

The Current ASIFA Central Board

President

Julie Goldstein

Vice President

Christopher Sagovac

Treasurer and International IAD
Coordinator

Bri Yarhouse

Social Media Coordinator and
Chapter Ambassador:

Tracy Miller-Robbins
Josh Harrell

Secretary, Yr Hmbl Typst,
Incidental Doodling, and
Membership Coordinator

Jim Middleton

ZOOM Coffee Host
Michael Long

With Free-Range Board
Members

Deanna Morse
(Madame President for All
ASIFarians!)

and

Gretchen Vinnedge

Stephen Leeper

Michael Long

The Indestructible Bob

Swieringa

Charles Wilson

International Correspondents

Vivi Markatos

Schweta Marathe

*Many of these
positions will
become
available in 2026*

Upcoming Mini-Retreat and ASIFA Central Board Elections Coming Doodle Polls to Enter your EMAIL

The September 3rd meeting of the ASIFA Central Board convened to assess the prospects for both a retreat and a general board election between now and December, 2025. The consensus was that a virtual retreat can still be arranged for October, with a general election for board members in December, with the new term kicking in on January 1, 2026. Board members have been experiencing a surfeit of scheduling challenges over the past year, and many projects have been sidelined until the *very animated dust could settle*.

Doodle Polls will be coming from President Julie Goldstein or yr hmbly typst very soon to enquire on favored dates for the retreat and make a call for interested candidates for Board Member positions.

A Quick September 2025 ZOOM Coffee Experience

Magical Zoom meetings were all the rage in the first week of September - hosted by Michael Long of Webster University, the first topic for consideration was that Webster University would no longer be using Zoom for its campus activities, so participants passed the hat to continue it as our most effective means so far for group communications.

AI was on the forefront of discussions, as it will become for the upcoming proposed retreat, with a discussion forum on its use in education. As with any new technology, it is being used without real planning aforethought, as computerization was implemented as a "great way to reduce staff" but in reality, only shuffled payroll to an IT department. It can be the same with AI in the animation education world, an especial pity since there is a groundswell of more hands-on techniques rather than AI, with the use of off-the-shelf open source software (Blender, etc) proving effective for individual expression - animation is not a tool-based medium, and as ASIFA members have long-contended, "We have the best *storytellers*," which is the best mental state when considering what AI involvement should entail in any animated production.



The Usual Suspects - Michael Long, Yr Hmbl Typst, Gretchen Vinnedge, Deanna Morse, David Thrasher, Peaches Wilczak, Viva Vivi!, Carlos Rosas, Chris Sullivan

And speaking of software, Wonder Unit was explored as an open-source software for storyboarding, along with a product called Storyboarder, which offered a frank assessment of license-centric (and expensive) “commercial products” with its FAQ paragraph explaining, “Why is it free?” with a poetically terse, “F*ck those guys.”

Happy Valley Film Festival Still Taking Submissions!



The Happy Valley Animation Festival (HVAF) will return for its sixth year with events beginning on March 26, 2026 at State College, PA (Happy Valley). An open international animation competition showcasing a wide variety of animated works, HVAF is screened online as well as throughout the Pennsylvania State University (University Park). Submissions from students, early career, and practicing professional artists, designers, and filmmakers are welcome in any of the three categories: *Animated Short Films*, *Experimental Animation*, and *Animated Motion Graphics & Design*.

Call for Entries: October 1, 2025 - December 1, 2025

Submission Deadline: December 1st, 2025



March 27, 2026 | Animation Showcase

March 26 and March 28, 2026 | Official Selection Screenings

May 1 - May 22, 2026 (tentative) | Gallery Exhibition

<https://happyvalleyanimationfestival.org>

Steve Leeper at CMU - Presenting Works in Progress and Author Installations

Central Michigan University
University Art Gallery Schedule 2025-2026
 Hours: Monday – Friday 11–6, Saturday 11–3
 Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/cmichartgallery>



Department of Art and Design Faculty Exhibition 2025

August 29 - September 27, 2025

Opening reception Thursday, August 28, 2025, 4-6 pm



And Another Reminder – IAD Submission Deadline on FilmFreeway is October 1, 2025!!!

