



Newsletter "EXTRA" for Summer 2021 (August 1, anyway)



Welcome to ASIFA Central! We are the Midwest-US chapter of ASIFA, the oldest organization of animators in the world. Our chapter was established in 1975. While our community is separated by our far-flung geography, we are united by our love of animation. Our diverse membership is a blend of independent animators, animation artists, professors, seasoned pros, students, and fans of the art of animation.

Current ASIFA Central Board



President and IAD Multiverse Traveler
Briana Yarhouse

Secretary of Unfocused Distractions,
Insolent Lymphoma, and Cracked Fonts
Jim Middleton

Coordinator for Membership, German
Translations, and Technological
Phenomena
Charles Wilson

Treasurer and International ASIFA Star of
Stage, Screen, and AniZoomation
Deanna Morse

Social Media, Analog Conversions, and
Multiplanar Pies
Christopher Sagovac

Interlocutor of Projects, Feline Friskiness,
and Anniversary Cupcakes
Gretchen Vinnedge

Award Winning, Best-Dressed Film
Director and ASIFA Central Website
Commando **WITH THE NEATEST
BASEMENT IN THE MIDWEST**
Julie Goldstein

Molder of Youthful Minds and Keeper of
Esoteric Knowledge of Toasted
Engravings
Steven Leeper

Tallest Human Ever to Animate
Robert Swieringa

Stopped Motionator, Rocket launch
monitor, and Tripod Convergence
Coordinator

Your name could appear in this roster of fame

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR THE ASIFA CENTRAL BOARD IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Elections are coming up, with the new Chapter Bylaws finalized and available on our website, www.asifa.org. The following candidates provided their requested brief biography as a prelude to the electronic ballots coming to active members *very soon!*

(Arranged alphabetically by last name)

Julie Goldstein

I see the art form of animation as providing the opportunity to conjure up the energy of life through time based expression. This expression can be perceived and passed on to the minds of others. It is a pure expression of the life force and provides the opportunity to visualize that which cannot be seen in the physical world.

I have been on the board of ASIFA Central since 2016 and prior to that was the President of ASIFA

Colorado from 2012-2015. I see ASIFA's mission as core to my engagement with the art of animation as a practitioner and fan, providing the opportunity to spread to the love of the art and the process of creating. As a member of the organization and Board, I embrace my leadership role in regards to assisting in maintaining the website, providing workshops on various evolving technologies, moderating guest artists at our retreats, hosting holiday stop motion productions at my house, participating in the Anijams and International Animation Day collaborations, as well as working to showcase work in local venues, such as with Project 1. In the future, I look forward to building on my leadership skills by developing new workshops, facilitating collaborations as well as expanding our online and local presence in order to amplify our outreach and grow our membership!



Julie Goldstein

Stephan Leeper

I am submitting this brief letter to express my strong desire to continue as an ASIFA Central Board Member "at large" for the foreseeable future. ASIFA Central plays a vital role in connecting animators in the greater Mid-West and I have benefited greatly from the friendships, projects and camaraderie that comes from being part of this close-knit group of animators. My contributions as a board member "at large" over the past four years stem from a deep connection to ASIFA's core mission to reach across cultural barriers and to use animation to help celebrate our shared humanity. A commitment that has played out in my willingness to run workshops, participate in retreat planning, and general involvement in many ASIFA activities over the years.



Stephan Leeper

Given the current nature of my responsibilities at CMU, a sole tenured faculty in a fledgling Animation BFA program, I am reluctant to take on any overarching ASIFA responsibilities at this time. That said, I am more than willing to continue in my current "at large" support role, participating in regular meetings, planning for events, and taking on practical (and technical) responsibilities as my schedule allows.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Long

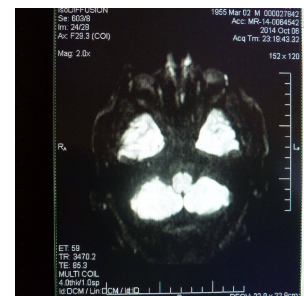


Michael Long

I've been an ASIFA-Central member for 2 years. From my first retreat in 2019 I knew this was a talented, nurturing animation community. I volunteered for the Spiritus Mundi "Potluck" project last year, which afterwards led to my hosting monthly ASIFA Zoom "coffee breaks" to maintain our friendly, collaborative group. The "breaks" provide time to play, exchange ideas, share projects, and find inspiration among friends. If elected to the board, I'll continue to host the Zoom breaks in that spirit while encouraging more members to join in. I'd also like to help improve our connections with other ASIFA chapters here and abroad. The goal is to strengthen our community and use animation whenever and wherever we can to further the mission of ASIFA. Thanks!

Jim Middleton

When informed that this note required a single pair of graphs, I was rather stumped, since a pair is not a single, but a single can somehow be a pair? This is why I enjoy my two-volume dictionary, and even more, enjoy a couple of typewriters always polished and at the ready for whatever textual taxonomical task is placed before these digits. Of course, the actual request was for a paragraph, so up went the dictionary and down came Strunk and White. Years of typing prescription labels, correcting monstrous errors by budgetary consultants, and reading notes spilled upon Post-Its have prepared me for a secretarial position at ASIFA Central, where I delight in assembling at least a quartet of newsletters a year, now in Living Color since digital distribution negates the need for inkish behavior. Hi. My name is Jim Middleton. I have retired the "Apothecary" portion of my "Animating Apothecary" shingle. It has been an honor to serve as ASIFA Central's Secretary for three years now, helping background organizing when needed, serving as liaison among the many international chapters when possible, and enjoying it so much that my smile will outlive me by seven years. Among my future goals is an expansion of the communication process among the US and international chapters and the development of an archival network of animation fans and collectors, including material in the public domain. It is my sincerest belief that information not shared is lost.



Jim Middleton

Tracy Miller-Robbins

I've taught all forms of animation in a variety of settings for 25+ years, while also exhibiting my animated installations/films in a variety of venues around the world, and doing volunteer animation/storyboard projects when I can. I am passionate about all forms of animation, but in particular that which breaks boundaries and conventions, that which innovates. In workshops I make animation accessible to everyone, adjusting to their interests and skill levels. I believe in supporting other creatives and sharing resources, creating a diverse supportive community, and to this end I have published a blog about festivals with no entry fee, because I don't want to support a world where the best voices go unheard. It is this attitude and these interests which I would hope to utilize as a member of the ASIFA Central board, a group I have felt welcomed by, almost instantaneously. I would like to see ASIFA Central grow to include more animators and have more events, and coming out of the pandemic, I would love to facilitate these, both online and in person through community workshops, screenings, exhibits, projects or get-togethers.



Tracy Miller-Robbins

Deanna Morse



Deanna Morse

I wish to remain on the ASIFA/Central board. I have been active with ASIFA for a couple of decades, locally serving as past-President, membership, treasurer, and internationally as a V.P. for several terms. My interest is in helping to support and build our animation community. I will work to assist with our existing programs (IAD, retreat, etc.), and to help us share information and resources nationally and internationally with other groups, animators and ASIFA members. Although I now live in Oregon, my heart is still with the Midwest animation community.

Chris Sagovac

I'm Chris Sagovac, Associate Professor of Animation and Chair, at Webster University. I am a current board member and Social Media Officer. I have a vested interest in growing and being a part of the leadership of our vibrant animation community, spanning the Midwest. I have always enjoyed bringing people together and seek to broaden our connection to the region. Spanning now from Michigan to Texas, there are so many cities, institutions, and artists that could become a part of the ASIFA Central family. I wish to submit my name for consideration to serve on the board.



Chris Sagovac

Bob Swieringa

Hello! I am Bob Swieringa, a member of the ASIFA Central Board since 2017. I am an assistant professor at Grand Valley State University in Communication Studies but teach in film and animation as well. As a Member-at-Large on the Board, I contribute as my skills allow on projects undertaken by the Board. The majority of these contributions have been to help organize our annual Retreats, and to assist in/undertake writing projects. For example, I assist the Secretary in writing the Newsletter and in creating our report of the annual Retreat. I also help to promote International Animation Day by interviewing the IAD poster creator (the previous two and this year's), writing releases describing their ideas and process. As well, I help to promote ASIFA and its membership (such as through a history of its annual prize laureates). I seek to remain on the Board to continue offering support and assistance to

the goals of ASIFA Central, particularly in projects to help promote ASIFA and its membership. For example, I would like to develop a “Members’ Corner” for our Chapter Newsletter/web site which would highlight in turn the work and practice of our members individually, so we can encounter and appreciate the variety of talent, expertise, and expression embodied in our membership. Thank you for your consideration.



Bob Swieringa

Christine Veras



Christine Veras

I'm Christine Veras, an international member of ASIFA Central for the past two years. I'm originally from Brazil and currently teach History of Animation and Experimental Animation at the University of Texas at Dallas. ASIFA Central's strength lies in its friendly and supportive community. As a prospective board member, I would like to help develop further collaborations within our membership, and between us and academia, including institutions, faculty, and students passionate about animation. Creating events, special interest groups, and fostering opportunities for discussions and exchanges are my goals to reinforce our chapter's strengths. Thus, helping to increase its visibility nationally and

internationally while boosting and animating community engagement, getting us closer to our collective plan to "try to take over the world" (Brain, 1995) through animation.

Cheers!

Gretchen Vinnedge

As an animation lover, creator and teacher, I have had the pleasure of being a member of ASIFA Central USA for many years. Every year, I look forward to working with youth as part of the annual Animation Workshop Group, as well as teaching workshops to students of all ages. I have been on the board for the past 6+ years helping to organize chapter events such as International Animation Day and hosting many Summer retreats and other workshops at the Community Media Center. I would love to continue serving on the board helping to bring animators together through collaboration, workshops and the love of animation.



Gretchen Vinnedge

Briana Yarhouse



Bri Yarhouse

I have had the honor of serving on the ASIFA Central Board for about 6 years and as president of ASIFA Central for the last four years. My goals as president were also my passion as a board member; to build community over a large diverse area. I have worked hard along with the rest of the board to create events such as our physical film sharing events at the Wealthy Theatre in Grand Rapids, collaborative projects such as the Ani-Jam's that we have done for the last several years including our participation in Spiritus Mundi: Animating the World last year. I've helped along with other board members spearhead our annual retreats including the last two that were

done through Zoom. My goals are to continue to build inclusivity, opportunity for community through digital tools, collaborative projects, and in person events. We are spread out throughout the Midwest and I believe we need to actively build community to help foster and support not just the art form of animation but our creativity as animators.