

OFVO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

1st Quarter 2025 (Wednesday March 19, 2025)

IN ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

Recognizing a quorum of board members, Anish called the meeting to order on March 19, 2025 at 12:02pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Elyse moved that the board accept the 4th Quarter 2024 Board Meeting minutes. Rosemary seconded. All in favor. The 4th Quarter 2024 minutes were approved.

BOARD UPDATE

- Tim mentioned that Anish's term on the Oregon Film board has been renewed.

BUDGET UPDATE

- Tim discussed that the budget is still looking fine. There are currently some minor cash flow issues, but they should be cleared up shortly. The source of the cash flow constraint is just that there are a couple of large audit fees due to the office that have not come in yet, but will be finalized and deposited soon.
- Last biannual quarter is approaching. Tim will preview the 2025-27 budget at the next board meeting.
- Tim mentioned that he shared testimony in support of our office's budget for the 2025-27 biennium in Salem earlier this week.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Tim discussed the idea of potentially borrowing from future incentive funds in order to have enough funds to secure larger projects in this biennium. The Oregon Film Office has not done this since "Grimm" was filming here years ago. Tim commented that there is some risk involved in doing this, but he wanted to get the board's input on this possibility. The reason for asking this now has to do with looking in to the possibility of securing a future season 2 of "Criminal" in Oregon.

Anish inquired if we would have a limit on the amount that we would be able to borrow from future incentive funds so that the incentive would not be completely depleted for other future projects. Tim replied that his inclination is to be conservative on the amount that is borrowed from future funds in order to hopefully avoid this issue.

Alyse mentioned that Montana is currently lobbying to increase their annual fund to \$30M in order to once again have funds to bring in other new projects.

Tim continued that there is nothing that needs to be decided on how we proceed on this at this time, but he wanted the board to be thinking about it as the decision may arise in the near future.

- Tim mentioned that he and Elyse have been taking about ways to reaching out to production studios about filming in Oregon. He plans to discuss this more in the next couple of weeks.
- He discussed that production work in Oregon has been slow in the first quarter of 2025, but that inquiries are picking up.
- Tim mentioned that we will be rolling out some Film Impact Grants soon. He also discussed the possibility of reallocating some funding that had been held for the “Tell Your Own Story” grants that are not happening this year.

Rosemary commented that she likes the idea of incrementally switching up the types of grants supported by the Creative Opportunity Fund in order to offer more diverse opportunities.

Elyse commented that while it is good to open up the opportunities of the grants, but that we should keep in mind that we will need to closely track what the funds are being used for and the resulting impact.

Rosemary moved to approve the reallocation of the “Tell Your Story” and Outdoor Adventure Film grant funds this one time on a non-precedential basis. Elyse seconded. All in favor.

- Tim asked if anyone on the board would be interested in participating in the review panel for the Impact Grants. Please reach out separately if so.
- Tim mentioned the “Cuckoo’s Nest” 50th anniversary and the “Goonies” 40th Anniversary are coming up very soon. Screenings will be held in March and June for each at the Hollywood Theatre
- The Film Tourism Data video was recently completed by SetJettters and is now available on our sites. There has been some social media posts about it recently too. It is very effective at proving the value of Film Tourism.

Rosemary commented that Shadow Machine just won an Emmy for “Tiny Chef.” Congratulations all around.

OLD BUSINESS

- Tim discussed a recent marketing video that was created by CineRent and will be rolled out publicly soon.

- Still unpaid wages and vendors on Salem project, “Flash before the Bang” but progress is being made. Their incentive funds are linked to their financing so they are motivated to clear up any outstanding issues. The incentive will not be paid until all outstanding payment issues are resolved.
- There is a new pitch deck for the KGW/Pioneer Sq space which is available for viewing upon request.

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

OMCF:

- Tim mentioned that we have recently had a lot of press on the Oregon Film Trail. This is due to the participation of Jenica Villamor working as an outside PR person for the project through her contracted with with Travel Oregon.
- We have had a new Pathways class last month and we had x2 placements on a recent indie production.
- Tell Your Story Grant - the support and office space for the last 2 winners of the TYS Grants end at the end of this month.
- There is still one OAFG from 2023 that needs to be completed.

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

PROJECT UPDATE

- Tim discussed that we had a busy end to 2024. This year has started out a little slow. “Palm Royale” was here shooting up on Mt. Hood for 5 days. “AI Heart U” is another project that recently filmed mostly in Portland but ended up doing 2 days up on Mt. Hood.
- Tim mentioned that we are currently seeing a changing landscape for financing and production. He thinks that there was a surge in production at the end of last year as the writer’s and actor’s strikes ended and many projects had funding and were looking for move forward right away. That has subsided and many projects are now looking at filming abroad.
- Project inquiries are picking up but confirmed cast and financing has been unsteady.

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE-

- The bill to potentially increase the OPIF (HB3329) is still in process. It recently passed out of the House Comm on Economic Development and will be referred to the House Comm on Revenue. No hearing date has been set yet.
- Tim gave in person Budget testimony to the Sub W&M Committee on Econ Development (HB5024)
- There is currently a small “fix” to our statutory CPA requirement within bill SB797
- Tim mentioned that he has had around 35 legislative meetings over the past 3 months. Updating new members and staffs

Elyse mentioned that there will be a film industry day at the capitol soon. Bruce Campbell will be the featured guest. The rest of the details and the timing of the event are currently still being worked out. More to come on that soon.

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

Anish declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

