

Board Meeting Minutes

The Vancouver Life Drawing Society

Monday May 18, 2020; 7:00 PM

Due to the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic and regulations prohibiting group meetings, the meeting was held via Zoom video conferencing software program.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

In attendance: Douglas Smardon (president), Suzanne saint pierre (vice-president), Ron Bijok (treasurer), Paul Kernan (secretary), Alain Boullard, Dean Gazeley, Nick Jackiw (IT Manager)

Meeting Chair: Doug Smardon

It was agreed that draft minutes would be posted on Google Docs and attendees would be notified by email to review and comment / amend. After an agreed time period the modified minutes would be issued to members and posted on the website.

Old Business:

1. Rent Relief – Subsidy / Deferral
 - a. Paul indicated that the City of Vancouver, Qualifying Questions for Commercial Tenants form has been completed and was sent to the City on May3, 2020.
 - b. Dean indicated that it has been determined that the previously discussed subsidy for commercial tenants will not apply in situations where the landlord is a government entity.
2. Online Sessions - Emily / Chieh, Poll of Members

- a. As discussed at the last meeting, Nick has polled the membership via email. The results of the questionnaire have been issued to, and reviewed by, Board Members.
 - b. Approximately 75% of respondents have indicated an interest in participating in on-line sessions run by Basic Inquiry.
 - c. Feedback from models currently providing on-line sessions suggest that the format is popular and confirms interest from Basic Inquiry members.
 - d. Doug suggested that that there would be a lot of work involved in running on-line sessions and that a dedicated group of volunteers, rather than board members, would be needed.
 - e. The response of membership on the question of group bookings was less clear. Approximately 50% of respondents indicated an interest in booking the studio, with the most popular frequency being once per month. It was suggested that if the option proved successful the level of participation could grow.
 - f. Nick indicated that costs associated with running on-line sessions were not significant. Some camera equipment would be required along with internet access.
 - g. Currently on-line sessions run by models are clothed. Additional safety protocols, possibly specific individual invitations to artists, would likely be required if nude sessions were to be provided.
3. Possible System Changes Following Reopening (dependent on restarting scenarios in item 4 below)
- a. Health and safety management plan

- i. Dean confirmed that 10 to 11 artists and a model could be accommodated in the studio while meeting social distancing requirements. An additional 4 to 5 artists could possibly be provided with some form of curtains or screening.
- ii. It was agreed that a Basic Inquiry health and safety management plan would be based on direction from health authorities and / or Worksafe BC. The possible need for additional consultant assistance to develop a plan was also raised.
- iii. Paul raised the issue of D & O liability with respect to implementation of a plan based on generic direction from public health authorities. It was agreed that this should be discussed with our insurance provider. A limitation of liability, to be signed by participants, or posting of same in the studio was discussed.
- iv. A possible initial limiting of attendance to members, shorter duration sessions, and various other mitigating strategies were discussed.

b. Cashless Online Business Model

Nick described three possible approaches:

- i. Full automation—e-commerce systems run credit cards (3% fee) and a computer system handles bookings, reservations, etc.
 - 1. Hand built (like Robobooker): we design a system that fits our needs and implement it

2. pre-built: we change our business model to match an off-the-shelf system (e.g. <https://www.mindbodyonline.com>).
 - ii. “Human system”—e-transfer Interac to Basic’s account for purchasing, monitored and coordinated by volunteer(s) in charge of organizing the events for which charge is happening. Not efficient in the long run but good for getting the kinks out of our own system.
 - iii. Donation only—abandon fees during Covid, open e-transfer to our account as Donations.
- c. Teaching
- i. Alain raised the possibility of providing instruction sessions. Doug indicated that Basic Inquiry provided some teaching in the past (prior to 1992). Dean explained that the practice was discontinued after a particular incident that resulted in significant costs to Basic.
 - ii. It was acknowledged that Basic’s current business license specifically prohibits teaching. This is likely for reasons that would not be of a practical concern as there would be no significant neighbourhood impacts resulting from a teaching session compared to a regular session.
 - iii. The question of Basic teaching sessions or rental of the studio to a third party wanting to run teaching sessions was discussed.

4. Restart Scenarios

- a. Four potential restart scenarios were proposed and discussed.
 - A. The existing (old) model.
 - B. Reserve a block of Studio time to members.
 - C. Sublease studio to a small group of members for one or two years.
 - D. Running virtual sessions from the studio.
- b. Board members expressed the following preferences:
 - i. Nick: Start with option b, and transition to option a.
 - ii. Ron: Not in favour of option b for two reasons; if a third party can feasibly run sessions, Basic can also do so, philosophically our business is providing sessions.
 - iii. Dean: Agreed with Ron, preference for option a, with 10 artists.
 - iv. Alain: Concern with risks associated with opening the studio. Recommends waiting for direction from health authorities before restarting.
 - v. Paul: Preference for a, and d, once we have clear direction from health authority and have developed a health and safety management plan.
- c. Nick expressed an interest in testing the option of virtual sessions in the studio and proposed 4 initial sessions with a Basic Inquiry model. Nick will provide a written proposal to the board for approval. Paul offered to assist with the sessions if they were scheduled for weekends. Payment methods were discussed; sessions to be offered free to artists with donations to be split between Basic and the model on an agreed basis, or Basic to pay the model the

regular fee . Payment options will be clarified in Nick's proposal. Both Ron and Dean expressed a preference for the second option. The question of additional equipment required to run virtual sessions was discussed and the board approved a budget of \$200 for cameras. It was also noted that internet access would be required although initially sessions could be run via a mobile hotspot. Ron agreed to investigate the costs of permanent internet access in the studio.

5. Further Communication with Members

- a. Recent communications included the questionnaire (item 2 above) and the minutes of the April Board meeting.
- b. Minutes of this meeting will be emailed to members in addition to a notification about the virtual sessions when ready.

6. Gallery Shows

- a. Health authority rules / guidance related to art galleries were discussed. Dean indicated that commercial galleries are open, although access may be restricted. Alain expressed the opinion that there should not be a problem as long as the show didn't involve an opening event.
- b. It was agreed that we would need to develop guidelines for public attendance. Likely viewing would be by invitation only.
- c. One idea for a show was to display drawings and paintings of our models and donate the proceeds of sales to either models, or to Basic.

- d. The option to display work on via an online gallery page on the Basic website was discussed. Nick agreed to work with Alain to develop this option.

New Business:

1. Invitation from member to connect via Alignable
 - a. Due to concerns with the Alignable online referral network, and the possibility that the member's email may have been hacked, it was agreed Basic would not respond to the invitation.
2. Next Meeting
 - a. Dean noted that Phase 3 of the lock-down relaxation rules are expected to be issued sometime in June.
 - b. It was agreed the next board meeting would take place on June 9th at 6:00 - 8:00 PM via Zoom

The Meeting was adjourned at 9: 30 PM.

42 responses



Not accepting responses



Basic Inquiry



Send



Questions

Responses

42

Summary

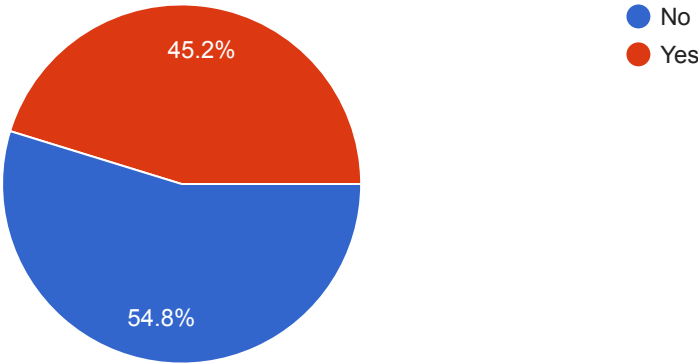
Question

Individual

Online Life-Drawing Sessions

Have you participated in any online life-drawing sessions?

42 responses



If you've participated in some already, can you tell us about them? With whom—which groups and/or models? And would you recommend any of them to other Basic members?

21 responses

I have drawn in 4 of Chieh's sessions and one of the Film School sessions. Chieh has conscientiously taken advantage of Zoom to attempt lighting, focus and poses that are not possible in the usual Basic sessions. On the whole, they have been very good, but the limitations of the 2D to 2D do come through in my pretty weak results. The small screen plays a part in this. But I certainly do appreciate the professionalism with which Chieh has approached the challenge and her generosity in donating her time to us all. I did not find the session through VFS satisfactory, though that may have been due to my impatience.

emily and chieh

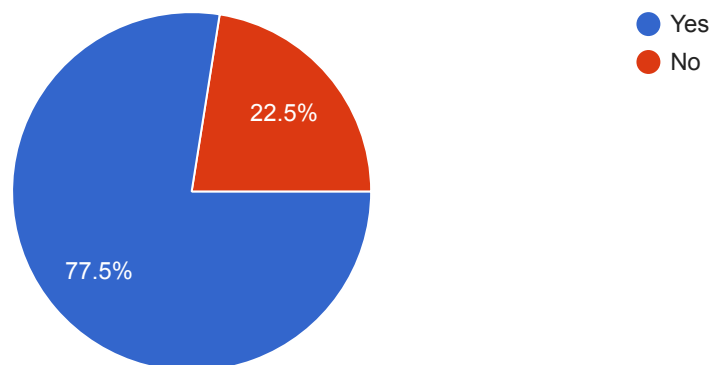
Cheih's first session. It was well done and I would recommend doing it. I would recommend connecting the video to a larger television rather than doing it on a laptop.

I have participated with both Emily and Chieh. For me, online is completely different from studio, the screen is flat and dead in comparison. So online will never replace the studio experience. However, online is a surprisingly fun challenge. My drawing is different. Smaller, less tactile and more outline. Online would not be my first choice but it is leagues better than nothing. And worthy of support.

two with Chieh as model. I found the sessions did not meet my needs. Slow to adapt to these circumstances. Found it unsettling working in the Zoom format

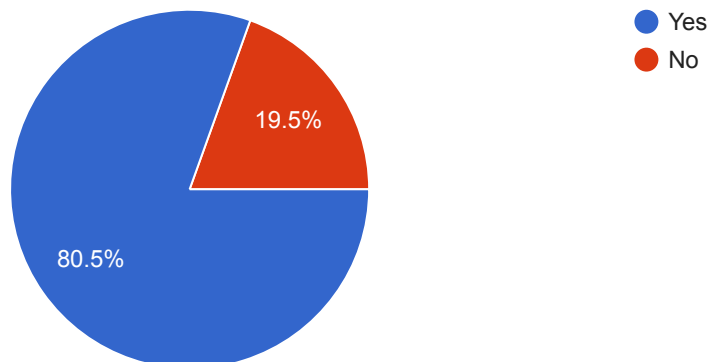
Would you be interested in receiving information from Basic about third-party online life-drawing sessions being hosted by diverse model and artists the internet?

40 responses



Would you be interested in participating in online life-drawing sessions that were specifically hosted by Basic Inquiry, perhaps with our typical models, our studio's lighting setup, our session formats, and things like that? If so, how often do you think you might be interested in participating in them?

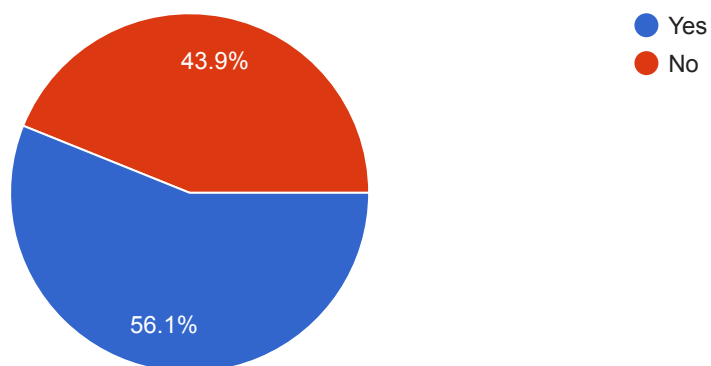
41 responses



Group-Blocked Live Studio Sessions

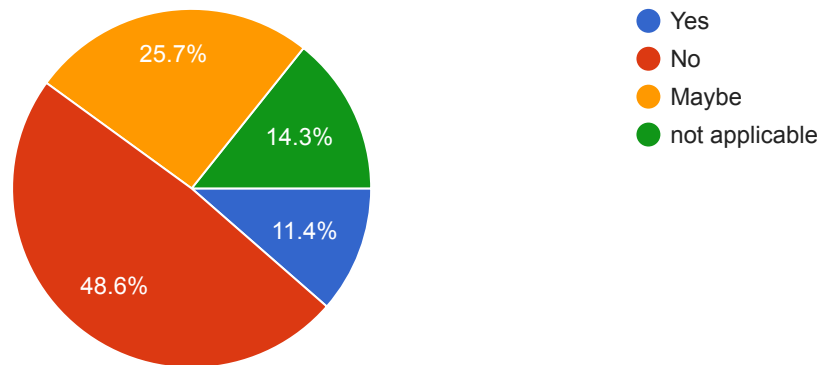
Generally speaking, would you be interested in considering participating in a group-blocked live session, assuming the other participating artists were known to you in advance, and the cost was on the order of \$25-\$30 per participant for a three-hour session?

41 responses



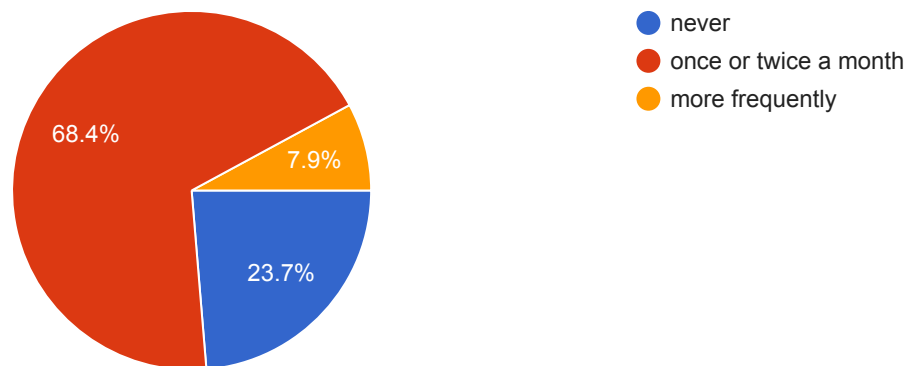
If yes, do you personally feel you connected to a sufficient number of other Basic Inquiry members or artists that you would be interested in organizing such a session (contacting other artist friends to create a group-block)?”

35 responses



Whether as organizer or participant, how often do you think you might be interested in participating in group-blocked live sessions?

38 responses



General Feedback

Do you have any comments or suggestions to the Board or your fellow members as you consider the purpose of the Society and the role it might fill during this time of COVID closures? (Remember this survey is anonymous; if you want a reply make sure to leave your e-mail address!)

20 responses

I want to thank the Board for its continuing attention and work on all our behalf. I greatly miss the sessions, and the opportunity to meet others and the privilege of seeing their work. Hopefully things will continue to improve and the regular program can resume. Be safe and take care.

Online step by step tutorial of painting or drawing or some topics.tips about the equipment also works for me.

i would certainly go back to group sessions but not yet. I am continuing to work from home so unlikely to want to be in close quarters in any other environment. I am really appreciating having the opportunity to draw with emily and chieh. Even though there are sites with models online - there is something about the immediacy of the livestream model that is much more satisfying.

Could 2

Could \$25-\$30 sessions be longer than 3 hours?

Thank you, board members, for trying to keep the studio afloat. Have you thought about live streaming the group blocked sessions on Zoom? Not sure how best to deal with Zoom participants payment - perhaps voluntary with a suggestion of \$10 via etransfer to BI - but BI would be the beneficiary of proceeds. One more idea: how about selling tickets to a draw for one or more of the eight spots in the group blocked live

Thank You!