



## MINUTES

California Film Commission Board Meeting  
February 28, 2020  
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
CBS Television City, Studio 58  
7800 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90036

### **COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Senator Ben Allen  
Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
Thom Davis  
Steve Dayan  
Zach Friend  
Bonnie Goldfarb  
Jennifer Gonring  
Wendy Greuel  
L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Jerry Ketcham  
Janet Knutsen  
Joshua LaFarga  
Debra Langford  
Jaime Lee  
Brian Pendleton

### **EX-OFFICIOS/DESIGNEES IN ATTENDANCE**

Colleen Bell, Executive Director, California Film Commission  
Eve Honthaner, Deputy Director, California Film Commission

### **CFC STAFF**

Laura Baptista  
Joseph Cruz  
Brandy Davis  
Eric Klosterman  
Leah Medrano  
Nancy Rae Stone

### **GUESTS**

Erik Deutsch, ExcelPR Group  
Philip Sokoloski, FilmL.A.  
Meredith McNamee, Office of Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
Officer Brenda Haggerty, Office of Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
Matthew Johnson, Office of L.A. County Supervisor Janice Hahn  
Lauren Pizer, Office of Senator Ben Allen  
Melissa Patack  
Eva Bitar, City of Los Angeles  
David Gonzalez, AICP  
Jason Weisz, Office Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins  
Philip Sokoloski, FilmL.A.  
Larry Laboe, New Filmmakers L.A.  
Rick Levy, ICM Partners  
Ilyanne Morden Kitchaven, SAG-AFTRA  
Arlen Valdivia, MPAA

**I. CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME; INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS/GUESTS - Thom Davis, Chair**

Meeting called to order at 1:35 p.m.; board and guests self-introductions made.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Thom Davis, Chair**

Motion to approve the Minutes from November 08, 2019 was made and approved.

**III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Colleen Bell, Executive Director**

Last night, the CA On Location Awards honored the best Location Professionals in entertainment. Netflix chief content officer Ted Sarandos, seen below with John Stamos, received the Golden Slate Award from the California Film Commission and Film Liaisons in California Statewide (FLICS) for his commitment to filming in the state.

Golden Slate Award recognizes industry professionals who are determined to take advantage of California's crews, locations and infrastructure, exercising their influence to film in-state as often as possible.

"We're thrilled that Ted will be honored for his work to create jobs and contribute so much to our state's economy," California Film Commission executive director Colleen Bell said Wednesday in a statement. "With his leadership, Netflix is demonstrating how production here in California provides unparalleled value."

When already successful TV series relocate to California, they bring long-term jobs and significant in-state spending," California Film Commission executive director Colleen Bell, who administers the incentive, said in the press release. "The decision by so many projects to pack up and move production here affirms that our tax credit program is working and that California can still provide unsurpassed value."

Colleen Bell, the executive director of California Film Commission (CFC) who signed an MoU with the Film Producers Guild of India and discussed ways to increase participation of Bollywood in California Film Commission by offering a set of incentives from California Destinations.

The Producers Guild of India signed an agreement with "Visit California", the California Film Commission to enhance the respective organizations' relationship for mutual benefits and to facilitate the production of Indian film, audio-visual and television content on location in California.

New Delhi signing an MOU for film/tv production cooperation. Reaffirming and strengthening California's commitment to the deep friendship and commercial engagement we share with India," CA Film Commission Executive Director Colleen Bell

Film commissions often act as a resource, providing guidelines on best practices, engaging in dialogue with the industry, as well as offering contacts for sustainable vendors, recycling and upcycling services, potential community partners and other resources. Representatives from productions approved by the California Film and TV Tax Credit Program are also required to attend an orientation meeting that includes an overview on sustainable practices and environmental regulations set by the California Environmental Protection Agency. Such items as reusable water bottles, sustainability officer wages and solar cells are eligible as qualified expenditures under the state's tax credit program.

"I think that there's a strong momentum behind supporting sustainable production practices," says Colleen Bell, executive director of the California Film Commission. "I think there's a strong expectation behind that, too, and people [in the industry] are really stepping up in order to do their part."

**IV. OPERATIONS REPORT – Eve Honthaner, Deputy Director**

**CFC Staff**

We've finally hired an IT specialist! It took a while, but we found someone who lives in the L.A. area, who will be working out of our offices (not in Sacramento), and he starts on Monday.

Nick Abdo – one of our tax credit analysts is leaving in August. Nick's skills are so specialized, as is our permit

system, we're concerned that it would be too difficult to train a replacement if we weren't allowed to hire someone until Nick leaves... so we're waiting to see if we'll be granted permission to post the job, hire and start someone within the next few months, so he/she would have time to train with Nick.

Interns – we've all been incredibly busy these past several months, and as our request for additional staff was turned-down during the last BCP process, we are in the process of looking for student interns.

### **Location California Magazine**

This is one of two advance copies we received. We'll be sending copies out once we get our first shipment.

### **COLA**

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, several of us attended the California On-Location Awards. At this event, Netflix's Ted Sarandos received the California Golden Slate Award for Netflix's enormous contribution to filming in California. John Stamos presented the award. Then a little later in the show, Colleen presented the public employee awards. Our CHP officer, Ian Ramer was up for best state employee, but unfortunately didn't make it this time.

### **Monterey – Bixby Bridge**

We've had meetings with our Monterey County film commissioner and several of our Caltrans contacts to once again talk about filming on the iconic and picturesque Bixby Bridge. I've mentioned before that this is one of the state's most popular sites for tourists, and we also get requests for filming on the bridge... but the residents in the area are not happy about all the people who flock to this area, and we've received constant complaints. We can't do anything about the tourists, but we've come up with some new guidelines for filming... like the fact that no more than one production with ITC will be allowed in any one week, and there must be at least seven days between all production activities. No helicopter filming is allowed below 1,000 feet, and before you can use a drone, you have to consult with a biologist from the Ventana Wildlife Society and have a biologist on-site to monitor California Condors if deemed necessary. There are other notifications that have to be made as well. There has been a moratorium between Memorial Day and Labor Day for a very long time – and between that and the other restrictions we're imposing, it's going to be more difficult to film on Bixby Bridge – but not impossible. There's always a fine balance between meeting the needs of a community with the needs of productions filming in the area.

### **Made in Hollywood Honors / Academy Awards**

For those of you not familiar, this is a bi-annual event where Oscar and Emmy-nominated shows are recognized for filming in California. It's spearheaded by L.A. Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, and there's an entire MIHH committee, which I've been on for the past several years. Colleen went to her first MIHH event at City Hall on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

And speaking of Oscars, of the films shot in California, a few of our tax credit shows did okay:

*Marriage Story* – Laura Dern, Best Supporting Actress

*Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* – Brad Pitt, Best Supporting Actor  
Production Design

*Ford v Ferrari* – Editing & Sound Editing

*Bombshell* – Makeup & Hair

### **LA2020 Future of Creative Talent Summit**

Colleen and I were both asked to be on this L.A. County committee to help with this event, which is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> at Paramount Studios. This is described as a groundbreaking venture that will allow Los Angeles County to harness its diverse creative ecosystem and exceptionally deep talent pool – cementing itself as a global epicenter of the film and digital media industry for decades to come. The Summit's platform will showcase LA's innovation in film and digital media, convening vital stakeholders ranging from elected officials to leaders of major studios, streaming platforms, digital startups, advocacy organizations, labor and educational institutions.

### **Out & About**

Last Wednesday, Eric Klosterman and I attended a meeting in Ventura County put on by the head of the Economic Development Collaborative, Bruce Stenslie and film liaison Bill Bartels. The meeting was attended by the permitting authorities from the various Ventura County cities and was an effort to create greater transparency and communication between the many agencies and jurisdictions that handle filming in the area. Eric and I gave some recommendations and shared information. While we were there, Eric received a call from a location manager who had an issue with a Ventura County permit, and thankfully, with the spirit of cooperation still in the air, compromises were made, and the issue was resolved in a timely manner.

Last Thursday evening, I moderated a panel for the Golden State Film Festival. The topic was “Low-Budget Filmmaking Done Right.” There were at least 100 people in the audience – maybe a little more, and we had a terrific panel. Thank you Josh LaFarga for attending.

Tomorrow, I’ll be attending an all-day strategic planning retreat for NewFilmmakers Los Angeles.

I’m on the advisory council of the Cal State University Entertainment Alliance, and next week, I’ll be a panelist at one of their meetings. The topic of this panel will be diversity.

### **From our Permit Department**

Eric reports that permits issued in 2019 were down 12% from 2018. In the past four months, we have continued to improve the functionality of our new online permit application system. We have assisted location scouts in attempting to open up locations on tribal land and on property owned by the MWD. We continue to advise local jurisdictions on best practices for filming in general and especially drone filming.

### **Your Property in a Starring Role**

The CFC has had this document on our website for a very long time, and it was updated in 2016. It’s for those who wish to offer up their properties and businesses to be used in films, TV shows and commercials. It walks them through everything they need to know about hosting filming. We were recently contacted by our friend Philip from FilmLA to see if we’d be interested in working with them to further update the document and turn it into a publication that we could both distribute. We’ve discussed the changes needed, and I’m almost done with my portion and should be turning it over to Phil within the next few days.

## **V. TAX CREDIT PROGRAM REPORT – Nancy Rae Stone, Tax Credit Program Director**

### **Program 2.0 Summary**

With one allocation remaining in fiscal year 5, we have thus far allocated \$1.5B in tax credits to 235 projects. \$11.2billion in total CA expenditures have resulted from these productions, with \$3.5B of that from non-qualified expenditures in wages, rentals, and sales for which the show received no credits. As you can see from the breakdown, these projects have employed nearly 33,000 cast and almost 45,000 crew.

In year 1, \$178M in tax credits garnered \$1.4B in total CA spend. By year 5, the amount of tax credits issued rose to \$408M – the result of rollover funds from previous years – and so far has resulted in almost \$3B in total CA spend.

The recurring television series still active in the program have contributed \$2.2 Billion in total CA expenditures.

- Many Tax credit projects ventured outside the LA zone in the last 5 years, dropping \$137.6M in multiple counties throughout the state. Productions spent over \$70K on local labor, and as indicated, spent over \$67M in local communities on goods and services.

74 Projects paid 166 interns from 36 schools  
24,476 total intern hours aggregated  
31 Projects that hosted Professional Skills Tours from 24 schools  
36 Teachers and 331 Students Participated  
21 Projects that have hosted Faculty Externships from 28 schools  
32 Teachers have participated  
10 Projects that have hosted Classroom Workshops  
9 Organizations and 15 presenters participated  
56 Projects that made financial contributions  
Totaling \$406,345

Internships that were the most popular centered on camera, post production, production, and the writers room.

### **Program 3.0 Update**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS – Thom Davis, Chair**

None

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**XI. ADJOURNMENT – Thom Davis, Chair**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.