading up the push for the increase. Elyse responded that it is being headed up by the OMPA with Michelle Damis, Dan Eason, and Blaine Palmer specifically working on it. Andrew mentioned that he can assist with getting the word out in Southern Oregon as well as possibly working with producer Gary Kout down there on the same.
- Tim said that he will be giving budget testimony for the Oregon Film office in legislative session in January. He will also be setting meetings with legislators to ask about the work of the office.
- Tim mentioned that there will be an opportunity for board members to conduct legislative meetings with their specific legislators to help make them aware of the benefits of the film incentive programs and the possible positive impact an increase to

the program's funding could have.

Tim asked if there were any questions/comments. There were none.

Anish declared the meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.

