

Joint Committee on the Arts

Oversight Hearing

California's Creative Industries:

An Update on the CA Film and Television Tax Credit Program

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:30 p.m.

State Capitol – Room 3191 – Sacramento

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PANEL 1: STATUS OF FILM AND TELEVISION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM 2.0



Amy Lemisch

Executive Director, California Film Commission

As Executive Director of the California Film Commission, Amy Lemisch oversees the state's efforts to facilitate motion picture, television and commercial production. Her responsibilities include administering California's Film & Television Tax Credit Program and coordinating with all levels of government to create jobs, increase production spending, and generate tax revenues statewide. She also oversees a wide range of support services, and acts as the chief advocate for educating stakeholders (legislators, production industry decision makers and the public at large) about the value of filming in California.

Ms. Lemisch was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in May 2004, and re-appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Now in her 13th year, she is the longest-serving executive director in the Film Commission's history.

Under her leadership, California has maintained its competitiveness as a production locale amid intense global competition. She helped shepherd passage and implementation of the state's uniquely targeted first-generation tax credit program enacted in 2009, as well as the expanded Program 2.0 which launched in 2015. She is also credited with reducing red tape and launching a series of novel marketing initiatives including co-production of the annual Film in California Conference, and publication of *LOCATION CALIFORNIA* magazine.

Prior to her work at the Film Commission, Ms. Lemisch served for more than 15 years as a producer for Penny Marshall's company, Parkway Productions. While based at Universal Studios and Sony Pictures, she was responsible for overseeing physical production on all Parkway projects, as well as developing new projects. Her credits include: producer on the independent feature film *With Friends Like These*; co-producer on *Riding in Cars With Boys* (starring Drew Barrymore), *The Preacher's Wife* (starring Denzel Washington and Whitney Houston) and *Renaissance Man* (starring Danny DeVito); and associate producer on *Awakenings*, *A League of Their Own*, and *Calendar Girl*.

Ms. Lemisch is a member of the Directors Guild of America and the Producers Guild of America.

<http://www.film.ca.gov/>



Donna Washington
Vice President of Operations, FilmLA

Donna Washington has been with FilmL.A. since its inception in July of 1995.

While working for the City of Los Angeles as a Production Coordinator in the City Film and Video Permit Office, Donna gained valuable experience in mediating disputes between production companies and communities. She focused on clarifying the issues and recommending effective resolutions. As a Production Coordinator she learned the complexities of coordinating film permits that required her to negotiate with City departments to balance the needs of the film industry and the communities in which they film. This position also enabled her to work closely with production companies, on-location, to help them achieve their goals while filming on the streets of Los Angeles. In 1995 the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works Department honored Donna with a commendation in recognition of her work done in production coordination services for the City of Los Angeles.

When the City and County of Los Angeles merged and privatized their respective film permit offices in 1995, Donna accepted a Supervisor role and was one of two people the City selected to staff the newly-created film permit office which later became FilmL.A. Donna has worked tirelessly to help streamline the film permit process. Her history with the City not only provides continuity, but also insures that City policies and procedures remain intact. Donna has maintained a good working relationship with department heads and supervisors within City and County departments and acts as a trusted advisor on a broad range of key filming issues. Her longevity and intimate knowledge about all facets of on-location film production have led her to be respected and trusted by community and industry representatives alike. Donna has spent over 22 years building, maintaining and balancing the needs of the City and County, the community and the industry.

In her current role, she is responsible for ensuring positive and productive relationships with government and elected officials, production companies, and affected communities. Donna supervises four Directors, oversees Permit Administration, Production Planning, Permit Operations and Field Services and provides staff support in resolving high level concerns.

Donna holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in Political Science and currently resides in Long Beach.

<http://www.filmla.com/>



Cassandra Hesseltine
President, Film Liaisons in California Statewide (FLICS)
Film Commissioner, Humboldt-Del Norte

Cassandra Hesseltine has served as the Humboldt-Del Norte Film Commissioner since 2010. Before becoming commissioner, she spent decades working in theatre, TV, and film throughout California, gaining vast experience in the entertainment business. Applying this knowledge in her current role as commissioner serving two Northern California counties, Cassandra has gained respect and accolades from industry professionals worldwide, as well as within the state and local region she represents.

In 2015, she was part of the group effort that expanded the California's TV and Film tax incentive program, helping California remain the top production center in the world. Cassandra was appointed President of Film Liaisons in California Statewide in February 2016, after serving as the organization's Treasurer for a two-year term. During her time as Commissioner, Cassandra has assisted countless projects, from magazine photo shoots and print ads, to TV shows and commercials, to independent and big-budget studio features, such as the recently wrapped, Disney's *A Wrinkle in Time*. She currently resides in Arcata, near her alma mater, Humboldt State University, with her husband, Jeff, their two children, two dogs and three cats.

<http://www.filmcalifornia.com/>

PANEL 2: Inside and Outside “The Zone”: Impact of Program Throughout California



Danielle O'Leary

Director, Economic Development and Innovation, City of San Rafael

Danielle O'Leary is the Director of Economic Development and Innovation for the City of San Rafael, a position she has held since July 2016. Previously she was the Economic Development Manager for the City of Santa Rosa, where she oversaw the expansion of the economic development program into arts and culture programming, place-making and tourism.

Ms. O'Leary started her economic development career over 15 years ago and has worked for the cities of Palm Desert, San Juan Capistrano, Saratoga, Los Gatos and Santa Rosa. Her marketing and communications background brings energy and enthusiasm to her work in building strong local economies.

<http://www.cityofsanrafael.org/>



Michael DeLorenzo
President, Santa Clarita Studios

Mike DeLorenzo is the President of Santa Clarita Studios. He has been managing this independent full-service studio since 1999 and has shepherded its tremendous growth. The twenty-two acre property offers 16 different stages, ranging from 12,000 to 40,000 square feet with services including fully furnished production offices, equipment rentals, backdrops and production vans.

Notable productions filmed, or currently filming on site include: *Fast and Furious 7*, *Django Unchained*, *Planet of the Apes*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*, *Deadwood*, *Justified*, and *Switched at Birth*.

Originally from New Jersey, Mike has lived in the Santa Clarita Valley since 1984. He is well-known in the community and supports numerous community non-profits. As a veteran, he understands the challenges that face many of our veterans and finds opportunities for his studio to work with Veterans in Film and Television (VFT).

<http://sc-studios.com/>



Juan Camacho
Vice President, Government Relations, 21st Century Fox

Juan Camacho is the Vice President of Government Relations at 21st Century Fox, one of the largest media companies in the world. In this capacity, Juan oversees the local, state government, and community relations programs for the company. As a public policy executive, Juan's portfolio of public policy issues include production tax incentives, internet privacy, tax, labor, and intellectual property. At the local government level, Juan works on a wide range of issues ranging from on location filming permits to land use.

Juan is also responsible for the community investment arm of the department which focuses on the contribution and implementation of programs that meet the company's philanthropic strategy.

Juan came to Fox with extensive background and experience working in the various levels of government. Prior to joining Fox Entertainment Group, Juan served on the staff of United States Senator Barbara Boxer, former Speaker of the California State Assembly Fabian Nunez, Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod and Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcon.

Juan graduated from the University of California, Davis with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and History.

<https://www.21cf.com/>

PANEL 3: REEL PEOPLE, REAL JOBS: BELOW-THE-LINE AND OTHER PROGRAM ELEMENTS



Richard Luke Rothschild
Unit Production Manager (UPM), Directors Guild of America

Richard Luke Rothschild is a 41-year member of the Directors Guild of America. He worked as a Second Assistant Director and First AD on numerous feature and television projects before becoming a Production Manager and Line Producer. His film credits include *The Truman Show*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Romy & Michele's High School Reunion*, and many more. In television, he has worked on such series as *Brothers and Sisters*, *Coma*, and *Magic City*. Recently, he has been the Unit Production Manager ("UPM") on the California production incentive series *Stitchers*, *Mistresses*, and *Snowfall*, a new series for FX. He serves on the Board of Directors of the DGA's Assistant Directors Training Program.

<https://www.dga.org/>



Lindsay Dougherty
Organizer, Teamsters Local 399

Lindsay Dougherty is a second generation Teamster from Detroit, Michigan, who has been a Member for over 10 years. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 2006, Lindsay moved to Los Angeles to continue to work on major motion pictures as a Transportation Dispatcher. Since 2014, Lindsay has been a Business Agent as well as an Organizer for Local 399. She serves as a Delegate for the LA Federation of Labor and for the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. She is also the Director of Diversity for Local 399. She was elected as an Alternate Local 399 Delegate for the 2016 IBT Delegate Convention and served as the Reader at the convention. Lindsay has fostered many relationships with Teamster Locals across the nation.

Lindsay is the Organizer for Television Series, Features and New Media Productions and represents Paramount Pictures, ABC TV Network, ABC Office Employees, Wranglers, and Animal Trainers for Local 399.

Teamsters Local 399 represents workers in the Motion Picture Industry including Drivers, Location Managers, Casting Directors, Wranglers, Animal Trainers and others that work on Feature film, Television, Commercial and New Media Productions.

<https://www.ht399.org/>



Nancy Rae Stone

**Program Director, Film and Television Tax Credit Program and Career Readiness Program,
California Film Commission**

Nancy Rae Stone's experience as a producer provides an invaluable background to her work with the California Film & Television Tax Credit Program. Ms. Stone was extensively involved in structuring the original tax credit program and now oversees the expanded program which enables California to provide competitive incentives to productions that create employment and increase economic development throughout California. Ms. Stone's production expertise has been instrumental in the development and successful implementation of the film and television tax credit program in California.

Ms. Stone has worked as a producer, line producer, executive and consultant in the motion picture industry for more than 20 years. She most recently executive produced *Words & Pictures*, starring Clive Owen and Juliette Binoche, which was released by Roadside Attractions in 2014. Ms. Stone worked for nearly a decade as the Executive Vice President of Production at Beacon Pictures, where she supervised physical production of notable theatrical films ranging from \$4 million to \$90 million dollars, including *Air Force One* (post-production), *Spy Game*, *Bring It On*, *Family Man*, and *13 Days*. Ms. Stone's independent producer credits include *The Last Seduction* with Linda Fiorentino, *Femme Fatale* with Colin Firth, *Playing God* with Angelina Jolie, and *American Heart*, starring Jeff Bridges.

<http://film.ca.gov/tax-credit/>



Kevin Considine
Founder and CEO, Hollywood CPR

Kevin Considine is the founder and CEO of Hollywood Cinema Production Resources (Hollywood CPR) a nonprofit, state-of-the-art entertainment crafts and technicians education and training program in partnership with the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees (IATSE) and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), and West Los Angeles College.

Kevin is a native of Southern California, born into an entertainment industry family. His great grandfathers (Alexander Pantages and John W Considine) were vaudeville impresarios and theatre-chain owners. His grandfather (John W Considine, Jr.) was a prominent M.G.M. motion picture producer in the 1930's and 40's (*Boys Town* and *Broadway Melody of 1936*, Rudolph Valentino's *Son of the Sheik*). His father (John Considine) is a film and television actor/writer, (*Boston Legal*, *MacGyver*, *Another World*, *Gia*, *A Wedding*). and his mother (Toby Considine) is a retired set decorator who worked on some of Hollywood's most successful films and television series.

Kevin's entree into the entertainment business was arguably genetically mapped. Following his education at The College of the Redwoods in 1985, Kevin utilized his unique combination of artistic and construction skills (as well as his early apprenticeship with his mother on movie & television sets) to begin working in the studio art departments, which led to a successful career as a set-dresser, lead-man and a prop-man, for countless Hollywood motion picture and television productions including *Die Hard*, *Mouse Hunt*, *The Player*, *Just Shoot Me*, *Love & War* and many more.

It was during this time (1991-1996) that the idea for Hollywood CPR began to take shape. Following the civil unrest of 1992 and the subsequent recession, fires, earthquakes, cut backs in art programs in the public schools, Kevin was determined to make a difference in the

community he had grown to love. In 1997 he founded Hollywood Cinema Production Resources, a non-profit organization providing entertainment industry related trade-skill training to motivated, youth and young adults, taught by working industry professionals.

In the process of developing his vision he met Laura Peterson who had a successful career starting businesses both non-profit and for-profit focusing on the needs of children and young adults. Laura's background is in education, fundraising and job development together with Kevin's background as a Local 44 Property Person has brought Hollywood CPR from an idea to its current status today as a first-of-its-kind entertainment industry crafts and technicians training program bringing together 11 local IATSE (Crafts Guild) unions (Local 33 Stagehands; Local 44 Affiliated Property Craftspersons; Local 80 Motion Picture Studio Grips, Crafts Service, Marine Department, Warehouse Workers and First Aid; Local 600 International Cinematographers Guild; Local 695 Sound Technicians, Video Engineers, Television Broadcast Engineers and Studio Projectionists; Local 700 Motion Picture Editors Guild; Local 705 Motion Picture Costumers; Local 706 Makeup Artists and Hair Stylists Guild; Local 728 Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians; Local 729 Motion Picture Set Painters and Sign Writers; Local 800 Art Directors Guild -- Art Directors, Digital Artists, Graphic Artists, Illustrators, Matte Artists, Model Makers, Production Designer, Scenic Artists, Set Designers and Title Artists.); AMPTA (Producer's Guild); West Los Angeles College and all the major motion picture studios and production companies (20th Century Fox, Disney/ABC, DreamWorks Pictures, NBC/Universal, Paramount/CBS, Sony Pictures, Warner Bros./HBO). Utilizing his more than 25 years of experience in the crafts of the entertainment industry, Kevin works with all these varied entities in the development of the curriculum and the unique industry specific training required.

Kevin is active in many industry, educational and civic organizations including as a member of Local 44 – Affiliated Property Craftsperson's and Set Decorator's Society of America.

Hollywood CPR is recognized as a premiere education and training program for the below-the-line crafts of the entertainment community. Hollywood CPR is developing the careers of hundreds of students. Currently there are more than 250 graduates in the union and working in the entertainment industry earning on average salary of \$60,000 to over \$100,000 per year.

<http://www.hollywoodcpr.org/>

<http://www.iatselocal80.org/>