

OFVO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

2nd Quarter 2024 (Tuesday, June 25, 2024)

IN ATTENDANCE

Attending via teleconference were Executive Director Tim Williams, Anish Savjani, Liz Mowe, Rosemary Colliver, Elyse Taylor Liburd and Andrew Gay.

CALL TO ORDER

Recognizing a quorum of board members, the meeting to order on June 25, 2024 at 11:06am.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the previous meeting were discussed and approved by unanimous vote.

BOARD

- Intros were conducted and the board welcomed new members Elyse Taylor Liburd & Andrew Gay.
- The board unanimously elected Anish Savjani as Board Chair.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Tim gave a summary review of the biennium budget and stated that all is currently “on track” with there being no obvious trouble spots or overages that have not been accommodated and expected. We are halfway through the biennium and both expenses and funding are at the expected 50% level.

NEW BUSINESS

- Oregon Film supported the Portland Film office in submitting an RFP for the relocation of the Sundance FF in 2027. That RFP was submitted on Thursday, June 20.
- Oregon Film testified at the City of Portland Council meeting for a special proclamation declaring “ShadowMachine Day” on June 12. This proclamation was put together by the Portland Events & Film Office.
- We have been exploring investment in supportive infrastructure (specifically sound stage spaces) in and around Portland. We are looking for local investment in creating a sound stage that can then be refurbished and rented to incoming projects. It is felt that this is needed for Oregon to go to the next stage of production recruitment.
- The OPIF fund may be depleted this coming fiscal year for the first time in several years. This has prompted explorations and discussions about legislative strategies to increase the fund going forward.
- Tim review a proposal for proprietary project sourcing from a location production, sales and financing company. This proposal would help identify and drive projects with budgets from \$3M-20M to Oregon. The board felt there was a benefit to further explore this type of arrangement with further considerations (e.g. creating a system to “pause” the program when there are a lack of incentive funds, identify the marketing value of a partnership like

this as part of building the “local production” narrative in Oregon, identifying a minimum amount of projects, and/or possibly embarking on a “trial” period). Tim will follow up.

- OFVO has commissioned SetJetters to create a graphics based video displaying the economic value of Film Tourism. A version of this should be available for review prior to the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Creative Opp Program is working well but Tim proposed that he put together a outside advisory committee next month to look at possible changes in structure and application for the coming FY (Oct-Sept). This advisory committee would make recs and report back to the board who have the final say on how the COP allocates its funding.
- There is currently less worry of industry related strikes happening in July based on the positive progress being made by the IASTE and AMPTP but there is little information as of yet from the negotiations happening with the Teamsters. Should there be a strike this would directly effect the larger budgeted projects currently working in Oregon.
- OFVO ran x2 Filmmaker Mag ads in Spring and Summer issues. The office will now pause on further ads because of the possibility of the OPIF funding running out before the end of the next FY (July-June).
- OFVO is currently exploring the activation of the KGW studio space at Pioneer Sq including the exploration of possibly moving the OFVO office to that location. Tim will be touring the available office space there next month.

OMCF

- The Film Trail has a new sign at Geiser Grand Hotel in Baker City. New signs are being explored in Grants Pass and Benton County.
- The Pathways placement program has x2 placements on the Amazon series “Criminal” and Amazon has committed to a contribution to pay for one of those placements. There have been 14 placements this year with a further 4-6 coming in the near future. Funding for this program is running low and new resources need to be explored. There are at least 5 previous Pathways placements that have been hired on their own volition on “Criminal.” This is a great testament to the value of the program.
- There were 69 submissions for the Tell Your Story Grant. Submission review is currently underway.

PROJECT UPDATE

- There are currently two larger budget projects underway in Portland, one in Salem and one in Ashland. That’s after another six that have already completed production this calendar year. There are several local documentaries that are also in production and productions that are lining up for locations like Prineville and Astoria. There are at least three features that are lining up for Aug/Sept in and around Portland. Overall production activity in the state is very much increased over 2022 and 2023 levels.

- Tim has spoken to several larger projects recently including a large Apple+ series that might look to shoot an episode at Timberline on Mt Hood.
- New Animation projects are being explored at ShadowMachine and Laika is still in production on "Wildwood."
- There has been an increase in local VFX services being provided on larger projects. Refuge VFX has done both "Shogun" and "Fallout" and is in an Emmy campaign for their work on "Shogun." They are also confirmed as the VFX supervisors on two larger projects for Amazon.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- There is probably need for us to explore an increase in the OPIF program in light of the amount of projects currently lining up in the state. The Gov's office, at the moment, is not supportive of such an increase in the 2025 session and that means neither Tim nor the office can seek out or support an increase.
- There is some question about the OMPA and their ability at the moment to hire and work with a Lobbyist if they chose to make an ask on their own in the next session.
- Tim is working with Vince Porter and the Gov's office to arrange a set visit to the Amazon series currently shooting in Portland.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04p

