

Safe Amplification Site Society – General Meeting #2 – Sunday November 29, 2009
MINUTES

Present and signed-in: Ryan McCormick (chair), Chelsea Kwok, Aaron McHattie, Alex Hawkins, Alicia Littlejohn, Sean Ramsay, Caitlin Gilroy, Enzo Verster, Ellis Sam, Marita Michaelis-Webb, Corbin Murdoch, Aidan Denison, Phelan Lewis, Beshele Caron, Janos Sitar, Jordan Pond, Harlan Shore, Adrian Burrus, Amanda Pezzutto, Sheena Fayowski, Steve Luscher, James Bates, Elysa Jones, Jason Vanderhill, Brynna Childs, Cheryl Kincherfop, Prince Sachdeva

Location: 223 Main Street, Vancouver, BC

- 7:10pm Ryan called the meeting to order.
- 7:11pm All participants introduced themselves.
- 7:20pm Adrian led us all in an exciting icebreaker game of 'Find Someone Who Bingo.'
- 7:32pm Jarrett Evan Samson gave a brief introduction to the Safe Amplification Site Society.
- 7:37pm Caitlin announced Safe Amp's search for a logo and answered questions about what we are looking for.
- 7:43pm Introduction of discussion groups:
- Beshele proposed a new discussion group called Special Projects. For this meeting, Special Projects was merged with Fundraising, but the plan is to make Special Projects a full-fledged committee in the near future. They're still working on an exact description, but it will be something along the following lines:
 - It's for self-directed projects and projects that are independent from normal SASS operating activities.
 - All projects are to submit a proposal outlining purpose, budget and benefit to Society.
 - Based on the submitted proposals, the Directors must approve the project and/or adjust the proposal to benefit the Society.
 - Caitlin explained what the Fundraising group was going to discuss.
 - David Mattatall explained what the Outreach / Awareness group was going to discuss.
 - Ryan explained what the Legal group was going to discuss.
 - Sajia Kabir asked if we had considered getting legal counsel, and Ryan reported that he has met with a lawyer named Mark Braeder who has agreed to help us *pro bono*.
 - Jarrett Evan Samson explained what the Venues 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 (Jarrett Evan Samson, Ellis, Paul Levesque, Jason, Janos, James, Alicia, Elysa, Alex, Cheryl)

- The group discussed the **best ways to go about approaching** potential venues.
- **Ellis talked about his experiences** so far with approaching potential venues.
- Jarrett presented his **list of potential venues** to contact, and the group brainstormed a few more.
- Members of the group **took responsibility** for contacting specific venues (see Appendix).

Outreach / Awareness (David Mattatall, Harlan, Sajia Kabir, Alicia, Jordan, Aidan, James, Austin McCormick)

- The group worked on developing a **list of services that SASS can provide:**
 - A directory of music-related businesses and services in Vancouver
 - On-campus groups
 - A SASS newsletter
 - Show promotions (for Safe Amp events)
 - A directory of musicians
 - An online message board
- The group worked on developing a **list of organizations that we would like to have relationships with:**
 - I heart VAN ART
 - Broadway Youth Resource Centre
 - Vancouver East Cultural Centre Youth Panel
 - Urban Native Youth Association
 - Square Waves

- Women Against Violence Against Women
- KALAYh Group
- The group discussed the creation of a **What Can You Do for Safe Amp** document / mass-email
- (For a summary of assigned Outreach / Awareness tasks, see the Appendix.)

Fundraising / Special Projects (Caitlin, Enzo, Corbin, Sean, Beshele, Aidan, Jordan, Marita)

- The fundraising committee decided to **team up with the Special Projects** committee because much of the work on the Fundraising Committee's plate seemed to fall into the category of "special events." By delegating many of these events to the SP committee, it frees up the fundraising committee to focus on the larger scheme of fundraising for Safe Amp.
- Caitlin announced that on Dec. 20th, 2009 SASS will have a table at the **Blim Community Market**. This table will be there to raise awareness of our society but also to fundraise. We will be selling memberships as well as a collection of merch that we will be compiling before then. The merch will include t-shirts, pillows, bracelets and earrings. We will also have free zines from Mt. Royal as well as hopefully some other donated merch from bands and record labels. If this test month goes well and it seems like this is worthwhile for the Society to do, it will be moved to the Special Projects Committee and passed on to another member to facilitate monthly tables.
- The group discussed the idea of holding **workshops** and decided that this will be moved to the Special Projects committee. It was decided that this would be a really great project and would look good when we're applying for grants. Series' and programs are really good for our track record. As a money-maker, this would be better if we take lots of time to organize it and work on it as a special project in late Spring/Summer.
- In an attempt to get really organized and take the workload off of the fundraising committee members, Sean and Corbin have become the official organizers of the **monthly concert fundraiser series**. What this means is that Sean will facilitate *other* organizers for each month. He will be the liaison to other members who will take on the responsibility of organizing each monthly show. This will create continuity and make sure that the show organizers have what they need from SASS, as well as adhere to the SASS guidelines. Corbin will take on more of an administrative role and will work with Sean to create a file and document our monthly fundraisers so as to have a well-documented account of our series, mostly for the purposes of grant-writing and fund-seeking.
- Sean reported that he is working on a **big Spring fundraiser show** with some bigger acts than usual.
- Beshele brought up the idea of a **monthly giving program** where donors give a small amount of money monthly. Once it has been established that this is a good idea and easy enough to organize, we will publicize this as a great way to support SASS.
- The group discussed **grants** and decided to create a Grants Subcommittee to focus on grants issues and applications. Corbin is bringing his experience to the table and is eager to help with grant writing and research. We are going to start an open Google spreadsheet of grants that we are going to shoot for. Corbin has access to a database of arts grants and is going to help us select some good ones from that list. There was also some discussion about piggybacking grants on other organizations such as Music BC. Besh and Corbin are going to look into this.
- The group discussed the **Direct Ask method of soliciting money**. Now is the time to start asking individuals and businesses directly for money. Caitlin will write up a letter for both individuals and businesses and Corbin will help edit/advise after the first draft is written. This letter needs to have a very clear, direct 'ask' – for example "Give X number of dollars and that will fund Y."
- Jordan is going to distribute **charity boxes** at local record stores. It will be a small box near the cash register with some information about our Society and a place for people to put donations. He's going to make the boxes, distribute them and also check them once a month and empty them, if needed.
- (For a summary of assigned Fundraising tasks, see the Appendix.)

Legal (Ryan, Aaron, Phelan, Brynna, Chelsea, Steven, Adrian, Amanda, David Mattatall, Austin McCormick, Prince)

- Ryan reported back to the group about Vancouver's **Noise Control Bylaw**. There was some discussion about various points in the bylaw. Ryan's conclusion is that we will be able to obey it if our venue is very well soundproofed and if we post a warning sign inside the venue.
- Aaron reported back to the group about BC's **Gaming Control Act and Regulation**. There was some discussion about various points in the Act and Regulation. Aaron's conclusion is that we need to get a license to hold a raffle or draw as a fundraiser, and we should be able to get a license if we can prove that we have been providing service for at least 12 months and that we will spend all revenues generated from a contest within 12 months of the contest date.
- Phelan reported back to the group about **charitable status**. It is a confusing topic, but Phelan's conclusion is that we *should* be able to get charitable status. There was some discussion about various issues related to charitable status. Phelan noted that while it is free to apply for charitable status the first time, subsequent

applications cost \$500. The group agreed to wait and not submit an application until we are confident that we will be successful. Amanda suggested we approach existing charities and ask them for advice.

- Phelan reported that he has contacted the **Social Development Department** at City Hall and is working on setting up a meeting with them.
- Ryan reported that he has a meeting set up with **Diana Leung**, a Cultural Planner at City Hall and asked for suggestions on what he should discuss. Brynna made the point that the most important thing about the meeting would be to establish a positive working relationship for the future. It was also suggested that Ryan should ask where in Vancouver the planner could see a venue like this legally existing.
- Prince suggested that we should try to find an **architect** to work on a *pro bono* basis on developing blueprints and/or a model for the kind of space we would like to establish. It was also suggested that we should establish a relationship with an architect, and that this will be helpful in the future.
- Members of the group claimed responsibility for several tasks that need to be done under the heading of Legal (see Appendix).

8:45pm Presentations / Sharing / Discussion:

- Beshele reported from the Special Projects Committee and noted that for today, it was combined with the Fundraising discussion group.
 - o Austin McCormick suggested we provide information on **why so many venues have shut down** in Vancouver. Several others agreed that it's a great idea. Janos and Brynna agreed to take charge of making this happen. Beshele added it as a Special Project.
- Caitlin reported from the Fundraising discussion group.
- David Mattatall reported from the Outreach/Awareness discussion group.
- Ryan reported from Legal the discussion group.
- Jarrett Evan Samson reported from the Venues discussion group.
 - o Sajia Kabir suggested we approach Ismaili mosques about hosting events – Jarrett Evan Samson added that to his list and Sajia Kabir agreed to begin contacting some of them.

9:15pm New Business:

- David Mattatall passed on a message from Sheena (who had to leave early) about an upcoming event being organized by LOVE that Safe Amp is going to be involved with. He announced that we need a few volunteers and if anyone is interested, they should email him at david@safeamp.org.

9:20pm Meeting Adjourned

Appendix: Summary of Tasks that Members Have Claimed Responsibility For:

Legal Tasks:

- **Ryan** will post his notes on the Noise Control Bylaw as well as a link to the actual Bylaw on our website.
- **Aaron** will visit the Gaming Control office in Burnaby to get more information about what sorts of evidence is necessary.
- **Ryan** and **Aaron** will begin compiling the evidence necessary to get a gaming permit.
- **Phelan** will begin working on an application for charitable status.
- **Amanda** will identify and approach some existing charities and ask them for advice on how we should go about getting charitable status.
- **Phelan** will attempt to meet and form a relationship with the Social Development Department at City Hall.
- **Ryan** will meet with Diana Leung and attempt to get more information about how to make our venue legal as well as establish a positive working relationship for the future.
- **Steven** will seek out and attempt to build a relationship with an architect who supports our cause.
- **Adrian** will attempt to learn about insurance. What kinds of insurance will our venue be required to obtain? How much does it cost?
- **Brynna** will attempt to learn more about fire restrictions and how we can be sure our venue obeys them.

Special Projects Tasks:

- **Beshele**, **Jarrett Evan Samson** and **Tom Prilesky** are working on creating a Safe Amp music compilation: "SASS Comp #1." They aim to have it completed by Spring, 2010.
- **Janos** and **Brynna** will begin working on a multimedia document that explains why so many venues have shut down in Vancouver.

Fundraising Tasks:

- **Carly Ramsay** will donate earrings to the SASS merch inventory.
- **Dave Sadler** and **Beshele** are working on making bracelets for the SASS merch inventory.
- **Marita** and **Caitlin** are going to silkscreen T-shirts for the SASS merch inventory.
- **Beshele** will make the T-Shirt design on screens.
- **Beshele** is making small pillows for the SASS merch inventory.
- **Caitlin** and **Enzio** will staff the SASS table at the Blim Market from 11am - 2pm.
- **Caitlin** and **Sean** will staff the SASS table at the Blim Market from 2pm – 5pm.
- **Sean** will begin facilitating members to organize each month of the SASS fundraiser concert series.
- **Corbin** will work with **Sean** to create a file and document our monthly fundraisers so as to have a well-documented account of our series, mostly for the purposes of grant-writing and fund-seeking.
- **Sean** will continue working on his big Spring fundraiser show.
- **Beshele** will work with **Ryan** to set up our bank account to accept monthly donations.
- **Caitlin** will work on communication for the monthly giving program.
- **Caitlin** will begin soliciting new donors for the monthly giving program.
- **Corbin** is going to identify some good grants to apply for.
- **Caitlin** will set a meeting date for the new Grants Subcommittee.
- **Beshele** and **Corbin** are going to look into piggybacking grants on other organizations.
- **Caitlin** will write up a draft 'direct ask' letter for both individuals and businesses.
- **Corbin** will help edit/advise the draft 'direct ask' letter.
- **Jordan** is going to make, distribute, check and empty charity boxes at local record stores.

Venues Tasks:

- **Ellis** will approach St. Michaels (409 E. Broadway), Kivan Club (2875 St. George St.), City View Church, Christian & Missionary Alliance (10th and Ontario), Broadway Church (2700 Broadway), Ebenezer Baptist (6858 Fraser St.), Jewish Community Centre (W. 41st and Willow), Ray Cam Community Centre (Hastings and Campbell), and the Legion (Broadway & Alma).
- **Paul Levesque** will approach West Point Grey United (8th & Olmie), Fairview Presbyterian (12th and Fir), and Maple Leaf Storage (Richards and Pacific).
- **Jason** will approach First Baptist Church (969 Burrard), Irwin Oostindie from W2, the organizers of the Culture Crawl, the Public Space Network, John Atkin, and Oddfellows Hall (or whatever it is these days).
- **Janos** will approach Fairview Baptist (16th and Pine), Canadian Memorial United (1825 W. 16th Ave.), Christ Church Cathedral (Georgia & Burrard), Kits Christian Community Church, Douglas Park (22nd and Willow), Royal Canadian Legion (14th and Arbutus), and The Vancouver Museum.
- **James** will approach Kits Community Centre (Larch & 10th), Strathcona Community Centre (Keefer & Princess), and the Legion on Grandview.
- **Alicia** will approach Sunset Community Centre (Main & 52nd).
- **Elysa** will approach Hastings Community Centre (Hastings & Lillooet).
- **Jarrett Evan Samson** will approach 10th Ave Alliance, Mosaic, Vancouver Unitarian Church, Glad Tidings, Vancouver Buddhist, Beaumont Studios (5th and Manitoba), Dunbar Community Centre, the Legion (Main & 10th), Polish Community Centre, Collingwood Neighbourhood House, and the HRM Planetarium.
- **Alex** will approach False Creek Community Centre.
- **Alex** will continue approaching the contacts from the last meeting.
- **Alex** will continue updating the Venues Database.
- **Sajia Kabir** will approach various Ismaili mosques.

Outreach / Awareness Tasks:

- **Harlan** will work on establishing On-Campus Groups for Safe Amp.
- **David Mattatall** will create an online Safe Amp message board.