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## Meeting Minutes

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January 4, 2023  
Mickve Israel

### Board Updates

- Approval of meeting minutes from November
  - Motion to approve - ElyseButler
  - Seconded - Julianna
- Treasurer's Report
  - Received \$160 in member fees
  - \$52 in Lunch payments
  - 2 months of zoom membership fees have been paid
  - \$85 a month in Quickbooks
  - Kiah Fund: \$2915.15
  - CMA Website Fund: \$395
  - Total CMA funds not including Kiah and Website Fund: \$6975
    - Motion to move 15% to Kiah Fund
      - Motion to Move: Laura
      - Second: Glenda
      - Passes with unanimous vote

### New Business

- Kiah Fund Discussion
  - Currently Kiah Fund grants are available at 30% or up to \$300 per grant.
  - Motion to increase the dollar amount to \$500.
    - Joe Motions to approve.
    - Glenda Seconds
    - Luciana will send a digital ballot out to listserv for a total membership vote.
  - Only one application has been received - Alison Beckelhymer (Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace)
    - Application has been sent to a membership vote.
    - Question arises should she be eligible for the increase from \$300 to \$500
      - Membership in attendance unanimously agreed to extend the increase to Alison's application if approved.

**Kat** - Can an institution apply multiple times and only get one approval or should an institution only apply once for the grant?

**Luciana** - According to bylaws, only one can be approved but it does not say anything about multiple applications.

**Tara** - Historically how many grants has CMA given out in a year?

**Luciana** - Historically, CMA has given out up to 4 in a year pre-covid.

**Tara** - Is it per calendar year or per membership year?

**Luciana** - Bylaws state that it is per calendar year.

**Glenda** - Could we consider accepting multiple applications per institution since we have had a lack of applications in the past years because of COVID?

**Luciana** - That would be up to the membership to decide. All applications brought to the board are submitted to the membership for a vote. Ultimately the membership decides.

Program - Charles "Bo" Bowen - Entertainment Lawyer and founder of the Savannah Regional Production Alliance - Topic: State of the film industry in Savannah and how it affects our city and sites.

### **"Film Industry in Savannah"**

The Film Industry in GA is booming and has had an economic impact on the state of \$4.4 Billion. Georgia in the last year has been ranked number 1 as the most popular filming industry site with other major cities, states, and countries as follows.

1. Georgia
2. United Kingdom
3. California
4. New York

In 2022 GA has a record of 120 Sound Stages with 50 more being built. These are located in the city of Atlanta, GA.

Georgia is the most popular state for 3 reasons:

1. Tax incentives
2. Landscape and climate versatility. Anything can be filmed year-round in GA because of the diverse landscape of the state.
3. Georgia has the infrastructure and state-based film crews that no other state has other than California.

Savannah is the most popular destination behind Atlanta.

In 2014 the total money spent by the film industry in Savannah was \$18 Million.

The projection for the 2022 numbers, as they are still being counted, is \$200 Million with an economic impact of half a billion dollars. This is impressive considering that the filming infrastructure does not exist in Savannah like in Atlanta.

Movie Maker Magazine named Savannah the best city to live and work in as a filmmaker.

### **What Can Museums Do?**

Museums have a long rich history in films and the film industry and can be beneficial to the film industry as a set for an entire film or significant scenes. Some examples of museums in films are as follows:

- Art Institute of Chicago
- The MET
- Louvre
- High Museum of Art

Some examples of films with significant museum scenes or using the museum as a set.

- Night at the Museum
- National Treasure
- Raiders of the Lost Ark
- Vertigo
- Midnight in Paris

#### **How can museums and sites benefit from the film industry boom?**

1. Tourism and new visitors to your site
2. Commissioning items from your site for use in films.
3. Offer the museum as a filming location

#### **How does a museum get listed as an available filming location or site?**

1. Reach out to the Savannah Film Commission.
  - a. They have a new director, Erin Fraiser.
  - b. Kamie and Andy are the Location specialists
2. Register on [filmsavannah.org](http://filmsavannah.org) and post photos of your site.
  - a. This is where production looks when finding filming sites first.

#### **Q&A Discussion**

Why doesn't Savannah have a sound stage?

**Bo:** There have been attempts to create a sound stage in Savannah to develop the infrastructure to handle large film contracts. However, 12 years ago Moon River Studios was developed and it turned out to be a Scam so investors in Savannah are hesitant to invest their money because the previous scam created distrust.

**Glenda:** What is needed for a sound stage and how large are they?

**Bo:** The challenge is finding a location to have the sound stage. You would not only need a large amount of acreage but you would need additional structures built around for props, costumes, and parking to name just a few things.

Sound stages in Atlanta are 60,000 sq ft each with a ceiling height of 50ft. Savannah would need at least 20,000 sq ft for each sound stage. The challenge is for the city council to be in agreement and approve the development.

**Glenda:** What do you see museums asking for in terms of making sure that their sites are protected if they are chosen to be a filming location?

**Bo:** The most important thing for your site to have is insurance and to be listed as the beneficiary on the production's insurance. Everything else can and should be negotiated in the contract. If what was negotiated in the contract is not met the site can cancel the agreement at any time.

**Billie:** How do sites get compensated? Is that in the contract or is it a separate negotiation?

**Bo:** Compensation is always going to be negotiated with the production lead and in the contract. Things to consider with compensation are, how much of the facility is being used, how long the space will be used, and the hourly wage of staff that must be on-site to oversee the protection of the site and items on display.

**Joe:** Who owns the sound stages in ATL?

**Bo:** They are mostly owned by large companies, while there are some that are individually owned.

**Laura:** How does a museum protect irreplaceable works? I know there is insurance but money cannot always help cover irreplaceable works on display.

**Bo:** It is important to have someone on-site to act as guardian to the items or there should be a protocol for removing the item in question during the time of filming to not risk damage. It is also important to work with production studios that are unionized. Set firm rules with the filming staff and production crew and include these rules within the contract and bring the concerns up in all negotiations. At any point that a site feels like the rules are not being upheld, they can cancel the contract.

Some important things to remember are that you should always seek compensation for your staff and it should be written into the contract.

Also, remember that the film industry does not work the same 9-5 hours as most sites. Remember to be flexible because some productions can contact you at any and all hours. They will pay/compensate for the convenience of shooting on their schedule.

### Member/Institutional Updates

Savannah City Archives	Luciana	W.W. Law Centennial Year! Year-long social media campaign celebrating W.W. Law
Georgia Historical Society	Elyse	Georgia Day! Feb 10 Colonial Faire and Muster Super Museum Sunday
Ft. Pulaski	Laura	Bark Ranger Day - Dog Day at Ft Pulaski.

Massie Heritage	Steve	W.W. Law Exhibit Free and open to the public
GHRAC	Glenda	CEMA Grant Writing Workshop on Security Glenda will send to list serv.  Chatham County Hurricane Conference. Looking for Site speakers.
Savannah African Art Museum	Billie Stultz	Museum Rotating Exhibit - New Exhibit launching Saturday, Feb 4