



Camosun College Film Studio Project Advisory Committee
September 27, 2021
Meeting Summary

Advisory Committee members in attendance:

Sherry Bell, President, Camosun College (Chair)
Calvin Simpson, Constituency Assistant to M. Rankin
Kevin Brewster (for S. Baskerville), EFO & Assistant Deputy Minister, Finance, Technology Management Services, Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training (MAEST)
Fred Haynes, Mayor, District of Saanich
Phil Hancyk, Executive Director, Post-Secondary Finance, MAEST
Kathleen Gilbert, Film Commissioner, Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission
Michael Goodwin, Production Design Specialist

Camosun College Resources in Attendance:

Geoff Wilmshurst, VP Partnerships
Deborah Huelscher, VP Administration
John Boraas, VP Education

Regrets:

Hon. Murray Rankin, MLA, Oak Bay-Gordon Head

1. Welcome

Sherry Bell, Committee Chair extended a warm welcome to all in attendance and expressed grateful acknowledgement of the Coast Salish Territory on which the meeting took place.

2. Business Case Update

Regularly scheduled planning discussions continue to take place on a bi-weekly basis with contracted consultants Ray Wolfe, ThinkSpace, Leslie Wootton, Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC and Karen Lamare, Lamare Productions Inc.

The vision for this project is to create a Centre for Film and Digital Media that will be the first of its kind on Vancouver Island and that will provide opportunity for students to be trained in all ancillary areas of film production.

Design drivers are:

- Campus with clear approach and entry/exit points via Interurban Road
- Maximized complement and associated support spaces
- Academic growth at the College

It is recognized that road construction will be a critical piece of this project. Road engineers have been engaged and focus of discussion has been on how best to meet requirements of the proposed facility whilst minimizing traffic movement and impact through the surrounding neighborhood.

A meeting with representatives from the Municipality of Saanich Planning Department has taken place.

3. Overview of Industry Feedback, Key Findings

Feedback has been sought from the following sectors:

- Labour organizations
- Studio owners/operators
- Specialized equipment suppliers
- Domestic and international producers
- Animation & visual effects companies
- Other educational institutions
- Related government partners

Key findings to date in BC:

- Streaming platforms race to produce original content and that is driving soundstage growth worldwide
- Soundstages in Vancouver continue to be fully booked
- There are forty-two new soundstages under development in BC
- Currently there are not enough people with appropriate training to meet the current and upcoming demands of the Film Industry
- A more diverse workforce is needed

Key findings to date on Vancouver Island:

- The only soundstage on Vancouver Island at this time is fully booked through 2022
- Costs of travel limit production activity on Vancouver Island
- Some production crews are available on Vancouver Island but supply is not aligned with production demand
- Strong preference is to crew locally to reduce costs
- There are currently crew shortages in the areas of camera operation, lighting, set construction and production assistance.

Key findings related to the Camosun Film Studio Project

- Workforce development is key priority across industry stakeholders
- key trend is to retrain using stackable micro-credentials
- concept of co-location of industry education and a studio is being positively received with the caveat that the two operations (education and studio) be mutually exclusive
- Camosun's ability to engage with under-represented groups (in particular women and indigenous population) is of particular interest to the industry as it is a major industry concern
- Increasing demand for skilled labour continues to be a key issue for the industry. A pipeline approach from Camosun training programs to the industry should result in unprecedented cooperation between the two

4. Next Steps

- It is hoped that a first draft copy of the Business Case related to this project will be complete by the end of November. Comments from committee members will be invited at that time

- A finalized document is expected to be ready by the end of December, 2021
- Further consultation with the community will be initiated
- Engagement with legal counsel will be initiated
- Timing regarding presentations to be made to the Camosun Board of Governors and to the Saanich Council is still under discussion. More detail is expected to be available by the next meeting of this committee.

5. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Camosun College Film Studio Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on December 3, 2021.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.