

IMAA AGM REPORT - Atlantic Region

May 31st, 2pm 2018
Via phone conference

Agenda

1. Centre updates
2. IMAA Board rep update
3. Conference update

1. Centre updates

Nova Scotia

Centre for Art Tapes

Tori Fleming

The last year was a year of big changes for the Centre for Art Tapes. This February marked one year since we have moved into our new non-hierarchical staffing structure. After a year of minor growing pains, the organization has settled into this structure and found stability and strength in our three person team.

We were very successful this year in various granting programs. Our operating grant was increased in the most recent round of applications. We also received a substantial grant through the Digital Strategy fund. We will be using these funds to take on a large multi-year research project. The project will focus on the development of an app, which would be available to all production-based artist run centres.

We are working towards a number of important milestones for our organization. This spring we celebrated the completion of our 30th annual Media Art Scholarship program. This program has evolved from being a primarily video based commissioning project to encompassing a large definition of media art. This year's final exhibition included everything from projection mapping to holograms, and all participants felt it was a huge success.

2019 marks CFATs 40th Anniversary. To celebrate we are currently working on a large commissioning project and residency series. Four established media artists will be commissioned to respond to the four decades CFAT has been an organization. This is expected to begin in spring of 2019.

Overall the staff and board of CFAT are feeling positive about the year of changes we've just come through. On the horizon we have a number of new programming initiatives including VR screenings, children's programming, and residencies. We look forward to continuing to implement our growing definition of Media Art in all of our programs and production services.

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Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative

Martha Cooley

After a productive Board and Staff visioning session in January 2017, AFSCOOP decided to apply to the Canada Council's "Support Organization" category for multi-year funding. In many ways the questions related to this application seemed better suited to AFSCOOP's activities than previous applications. We asked for the maximum funding level that we are eligible for (more than twice our current funding level).

Successes

- CCA New Chapter Grant of \$130,000 for a program called "Languages of NS" which is spanning two fiscal years and providing training and production support to five filmmakers making films in diverse language communities (mikmaq, ASL, French, Gaelic and Farsi)
- CCA Equipment Grant - we received our full ask, \$20,000 for cinematography and lighting equipment
- CCA and Arts NS grant to host analogue artist Lindsay McIntyre for a residency leading up to HIFF (which is next week!). During her time at AFSCOOP Lindsay has taught several workshops on analogue filmmaking techniques and has been mentoring two local filmmakers.

Challenges

- The City of Halifax has been providing operational and project support to arts groups in the city on an annual basis since 2015 but this year the call for applications has been delayed until late June (normally it would take place in line with the fiscal year end). This means that we don't know if we're going to make our budgeted revenue for the year.
- The building that AFSCOOP has been in since 2011 has just been sold to a private developer. We are negotiating a continuation to our lease until Dec. 2019 however, after that we will likely have to move.

Opportunities

- We had a significant HR crisis in the fall, which we have turned into an opportunity to revisit our policies around harassment and discrimination. We have an active member-led committee working on the creation of new policies and procedures and we have undertaken numerous training initiatives with local resources.
- Halifax lacks affordable infrastructure for arts orgs. and artist studios. Buildings (like the one we are in) get sold when the neighbourhood gentrifies and non-profits and artists are pushed out. Coming out of the tax credit crisis, a number of film folk have been working to convert a large former convention centre in the downtown into a venue for performing arts, t.v. production, cinema and arts non-profits. AFSCOOP has been involved in this initiative from the beginning is now a member of the new board formed for the non-profit that will oversee the building management.

Thoughts for IMAA

- tool kits for creating new anti-harassment and discrimination policies
- info and learnings about the digital strategy fund (who / what / how?)

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New Brunswick

NB Film Co-op Regional Report

Cat LeBlanc

- Moncton Workshop Scholarship Program - The NB Film Co-op has attracted 4 new corporate cash sponsors to support its Moncton workshop program. Several participants will gain free seats in sessions that will include instructors from outside NB including 2 WIFT-AT members (Harmony Wagner and Donna Davies).
- VR equipment - The NB Film Co-op received a CC equipment grant to purchase VR equipment, and will be learning the new technology over the summer with community partners.

Indigenous Musician Program - The NB Film Co-op is partnering with artsnb this summer on a new indigenous training program that will develop and educate emerging New Brunswick indigenous musicians and songwriters by helping them to promote their music/brand through music video production, marketing and more.

Struts Gallery & Faucet Media Arts Centre

Ryan Suter

Success Stories

- Struts & Faucet launched our first Bi-annual Open Studio Residency publication in January covering the programming years 2015-2016 – featuring 11 artists - 6 of the 11 artists were working within the media arts including sound, film, and video.

- we partnered with Mount Allison University Fine Arts Department in support of an Canada 150 project called Landmarks where Fine Arts students produced media based works that were installed throughout Fundy National Park

- again this year we have seen significant increase in participation in our program of Adhoc Workshops

- in 2015 we completed repairs and upgrades to our darkroom/film production facilities and have seen increasing interest in analogue film production specifically in our workshops and programs around DIY/Eco friendly film processing and alternative film emulsions.

- we completed another successful round of equipment acquisitions strengthening the centres presentation capabilities with a new short throw projectors, a series of wireless systems for sound and video, new screens and film loopers. With our current equipment grant we are designing a new and stand alone film to video transfer system(in-progress)

- we had a minor increase to our Operating Budget from Canada Council Multi-Year Grant

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Burning Issues

- the purchase of a building is still our major focus at this time and progress is being made but it is slow – although we may have some news in the coming days
- the ability to support the ever expanding scope of media arts is a growing issue with the centre – budgets are being stretched with the additional equipment/mentorship costs - bringing artists with the skills from further afield to run workshops, etc.

Prince Edward Island

Island Media Arts Coop

Renee Laprise

The last year has been huge on PEI for media arts. In March 2018, the organization formerly known as IMAC rebranded to FilmPEI and moved to a new warehouse space which will house a small soundstage, post-production facilities, digital arts education facilities and is intended to be a hub for creative activity. The province of PEI is now funding the film sector including a creative development program and enough funding to make FilmPEI's ED position full-time. Also, Canada Council has increased funding to the organization, which has allowed us to hire a part-time technical coordinator. And funding from the federal government has allowed for substantial investment in equipment. With the increase in space, equipment and staff, FilmPEI can offer more relevant resources to Island artists and is now in the position to partner with community and arts organizations to offer resources and deliver media based programming across a wide demographic. Having a creative hub has freed up the imaginations of our members and of the creative community in general. The first big event at FilmPEI was curated by the local artist-run centre, *this town is small*, and featured the experimental work of eight video, sound and performance artists. FilmPEI looks forward to hosting more and more of these creative collaborations.

Newfoundland

NIFCO

Anna Petras

Things continue to be busy at NIFCO. Just completed our 3 Picture Start shoots and are into post-production. We've offered both Intro Film Classes and various workshops over the fall & winter months. We were thrilled with the positive response for our CC Equipment Application and are working on keeping that list updated and relevant. We purchased our new Canon C200 Camera in January and it has already been well used and is loved by our members. We've been tweaking our re-launched website and are trying to keep on-top of Social Media and other "marketing" initiatives to share our post-production capacity with micro-budget filmmakers and others.

Our province's commitment to arts funding and film in particular has stayed stable but we have seen no increases in a number of years. Post-production is on-going at NIFCO on our program films,

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various micro budgets and small budget features and documentaries. We would love to partner with more Atlantic Canadian filmmakers and will be sending out info in coming months on rates and incentives to come here and work at NIFCO. We hosted a "remote" residency with Canadian/LA Based filmmaker Aleesa Cohene in the summer of 2017 as she finished post-production on a mixed media project. In November 2017 Lulu Keating completed a residency at NIFCO and lived in our NIFCO apt. We set up a mini-studio to shoot her latest short animated film. Both Aleesa and Lulu offered Masterclass Workshops to the membership and general public as part of their residencies.

2. Update from IMAA board Reps

Martha gave a brief update on IMAA's recent projects, consultations and initiatives including the recent success in receiving a Digital Strategy Fund grant. Perspectives was also discussed as well as IMAA's advocacy around the CCA's peer jury process.

3. Conference Update

All the centres (aside from NIFCO) are sending a rep (or 3!) to the conference in June.

SUMMARY:

Burning Issues many centres are facing:

- How to keep up with expanding media formats (VR etc.) while at the same time maintaining older formats (analogue etc.) with a small staff and limited equipment funds?
- Space concerns / opportunities
- Digital strategy fund - how to access? What do they really fund? Do the guidelines really encapsulate what they want to fund?
- How is the Telefilm Micro Budget program working for centres? It would be useful to convene a national conversation on this topic for IMAA to provide feedback to Telefilm on behalf of the centres as individual orgs may be reluctant to be critical of Telefilm directly due to other funding commitments.