

Board Meeting Minutes

The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

Tuesday February 7, 2023 — At the studio, 1011 Main Street

6:00 - 7:30PM

Chair: DS

Attending: NJ, AB, JJ

Standing Items

1. Call meeting to order 6:30pm
2. Adoption of agenda: Agenda Adopted
3. Approval of the November 14, 2022 Minutes: Minutes Approved
4. Financial Report: The Treasurer delivered his report and financially the Society is doing well however he noted we did have \$11,000 from donations and a City grant.
5. Tech Systems Report: According to Robostrar we have an average of 12.4 attendees per session, current membership is 160 and we have 2, 435 unregistered tickets; that's tickets people have purchased and not registered a session for.

Old Business:

- 1) Storage Slots. Jaime produced a list of the 16 storage slots identifying slots currently occupied and available for other full time volunteers. He is going to email all volunteers the list asking them to order a storage slot for their use where by which he will label it for them with their name. The storage slots have been designated for volunteer members.
- 2) Louise James made a proposal last year to paint the studio but is now busy with personal affairs and will contact the Board when she is ready to start.
- 3) December 6, 2022 Dinner Meeting. There was a complimentary dinner held by the Society at Bodega's restaurant to thank volunteers for their time and commitment and wish them all the best into the New Year.

New Business:

1. Janet Nichol has made a proposal to write a brief history of Basic Inquiry to celebrate its 40 year anniversary. See her proposal below: **Basic Inquiry Turns Forty**. The Board likes her proposal but is uncertain if we need 300 printed copies. An electronic version posted on our website and FB page may suffice. The Board to invite Janet to our next Board meeting to discuss.
2. Gallery report. On January 24, 2023 the CBC Listen podcast, On The Coast with Gloria Macarenko aired an interview with Alain Boullard about his Carnegie show which opened on December 29, 2022 and closed January 31, 2023. The next show, Six Inquires, will open this weekend, February 11 with the official opening February 19, 2023 and will run to March 11, 2023. Following in April and May would be the Betty Woo show. Alain is still working out the details with Andrew, a long time friend and collector of Betty's work.
3. The President made a proposal to increase session seat sales from 18 to 20. The Board authorized the change and Nick to notify session managers with studio capacity increasing February 15, 2023.
4. The President made a proposal to modify (remove the last bullet) the Safety Plan so it does not require constant editing every time the maximum studio occupancy changes. See Safety Plan below. The Board opted to maintain the Safety Plan as written with the studio capacity going to 24. Nick to modify.
5. The President asked if the Board wanted to try and add another drawing session(s). Times available are Monday or Tuesday evenings and/or Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings? President to send an email to all members asking for volunteers to be Session managers for more drawing sessions.
6. The Treasure updated the Board on the Affordable Spaces grant. The Society received a "late allotment" award of \$4,000 in 2022 and were encouraged to apply for a larger award—up to \$50,000—at the start of 2023. Proposals are due March 8. **Do we want to apply, and to what particular objectives and efforts (such as a ticket price reduction, eor specific studio improvement) are we able to target proposed funds?** Nick wrote the last grant application in a vacuum. How can we involve membership in conceptualizing and executing a larger capital plan? The Board decided to make the application with gallery improvements as an objective. Such as, a budget to purchase food and wine for openings, improved lighting, wall painting, hiring consultant to assist with client lists, promotion and assisting members with promoting their shows.
7. The Treasurer brought forward concerns about the Society's Institutional survival and made a proposal. Basic Inquiry has not attracted new board members willing to shoulder significant institutional responsibilities in now several years. Post our COVID

constriction, almost all of our directoral and executive functions are handled by two volunteers; and our entire membership database, ticketing system, and electronic sales apparatus are entirely dependent on one of them. What is our survival strategy if current leadership leaves suddenly, whether by exhaustion or misadventure ? (What needs to be in place to transition Robostrar management, or to survive without Robostrar?) Conversely, assuming we continue to not attract new leadership, how can we responsibly shut down Basic, and when should we do that?

Proposal: Well prior to AGM 2023, announce to membership that lacking further volunteers willing to take on Board responsibilities, the current Board aims to step down and dissolve the Society at the end of 2024, with any assets remaining after liquidation donated to a suitable charity. By AGM 2023, work out a general roadmap for minimizing remaining obligations and transitioning post-liquidation assets. Develop legal understanding by that time of dissolving a Society (and related things like breaking our City of Vancouver lease) sufficient to allow us to report an accurate overview of that coming process to membership.

This proposal depends on current leadership's willingness to remain engaged for at least two more years, either in planning and executing a deliberate shutdown or in liaising with and transitioning executive responsibilities to new membership. After discussion the Board agreed that this is the correct approach.

8. **Member Workshops.** We continue to get member-interest in workshops from other members. We have tossed this idea around a lot in the context of “studio rentals” or “unrestricted member studio use” trying to figure out how to avoid individual members running for-profit businesses unwittingly subsidized (at least in terms of rent) by membership at large. Does the following proposal—in which such workshops are one-time only, membership-facing, and initiated-by-Basic rather than “open signup”—avoid our previous problems while offering an interesting option?

Proposal: Basic attempts to undertake a new membership benefit initiative, which is from time-to-time to sponsor an in-studio art workshop for members featuring technique-focused hands-on lessons. Initially the program will be restricted to workshop leaders who are also Basic Inquiry members (i.e. a member-to-member benefit), will be offered no more than quarterly, and will pay the workshop leader a flat rate of \$200/three hour session. Enrollment will be on a first-come first-served basis limited to members only; seating capacity will be limited to no more than twelve participants, and workshops may be canceled a week beforehand at no cost if under five members have enrolled at that point. After discussion the Board decided to rescind the proposal due to the lack of volunteers.

9. The front door has been repaired. Last Saturday the lower pivot fractured completely leaving the door very difficult to operate and secure. The City was contacted and Action

Glass was dispatched today and completed repairs. Once the City has determined if the Society is responsible as per our lease agreement they will send an invoice.

The next meeting will be March 13, 2023 at the studio from 6 to 8pm

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm

Basic Inquiry Turns Forty

A proposal for a printed publication on a brief history of Basic Inquiry with illustrations

To: Board members, Basic Inquiry

**From: Janet Nicol, member of Basic Inquiry, former session manager
volunteer, retired high school history teacher & freelance writer**

Date: January 19, 2023

Proposal sent via email at board@lifedrawing.org

Introduction

Scores of professional artists have come through Basic Inquiry's doors since its founding by Gerald Kelly in 1983, as well as amateurs (including this writer), architects, tattoo artists, and art teachers. It's easy to walk right by the nondescript window front on Main Street, tucked among struggling shops and cafes, with a view to the old railway station. Entrance is by way of a glass door, past shelves of donated art books and around a partition. Cupboards, counters, and sinks line the studio's back wall, the surfaces cluttered with art supplies—and a tip jar for the model. As a non-profit, Basic Inquiry relies on volunteers and artists' session fees. Remarkably, it has survived rent hikes, relocation, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's not about making money," says artist, model and former volunteer Ezra Larson. "It's encouraging the artistic community in the pursuit of drawing nudes." (-excerpt from an article by this writer from Montecristomagazine (on-line) & re-posted on Basic Inquiry Facebook page.)

Proposal

I propose writing a brief history of Basic Inquiry to celebrate the studio's 40 years in the Vancouver community and to acknowledge the organization's

role in the cultural history of Vancouver. The proposed format is a printed pamphlet or booklet, with images (ie. exhibit posters and drawings) representing members' art work from the 1980s to the present.

The text would include brief quotes from “old-timers” through to current members, as well as stories about the studio itself - it's various locations and the range of people who come through—from well-known artists to retirees. A list of current board members will also be acknowledged - and the names of dedicated volunteers from the past.

ESTIMATED COST

I have contacted via telephone a printing firm in the Main Street neighbourhood, for an estimated cost to print either a pamphlet or booklet.

East Van Graphics, 604-568-1206 - Mustafa, staff member

<https://www.eastvangraphics.ca>

TWO OPTIONS:

Option #1

Bi folder - 11 x 17 - folds down to 8 1/2 x 11 - front and back; total of 4 pages -

6 black & white images and text

Print run of 300 copies

COST:

\$300.

25% discount for non-profit organizations

Taxes added

TOTAL COST - \$221.00

Option #2

**16 pages - size: 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 “catalogue” format with a cover & backing;
staple binding; unlimited number of colour images**

Print run of 300 copies

COST

\$600.00

Discount - 25 % discount for non-profit organizations

Taxes added

TOTAL COST - 524.00

An additional cost for either of these options - \$10 to receive a proof of the publication before the print run. This is optional but I strongly recommend it.

Labour costs - 0.00

This part of the project would be on a volunteer basis - although an honorarium - or complimentary BI tickets - would be acceptable too.

The selection go art & the writing of the history would be done by this writer independently - though other BI members volunteering to assist, would be welcomed. *The board would have final input and approval before publication.* One more “ask” from the board/BI members, besides the funding - I would require assistance by a BI member with graphic arts/computer expertise. An

on-line software, such as Photoshop or In Design, is required to format the text & images, then it is sent via email to the printer for publication.

Time line -

The print shop has a very quick turnaround time (2-3 days) and the publication could be conveniently picked up at the location, saving on mailing costs.

Research on the history would start as soon as possible and could take several weeks. A call out for stories on social media (and posting in BI studio) would be helpful.

Ideally, the publication would be printed sometime in the autumn of 2023.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Janet Nicol

My writing blog is at <http://janetnicol.wordpress.com/>

Email: janetnicol150@gmail.com

(This is a living document on Google Docs. When you make changes to it, update the Revision Date. Google Docs will keep track of previous versions and revisions using its Version History command in the File Menu. Once a new version is available, post new copies in the Studio and synchronize with Basic's Web Master to make sure the online version is up-to-date.)

STUDIO SAFETY PLAN

Revision April 2022

Safety Rules for All Session Participants

- Register for sessions in advance using [Robostrar](#), Basic Inquiry's online registration system.
- Do not enter the Studio if you are sick or have prominent symptoms of a contagious disease.
- Respect others' personal space and maintain appropriate social distances in the Studio.
- Follow any instructions given by the Session Manager, including leaving the Studio if so requested.
- Respect a maximum Studio occupancy during Studio Sessions of 22 people. (Available artist seats are capped to a lower number to accommodate a model, a session manager, and a contingency margin.)

These rules, protocols and requirements may change at any time.