

Fishbon Cells and Classes

Fishbon Conceptual Framework

By providing context, physical infrastructure, tools, mentoring support and encouragement for creative collaboration, Fishbon is an experiential incubator for emerging cooperative working models.

Fishbon Cell Guidelines

Introduction

Reminiscent of the 19th century Parisian salon, **Fishbon** believes in the power of collaboration between artists, scientists, engineers, writers, performers etc. and participants to create compelling aesthetic experiences that would have been difficult to achieve in isolated individual working environments. The synergy (sharing of perspectives and skills), made possible in a collaborative space creates a unique and special context for art that speaks to contemporary audiences. Much more about the *process experience* than final product, Fishbon creates a diverse “interactive learning community.” Dreams and ideas are shared and brought to life in exciting, real-time creative adventures that inspire and enchant. Everyone benefits from the free and open exchange and the result is demonstrated in Fishbon events.

The foundations of the Fishbon concept are the **Cell and Class**. Like special interest groups, cells and classes function as lenses to focus energy in specific areas. They are *active, project-based, and fluid with continuously evolving memberships*. Cell or Class interest areas range from tools (lighting, video, music), to techniques (performance, fire arts, narrative). Fishbon cells or classes are supported with time and space in Fishbon’s studio, the Pescadrome, communication and audience generation. In some cases, Fishbon may also provide funding for cell or class activities.

Starting a Cell or Class

In order to make starting a cell or class as painless as possible, Fishbon has established a few basic procedures. The purpose is not to hamper development, but to create a simple structure, guidelines, and practices that can be used to jump start new cells or classes and give shape to existing ones.

- **Decide upon the purpose of your cell or class** What are you trying to achieve? Fishbon cells or classes should support the primary objective of enhancing creative, collaborative experiences that allow members to share ideas, energy and resources in service of the Fishbon community and its participants.
- **Describe the kinds of projects your cell or class may undertake** Cells or classes are about doing things. If you're planning a music cell, you may be thinking about the performance of a new collaborative work, a fire arts cell may plan to work on a new kind of collaborative fire sculpture. You don't need to be exhaustive. And, listing a project doesn't mean you're committing to do it, it just an example of the kinds of projects you're thinking about.
- **Choose a Leader or Leaders** Someone will need to plan your cell or class activities, make sure the word gets out and communicate with Fishbon. This could be you, or someone else you choose. It will need to be someone who is pretty well organized and good at keeping the energy flowing in your cell or class. Leaders may change from time to time, and there should be someone who knows what's going on and can be reached if something comes up.
- **Members** Who do you expect your cell or class to appeal to? What kinds of skill-sets are you interested in? How will you recruit them?
- **Space and Time** One of the things that Fishbon can do to support your cell or class is provide meeting and work time at the Pescadrome. How much time and what kind of space will you need? Fishbon has an online google calendar to help us keep track of all activities at the Pescadrome. It is important that we all maintain it, together.

- **Donations and Fees** Fishbon is currently using a donation and fee-based model to support its activities at Pescadrome, including the activities of cells or classes. The Pescadrome requires electricity, Internet, water, insurance, etc. to operate. How can your cell or class help to generate donation revenue? This may include meeting donations, a membership fee, etc. Presently Fishbon has a requirement that cells provide a minimum of \$15/hour for the use of Pescadrome, starting January 1st, 2012.

- **Communicating with your audience** How do you plan to attract an audience if your cell or class is expecting to exhibit to the public? Because the Pescadrome is essentially “design studio” and is not zoned for large public gatherings, focused email lists like Fishbon, Artspace and Ngoma are usually recommended as communication methods. If you are hosting a regular cell, please list it under “cells and classes” on the fishbon blog, www.fishbon.org.

- **Benefits** In addition to giving members a time and place to play with things they’re interested in, cells or classes need to benefit the larger Fishbon community too. What benefits will your cell provide to its members and to Fishbon?

- **Errata**
 - The Fishbon and Pescadrome names and logos can’t be used without prior approval.

 - Meetings and use need to be scheduled. Additional time can be added with prior approval via phone or email to the board.

 - Fishbon is an art organization and not about political action. Fishbon does not want to be known for any particular political position.

 - No weapons, illegal explosives or respective facilities can be on the Pescadrome premises.

 - Public meetings need to be cleared with the Fishbon board in advance. Public is defined as individuals not known to you and recruited through mailing or advertisement.

Cell or Class Leader Responsibilities

Fishbon will supply the cell or class leaders with a key for accessing the Pescadrome, for the purposes of supporting related activities, only. If the cell or class discontinues, the key is to be returned to Fishbon.

Pescadrome incorporates a variety of elements to support meeting activities, including lighting and sound systems, computer projectors, etc. Please turn-off all equipment after use and it's typically best to unplug all electrical equipment after the session's use.

Turn off the lights and air-conditioning after you leave the Pescadrome. Typically, this means starting on the top floor of Pescadrome and working your way down to the bottom floor, turning all off as you go.

The cell leader is responsible for the safety of the building and the opening and closing (Doors are self locking) of the Pescadrome after use.

As Fishbon-intended donations materialize in the course of cell or class activities, please forward these to the board of directors.

Ultimately, the cell or class leader is fully responsible for the actions of the respective cell or class.

For questions regarding Fishbon and the Pescadrome, please call or email the following individuals, all of whom represent Fishbon:

Application Form:

Your Name: _____

Contact email: _____

Contact phone: _____

CELL CLASS (please circle best descriptor)

Definitions: A CELL will be a long-running (many months) art exploration and development undertaking. A CLASS is a short-term (month or less) arts-related educational undertaking. A CELL and a CLASS are really best distinguished by their projected lifetimes.

CELL or CLASS name: _____

Statement of CELL or CLASS intent:

What skills and information do you expect your attendees to acquire?

What will you charge for CELL or CLASS attendance? _____

(Please note that Fishbon requires a minimum of \$15 per hour of Pescadrome use and we don't consider this request as rent but rather as a visceral demonstration of your understanding that the lovely facility you wish to use has operating expenses such as water, electricity and insurance and that \$15 per hour represents a small fraction of the operating costs of the Pescadrome.)

For CELL and CLASS:

What day(s) and time(s) do you wish to meet? _____

For CLASS Only:

Number of sessions: _____

(please check Fishbon calendar and provide a few options, if possible)

How much space at Pescadrome do you feel you will need and what materials, tools and/or equipment will you be using?
