

# **Board Meeting Minutes**

## **The Vancouver Life Drawing Society**

Monday March 13, 2023 — At the studio, 1011 Main Street

6:00 - 7:30PM

**Chair:** DS

**Attending:** AB, JJ

**Regrets:** NJ

**Special Guest:** Janet Nicol

Janet is attending to review with the Board her proposal to write a historical piece about Basic Inquiry in celebration of its 40 year anniversary. Her proposal can be found at the end of the agenda and request for a volunteer to assist is below.. The pre meeting time from 6 to 6:30pm will be given to discussing her proposal while she shares in some pizza and wine.

*A request for a Basic Inquiry member to volunteer to assist the history project writer, Janet Nicol, in the lay-out of the text and images (about 10-16 pages) using a basic software program, and after receiving final approval by the project writer and board members, sending this on-line "booklet" via email to a print shop selected by the project writer, for publication.*

*This requested task would take an estimated 4 hours to perform, and would be scheduled for the final week of May.*

Following discussion the Board felt the concept was good but the proposed printed format was below expectation and asked Janet to come back with some printing alternatives that allowed for a larger page size and more detail. The Board will hold off any decisions until they hear back from Janet.

### **Standing Items**

1. Call meeting to order at 6:15pm
2. Adoption of agenda, Adopted

3. Approval of the February 7, 2023 Minutes? Approved
4. Financial Report (Tabled)
5. Tech Systems Report (Tabled)

### **Old Business:**

- 1) Storage Slots: Update. Jaime is in the process of taking requests and assigning storage slots/bins to volunteers. He reported all is in order and those wishing slots have received them.
- 2) Louise James' proposal to paint the studio: Louise has been off sick and unable to tend to her cleaning duties. Kathryn Alma-Nihte has been handling the cleaning for the last several weeks. Once Louise returns her proposal to paint the studio can be revisited.
- 3) A Wednesday morning regular format drawing session with Bryce Baril volunteering as session manager was added to the schedule February 22, 2023.
- 4) Affordable spaces grant. After further review the Board realized applying for a grant at this time was not a practical option. Having difficulty rationalizing a proposal, given the Society is doing well financially, in light of the Society possibly dissolving in another year and Nick just not having the time it was decided to forgo this opportunity. Nick contacted the City Social Planning Department to inform them of our decision.
- 5) Institutional Survival: Strategies to save the Society.
  - a) Develop a brief description of what is required to be a Board member. List specific functions each of us serves in our various volunteer capacities and how often these functions are required so that prospective volunteers can identify scope of responsibilities and estimate time commitments. (Examples: “weekly (Sunday evenings/Monday mornings), e-transfer payments to previous week’s models on receipt of the weekly payroll roster” or “monthly, hand-code each transaction in our 2 VanCity account statements to the appropriate entry from our Chart of Accounts; transmit this coding to our accountants.”)
  - b) Solicit from the membership for a Secretary and Vice President, to be added to the Board immediately with the objective of helping the existing Board to prepare the next AGM.
  - c) Focus on expanding the gallery and shows that add life to the Society.
  - d) Find ways to make the sessions more successful.

Alain proposed creating posters to advertise the need for Board members, participation and post them around the studio. Needed is an eye catching image that delivers the message.

Another proposal by Paul Kernan is to have a notice on Robostrar Registration where a simplified message is posted that calls for more Board members laying out briefly what's required to be a Board member.

Another suggestion by Doug is for the next AGM that it be a "Board member show" with catering, bar service and music paid for by the Society. Members would be invited to the AGM/Board Show on a Saturday afternoon to eat, drink, enjoy the show and have a meeting with the emphasis to elect a new Board. Make the AGM a party.

Another suggestion is for Board members as they attend sessions, to talk to interested members and tell them what they do. Get the dialogue going.

### **New Business:**

1. Gallery report: The Six Inquiries and the upcoming Betty Woo show.

Re: Betty Woo Show. Alain is liaising with Andrew (who has Betty's work) about holding the show. Needed is a schedule, budget, advertising and invitations. Andrew is taking ownership of the show and will organize selection, delivery and hanging of the pieces and will look after promotion and invites to groups outside Basic. The Society will be responsible for the opening (food and drink) and inviting members and mounting posters for the studio. Needed will be a liquor license and special events insurance for the opening. No opening date has been specified. April 1st has been proposed but as it approaches becomes less likely.

2. Newsprint paper supply: Norm Walden & Sons is no longer providing the paper size we need for drawing. The Board sourced other suppliers, one in Coquitlam and one in Vancouver; All World Packaging on Clark drive (much closer to the studio than was Norm Walden in Richmond) and will be giving them a try.
3. Studio fridge: the small studio fridge is no longer working and needs to be disposed of and replaced as it's a convenience for members when having shows. A self defrosting model would be preferable.

Jaime to send Cyprian an email asking the membership if they have a bar fridge to donate. Failing that to research a price from a supplier that can deliver and take away the old fridge.

**Set next meeting date:** Monday, April 24, 2023

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:10pm

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:janetnicol150@gmail.com)