

PRAIRIES / NWT REGIONAL REPORT

Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative

The Saskatchewan Filmpool Cooperative celebrated our 40th anniversary last year of supporting independent filmmaking in Saskatchewan. It was a fantastic year of looking back and celebrating with two major events, including a birthday party at the Filmpool on March 16, 2017, and an even bigger celebration a few months later at Bushwackers Brewpub launching a beer made in honour called "Wheat Soup" - the name of Saskatchewan's first independent feature film made by two of our long time Filmpool members Brian Stockton and Gerald Saul. Other highlights last year included the presentation of our Fourth Annual Saskatchewan Independent Film Awards (SIFA), summer film camp for youth, the One Take Super 8 event, two nights back to back of membership premiere screenings, as well as numerous technical and creative based workshops sprinkled throughout the year. It was quite a year at the Filmpool!

Video Pool

Opened up a small gallery and project space called Poolside Gallery and we have also recently expanded again with the opening of a new venue, tentatively called The Output.

We also successfully expanded our Indigenous Media Arts Initiative program to be a 6-month mentorship program with 4 artists and 4 mentors and launched a new audio art series called Temporal Contours.

AMAAS

AMAAS has just completed our three year funding cycle from the AFA. During which a review of Prairie Tales was undertaken and a tough decision was made to end the 17 year touring program. We captured the PT history in a publication and presented a curated package called Prairie Tales Redux at our Conference held in June 2017.

In our new application for 3 year operating funding to AFA, we've asked to redirect the Prairie Tales allocation to a more comprehensive sponsorship/bursary program. Grant results will not be available until mid June and if successful a sponsorship program will be researched and developed with rollout in June 2019.

We hosted a successful conference in Canmore in June called UPLOAD | DOWNLOAD where an IMAA Regional meeting was held. The conference featured media artist and governor general award winner Reva Stone from Winnipeg Manitoba. The next conference is scheduled for June 6 - 9, 2019 at the Coutts Arts Centre outside of

Nanton Alberta. We anticipate an artist-in-residence program in the week leading up to the conference in conjunction with the University of Lethbridge.

A grant is in to the Canada Council to support the programming plans of the 2019 conference which will include a sound symposium with Jackson 2Bears and Gary James Joynes.

We also submitted a grant to the AFA projects for a succession planning capacity building tool kit for our board, staff, volunteers. We anticipate making this toolkit available to AMAAS/IMAA members. Grant confirmation October.

On the advocacy front:

We are working with an advocacy group called Creative Calgary to seek an increase to municipal arts funding. also with an ad hoc group in Edmonton regarding the continual disappointing results from Canada Council for the Arts funding to individuals and organizations. We are part of APAC (Alberta Partners in Arts and Culture) and looking into some issues members are facing regarding ALGC.

EMMEDIA

EMMEDIA has moved into a new location since March 2017 and are in the same building as our sister centre, Quickdraw Animation Society. Our new facility includes a dedicated gallery space for the media arts, which we have not had in the past. Our Production Director, Bryce Maruk has just left EMMEDIA to pursue another position at the Calgary Public Library. By the time this report is made, we hope to have hired a new Production Director to lead our Production department and will hopefully start after the IMAA Conference! Our PARTICLE + WAVE Media Arts Festival has now become an annual festival and the next edition will be held January 31 - February 2, 2019. Our Luma Film & Media Art Quarterly online publication is launching it's 4th volume in August with our founding editor, Lindsay Sorell leaving her post to pursue her masters at the University of Alberta. We hope to have a new Editor hired this summer, with their first issue launched in November. We are also working on a retrospective publication and vinyl record boxset for media artist Rita McKeough which will launch in October for the M:ST Performative Art Festival.

CSIF

The Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers moved last year, and has just completed its first fiscal year in its new home. Our offices in Sunalta district of Calgary are across the street from the LRT station making it very easy to get to via public transit. We are also surrounded by free two hour parking, and - best of all - have a drive in loading bay for equipment pick ups and drop offs. In addition to housing all administrative office functions, we have a board room, a digital editing suite with sound booth, and a film editing suite with Steenbeck table and digital transfer station. Our

black box flex space is perfect for workshops, intimate screenings, shooting, and social events. CSIF's equipment rentals have increased dramatically (surpassing all previous years and projections), and our membership has gone up 30% in the last year. All in all, a great year behind us as we look forward to celebrating our 40th birthday in 2018!

FAVA

FAVA has had a very exciting last 12 months. As you may know, we administer two film festivals and this year we expanded our FAVAFEST awards categories to include "Films from Away" - submissions from Prairie Region, and The Gotta Minute Film Festival expanded its audience to include almost 1.8 million installation viewers from across Alberta.

In the world of conserving and archiving we have been working with AMASS to digitize and collect over 1,500 titles of Media Art from our peers around the province. The collection now spans over 36 years of Alberta works and includes many of our members most important and seminal works.

Of course our big news is that the Canada Council – Digital Strategies Fund has agreed to partner with us in the development and dissemination of our Media Arts Management App. FAVA-FilmReel to our partners in the arts across Canada.

QUEER CITY CINEMA – REGINA

Queer City Cinema Inc. presented the following events in 2017/2018 which included:

- Camp, Trash, Filth: John Waters Visits Regina – June 14-24
- Queer City Cinema Film Festival 14 – Featuring Features Film Festival - September 21-23
- Porn Party – featuring the video work of Kate Sinclair – November 9, 2017
- QUEERCORE: How to Punk a Revolution – screening of documentary with live performance – January 19, 2018

Camp, Trash, Filth: John Waters Visits Regina was Queer City Cinema's largest and most ambitious undertaking in its 22-year history and as such was the most successful and well-attended festival to date. John Waters Visits Regina significantly increased the profile, audience and importance of the organization locally, provincially, nationally and internationally, and provided the organization with new confidence moving forward having taken on such a high profile and high stakes event. Queer City Cinema Film Festival 14 – Featuring Features Film Festival continued to provide Regina audiences with an international offering of films covering a variety of representations through narrative and documentary features. One of the highlights of this festival was the screening of *Two Soft Things, Two Hard Things* a documentary that explores how colonization and religion have shamed and erased traditional Inuit beliefs about sexuality and family structure and how, 60 years later, a new generation of Inuit are actively "unshaming" their past. This screening was followed by a discussion with members of Regina's First Nations and Two Spirit communities focusing on Two

Spirit and First Nations identities in Regina and going forward as a community. Porn Party. Award-winning feminist pornographer Kate Sinclair presented a night of porn, featuring her own films and a selection of content from other amazing producers. QUEERCORE: How To Punk A Revolution screened followed by live performances. FILM and MUSIC came together in one amazing night. Through positive and encouraging feedback from audience, artists involved and through organizational evaluation, it has been determined that all of Queer City Cinema's programming events were well received and successfully realized. This confirms that programming choices were valid, necessary and should continue to be funded and presented in Regina.

PAVED arts

Late last year PAVED Arts said goodbye to Alex Rogalski, and welcomed Travis Cole as Executive Director of PAVED this January. Exhibition highlights included, Linda Duvall's durational residency project "In the Hole," Indigenous sound and video touring exhibition "wnoondwaamin | we hear them," curated by Lisa Myers, and Liz Knox's three-channel video installation "Law & Order." In the Fall of 2017 PAVED presented the 7th annual sound art festival Sounds Like in our exhibition space and various venues throughout the city of Saskatoon. As well, PAVED and AKA completed a major renovation project that included installing a solar array on the roof of our shared building.

QUICKDRAW ANIMATION SOCIETY

Our last year was focused on settling into our new studios, which are now essentially fully operational, with the exception of one of our two Oxberry cameras, which we'll be rebuilding this summer, and of our library database, which we're putting the finishing touches on in cooperation with FAVA in Edmonton and their FilmReel software. Because of the aftermath of our move, we didn't take on any major new projects in the past year, but we're back up to our regular roster of camps and classes, which are operating at capacity already, and we've been encouraging members to ramp up on the production side. Several of our members (including three of our scholarship students) have had successful individual artist provincial project grants that they'll be working on over the next few months, and we've also recently had our first successful Canada Council project grant in quite some time, which we'll be announcing soon. As far as challenges, our biggest ones are still the unpredictability of provincial funding, difficulty in attracting private funding, and watching out for staff burnout given the amount of screenings, events and collaborations we always have on the go. Similar to other orgs, I'm sure, but still worth noting.

Western Arctic Moving Pictures (WAMP)

Our last year has been busy with new initiatives developing Indigenous inspired video games with Youth and elders over the summer. We are also in production of our New Chapter project

which features NWT artists performing in Virtual Reality in remote locations across the NWT. We have also expanded our physical computing touring workshop called Hackspace NT to approach computing, 3D printing and programming as an art form with youth and adults. Also have received a much needed operations budget increase from the Canada Council for the Arts to support our efforts across the NWT.