

Safe Amplification Site Society – General Meeting #1 – Sunday October 25, 2009
MINUTES

Present and signed-in: Ryan McCormick, Jarrett Evan Samson, Sean Ramsay, Caitlin Gilroy, Alex Hawkins, Jesse Turpin, Chris Williamson Rooney, Alexa Kristen Stroth, Phelan Lewis, Jay Arner, Sheena Fayowski, David Sadler, Enzo Verster, Charles Ferguson, Aaron McHattie, Dan Loan, Aidan Denison, Marita Michaelis, Scott Schellenberg, Michelle Mayne, Sarah Stupar, Jordan Pond, Hasan Li, Layla Gaib, Jeff Johnson, Beshele Caron

Location: Hoko Restaurant, 362 Powell St., Vancouver

- 7:10pm Meeting called to order
- 7:11pm All participants introduced themselves and most said something about why they're interested in the Safe Amplification Site Society
- 7:20pm David M led us all in an exciting icebreaker game based on humming well-known songs and guessing what they are
- 7:32pm The four society directors gave a brief introduction to the Safe Amplification Site Society:
- David M spoke about our main purpose and goals
 - Ryan spoke about our history and structure
 - Caitlin spoke about past events and Safe Amp events in general
 - Jarrett spoke about some of the challenges we're facing and why we are waiting to open a venue
- 7:43pm Brief question period:
- Jesse asked about the \$5 rule for Safe Amp shows, and some of the directors clarified that it is a general guideline, not a strict rule – exceptions can be made, as per our constitution
- 7:45pm Introduction of discussion groups
- Ryan explained what the legal group was going to discuss
 - Caitlin explained what the fundraising group was going to discuss
 - Jarrett explained what the venues group was going to discuss
 - David explained what the outreach / awareness group was going to discuss
- 7:52pm All participants broke off into discussion groups based on the four topics previously explained, and proceeded to discuss them:

Venues (Jay, Hasan, Michelle, Enzo, Jarrett, Alex, Scott)

Discussion:

- Generated a list of specific spaces to look into doing more shows at: The Fall (tattoo / body work place - wants punk/harder music specifically but may do these shows all ages), Toast Collective, The Other Space, In-stores (Zulu / Red Cat / Nepton / Scratch etc.), Spartacus Books (quieter shows), Grace Gallery, Budgies, Sin Bin, Alley Cat, Purple Thistle, more coffee shops, Gigi's, Maxine's Hideaway, Bridge & Tunnel, Parks / outdoor shows for summer months.
- Talked of splitting new research into spinoff google document, so that we can keep track of responses from certain venues so they aren't contacted multiple times (since we are guaranteed to get a lot of no's)
- Talked of asking artists with loft spaces to allow shows to be thrown there once every 1-3 months or so; no immediate follow-up from members – we made a decision to put this idea to the entire safe amp membership in the hopes of finding some

Tasks:

- **Jarrett** will start pulling together a list of churches, community halls, high schools, hotels with lounges, art galleries, legion halls, etc. and send off to members starting by Sunday November 1.
- **All members** of venue group agreed to begin looking into and contacting any/all spaces they may think of and submit information to Alex, the new venue database head.
- **Alex** agreed to take over as head of the venue database. Web committee will be setting up a @safeamp.org email address for him to use.
- **Scott** is going to ask Bridge & Tunnel about their booking requirements (that's the space right next to Goonies)
- **Scott** is going to do some research and try to find out if there's any finalized idea on what is happening with the Woodard's building

Outreach / Awareness (Aidan, Sheena, Chris Alscher, Alexa, Chris WR, Jordan, Beshele, David M)

Discussion:

- Decided that we need to develop a list of possible services that Safe Amp can provide to other organizations.
- Decided that we need to develop a list of groups whom we have some relationship with and/or would like to have a relationship with in the future. Three groups mentioned that we should connect with are Broadway Youth Resource Centre, Urban Native Youth Association and Square Waves.

Tasks:

- **Sheena** and **Alexa** offered to attend and set up a Safe Amp 'merch table' at the show at Little Mountain Studios on November 19th.
- **Chris WR** said he'd be willing to help write and/or copy edit press releases for Safe Amp.
- **Aidan** offered to give the press spreadsheet a pass and help make it a little more robust.
- **David M** will share the press contacts google doc with Aidan.
- **David M** offered to be on a panel at Media Democracy Day '09 on November 7 at the VPL - mdd2009.pbworks.com. Jordan also offered to help out with that.
- **David M** will send out a draft list of services Safe Amp can provide.

Fundraising (Layla, Sean, Caitlin, Jeff, Marita, Dan, David S)

Discussion

- Brainstormed a list of proposed ways of raising money for Safe Amp.
 - Stage a day-long festival similar to Homefest 2007
 - Encourage bands interested in Safe Amp to donate their earnings from bar shows, etc., to SASS
 - Have Safe Amp set up information booths at various shows around town for the purposes of distributing information, signing up new members, and collecting donations
 - Stage raffles at Safe Amp shows with prizes to be donated by interested bands
 - Put on monthly Safe Amp fundraising shows with any and all bands interested in the cause
 - Host bake sales at shows and events hosted by SASS
 - Create a benefit compilation CD-R / record / tape featuring bands involved with Safe Amp and sell it at Safe Amp shows and the proposed information booths
 - Sell T-shirts
 - Sell other assorted promotional materials
 - Host garage or yard sales at six-month intervals to raise money for SASS
 - Stage a Fundraising Drive - an annual two-week fundraising campaign on the streets, over the telephone, and at people's doors similar to campaigns run by political parties, CITR, CO-OP Radio, etc.
 - Apply for any and all grants that Safe Amp might be eligible to receive
 - Hire a third-party canvassing organization (such as Public Outreach) to raise funds on behalf of Safe Amp
 - Ask for small regular monthly donations (\$5 - \$10 a month) from businesses interested in Safe Amp's cause (such as record stores, musical instrument shops, record labels, recording studios, etc.)
 - Seek patrons interested in nurturing the musical arts who might be willing to donate time and money to Safe Amp (such as famous local musicians like Sarah McLachlan, Nickelback, Colin James, Bryan Adams, Black Mountain, New Pornographers, or Jim Byrnes, plus non-local acts such as Pearl Jam who frequently give to charitable organizations)
 - Encourage schools interested in the "future of music" to donate money through any means possible, such as charitable drives, bake sales, benefit concerts, etc.
 - Have SASS set up fundraiser concerts at local high schools and universities
 - Stage a benefit karaoke night at Hoko's, etc.
 - Inquire about the possibility of SASS operating a table at the next Blim Community Market in order to raise awareness and funds for Safe Amp (merch donations from bands could be sold at the market to raise money for SASS)

Tasks

- **Entire group** committed to organizing one fundraiser show before the next general meeting Nov. 29

Legal (Ryan, Jesse, Charles, Sarah, Aaron, Phelan)

Discussion

- Discussed grants a little bit – Jesse said he knows someone who might be able to help in that area.

- Ryan and Aaron discussed their recent visit to City Hall, reporting that our business license will probably be 'non-profit' and our zoning category will probably be either 'cabaret' or 'hall'. They also described how confusing and difficult they found the process, and asked someone else from the group to get a second opinion.
- Ryan presented a list of legal topics that he would like us to know more about: noise bylaw, business licenses, zoning and development, fire code / capacity / building permits, raffles and draws, and charitable status.
- Discussed the idea of going beyond being just legal and actually doing positive things to help the neighbourhood around the space, for example picking up garbage. Sarah made the point that this could also be used in applications for grants and for free spaces, with the argument that the venue would increase property value and be a positive influence on the community.
- Discussed ideas about what departments might exist within City Hall that we can ally ourselves with and agreed to learn more about them.
- Talked about finding out more about City meetings and expressed an interest in attending them.

Tasks

- **Ryan** will read and try to understand the Noise Bylaw.
- **Charles** will try to learn more about business licenses.
- **Sarah** will try to learn about business licenses, zoning and development, and fire code / capacity / building permits including ways in which these categories intersect and/or conflict with one another.
- **Aaron** will try to learn about the laws governing raffles and draws and determine if we need any licenses or permits in order to have them as fundraisers.
- **Phelan** will try to learn about how Safe Amp can become a charity and give out tax-deductible receipts.
- **Phelan** will also do some research on different departments within City Hall such as Youth and Family or Arts and Culture that SASS could try to ally ourselves with.
- **Jesse** will do some research into possible grants that SASS might be eligible for.

8:45pm

Presentations / Sharing

- Someone from each discussion group presented their ideas to the society as a whole: Ryan from the Legal group, Sean from Fundraising, Jarrett from Venues and David from Outreach/Awareness.

9:00pm

Discussion / question period

- Aidan asked how much money SASS currently has, and Caitlin answered: \$2,608.74. Ryan added that updated financial information is always available to donors on our website
- Caitlin started a list of bands that would be willing to play a Safe Amp benefit show and passed it around the room.
- A point was raised about security, and a brief discussion ensued about the feasibility of having the space be volunteer-run, with positions like sound, door and security filled by volunteers from the music community.
- It was asked if any of us know a lawyer – the only one we know is not usually available.
- There was a conversation about how we could get Pearl Jam to donate the income from their next Vancouver show to SASS.
- All participants were encouraged to pick up a pin, and non-members were encouraged to become members (their membership fee was paid through volunteer time at the meeting).

9:20pm

Meeting adjourned