

MICHIGAN FILM OFFICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 23rd, 2020

Microsoft Teams Open Virtual Meeting

1. Call to Order/Welcome from the Chairman

The meeting of the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council (MFOAC) was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Chairman Bill Ludwig. A quorum was present with the following Council members in attendance: Niki Adams, Rick Hert, Brian Winn, Andriy Pereklita, Eric Kuiper, Timothy Peitryga and Selam Ghirmai. Members excused: Michael Mittelstaedt, Skot Welch, Dori DePree, Terry Terry, Dan Lemieux, and Joe Voss.

Mr. Ludwig welcomed everyone and thanked the council members for their attendance.

2. Adopt Agenda

There was a motion by Mr. Peitryga to approve the Agenda; seconded by Mr. Hert; motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2019 meeting

There was a motion by Mr. Winn to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 MFOAC meeting; seconded by Mr. Pereklita; motion passed unanimously.

4. Director's Report – Selam Ghirmai

Ms. Ghirmai thanked the council members for their attendance at today's virtual meeting, noting the additional upcoming meetings as required by statute.

INTRODUCTION

1. Thank you for joining the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council meeting on this Monday, November 23rd, 2020.
 - a. We will have two additional Council meetings that we anticipate will also be virtual on:
 - i. Tuesday, December 1 (1-3p.m.)
 - ii. Tuesday, December 15 (1-3p.m.)

BUDGET

2. Per my previous update to Council, the unencumbered funds our office had for fiscal year 2020 was 'frozen' by the Governor's Office a few months ago and redirected to other COVID-19 relief and recovery efforts/priorities.
3. The office did not receive funding for fiscal year 2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021), but will remain open to manage a smaller scope of services and remaining legal obligations (e.g. unpaid film incentive claims).

STAFF

4. As of mid-May, State of Michigan employees were impacted by partial lay-offs. Tony and I worked 4 days a week, with 1 day being "laid off".

5. The staff time Tony and now commit to the Film Office is reduced, with the balance committed to other business units within the MEDC. I will have about 20 hours while Tony will have 4 hours a week dedicated towards Film Office duties.

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

6. In late May, the Film Office was invited to join the Governor's Workgroup on Tourism & Entertainment.
7. Tony drafted guidelines entitled *A Safe Return to Filmmaking: Guidelines for the Michigan film industry to safely restart work during COVID-19*. We shared the draft with Council and a workgroup made up of local production companies for review and submitted to the Governor's Office.
8. We have not received approval on those guidelines. In lieu of the MFDMO having our own guidelines available, we've been recommending that productions follow the guidelines issued by the trade unions, called *The Safe Way Forward*.

PARTNERSHIPS - Google Computer Science First partnership (free coding education for youth):

9. At the top of the year, Film Office, Accelerate4KIDS (nonprofit) and Google were co-organizing the 5th annual "Coding for Kids" live event.
10. Due to COVID, we had to pivot to a virtual event this **Friday, December 11**. This event is launched by our original partners as well as additional stakeholders who have come together to form a collaborative group (Michigan Accelerates Computer Science – MACS).
11. **Beyond increasing access to computer science education, the goal of MACS collaborative and this virtual event is to position Michigan as the first state to set the Guinness World Record (GWR) in the following category as it relates to computer science education: most users to take an online lesson in 24 hours (500+ participants).**
12. To-date, we have 222 participants registered.
13. Event is now called "Coding for Michigan" as we have opened this event to anyone of any age
 - a. All you need is to be able to use a computer and internet access
 - b. No coding experience is needed
 - c. Lesson takes 30 minutes to complete
14. website: www.miacceleratecs.com for registration
15. **Endorsements/promo videos (see Media page on website)**
 - a. Governor's proclamation commemorating Computer Science Education Week and virtual event
 - b. Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist has video AND will kickoff event live
16. **Press release to be issued this week and will serve as call to action to recruit participants**
17. **We welcome Council to not only participate, but also promote to their networks to help make Michigan history. The event:**
 - a. Needs participants
 - b. Needs volunteers

18. Members of MACS collaborative contribute by providing marketing, sponsoring or general support. The list grows by the week!

- ★ Guinness World Records
- ★ Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)
- ★ Michigan Film & Digital Media Office
- ★ Michigan Department of Education
- ★ Google
- ★ Accelerate4KIDS
- ★ AccelerateKID
- ★ Detroit Public Schools
- ★ Wayne State University
- ★ WhooSaid

19. Sponsors

- ★ Google
- ★ Oakland County Michigan
- ★ Kerr Russell Attorneys and Counselors
- ★ Oakland Schools Education Foundation

5. Public Comments

There was no public audience present for this meeting, so no public comments were taken.

6. Old Business

There were no items discussed under Old Business.

7. New Business

There were no items discussed under New Business.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, there was a motion by Mr. Hert to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Wynn; motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.