

Annual Report



2024



Message from the Executive Director

Dear VES Members and Friends –

Thank you all for being a vital part of our ever-expanding global community!

This annual report highlights our accomplishments and activities in 2024. It was a year where our industry faced a number of economic and market-shifting challenges, and through it all, our members showed a great sense of resilience as we shared our knowledge, celebrated our craft and supported one another.

In 2024 our thriving Society surpassed 5,000 members in 50 countries, and grew to 16 global Sections with the addition of VES Texas. In its 8th year of publication, our signature magazine *VFX Voice* – the authority on all-things VFX – won accolades from the prestigious FOLIO publishing awards. We celebrated our annual VES Awards and VES Honors event – shining a light on global changemakers who made outstanding contributions to advance the field of visual effects and our global Society.

We continued to provide our membership with robust education, professional development and thought-leadership programming; worked with our Sections to host year-round exclusive screenings, panel conversations and enriching events; built our vibrant online community across social media; proudly released an array of VES Luminaries videos with VFX legends and pioneers; and participated in global forums and conferences to grow our international footprint.

We supported our members with the round-the-clock Member Assistance Program and VFX Job Board, and importantly, we made significant strides in executing key initiatives from our VES Strategic Plan, to help drive the VES' forward-looking vision. I'm inspired daily – not only by the incredible visual effects work produced by our members, but also by the volunteer service our members provide to enrich the Society and elevate our industry!

Our Society thrives because of the passionate artists and technologists and executives who come together in our worldwide community. It continues to be my honor to serve the Society's dynamic evolution. Please take some time to read and appreciate all that the VES has accomplished, together, this past year.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and enthusiastic participation.

Nancy Ward
Executive Director

The Board leadership was elected at the beginning of 2024 at the first Board of Directors' meeting.



Kim Davidson
Chair



Susan O'Neal
1st Vice Chair



**Janet Muswell
Hamilton, VES**
2nd Vice Chair



Rita Cahill
Secretary



Jeffrey A. Okun, VES
Treasurer

This exceptional group of impassioned and talented volunteer leaders was committed to advancing our mission and serving our members worldwide. We appreciate their vision and dedication to our global community.

VES celebrated its 22nd Annual VES Awards gala on February 21, 2024 at The Beverly Hilton. With pride and pleasure, we showcased remarkable visual effects artistry and innovation from around the world, and recognized “best in class” work that elevates the art of storytelling and exemplifies the spirit of innovation and ingenuity.

Lifetime Achievement Award



**Joyce Cox, VES
Renowned Producer and
Visual Effects Producer**

Creative Excellence Award



**William Shatner
Acclaimed
Actor-Producer-Director**



[Enjoy the photo gallery](#)



[Watch The Replay](#)



[See the Press Release of all VES
Awards highlights and winners](#)





VES Honors Celebration – October 25, 2024

We honored an extraordinary group of visual effects artists, technicians and professionals who have had a profound impact on the Society and the global visual effects industry. In this proud tradition, we gave tribute to exemplary storytellers, artists, and creators who have helped shape our shared legacy, advanced our craft, and lifted up our industry as the center point of worldwide entertainment.

Hall of Fame



Thad Beier



Dorothy Davenport



Maya Deren



Tim McGovern, VES

Lifetime Members

Ronald B. Moore

Reid Paul

VES Fellows

Matt Aitken, VES

Girish Balakrishnan, VES

Randall Balsmeyer, VES

Michael Conte, VES

Lisa Cooke, VES

Bryan Grill, VES

Thomas Knop, VES

Arnon Manor, VES

Sue Rowe, VES

Honorary Members

Don Bluth

John Bruno

Robert Stromberg

Harry Walton

Founder's Award

Brooke Breton, VES



[View Photo Gallery](#)



[Watch The Replay](#)





VES Archive - Luminary Video Series

In 2024, our Archives Committee devoted resources to capturing more oral histories of VFX legends. By the end of the year, we accumulated more than 30 up-close and personal interviews with some of the biggest names in visual effects from around the globe. We continue to add to this important video series.

Peter Anderson, VES, ASC

Ed Catmull, VES

Mike Chambers, VES

Chris Corbould, OBE

Roger Corman

Joyce Cox, VES

Dan Curry, VES

Art David

Pete Docter

David Dryer

John Dykstra, ASC

Richard Edlund, VES, ASC

Harrison Ellenshaw, VES

Jonathan Erland, VES

Ray Feeney, VES

Chuck Finance, VES

Michael L. Fink, VES

Christian Guillon

Michael Hofstein

Jon Landau

Bill Lorton

Rob Legato, ASC

Tim McGovern, VES

Dr. Jacki Ford Morie

Jim Morris, VES

Dennis Muren, VES, ASC

Lesley Robson-Foster

Scott Squires, VES

Bill Taylor, VES, ASC

Richard Winn Taylor II, VES

Lynda Ellenshaw Thompson, VES

Douglas Trumbull, VES

Susan Zwerman, VES



Members only: Watch these videos at vesglobal.org/ves-luminary-interviews/

Throughout 2024, VES members around the globe enjoyed a rich array of benefits, including global recognition, networking, leadership opportunities, outstanding educational programs, free screenings and screeners, career development resources, and exclusive discounts.

These benefits include:

VES Member Assistance Program with 24/7 access to free confidential, one-on-one professional counseling on family, health, money, work and wellbeing, as well as online resources - delivered in every member's native language worldwide

Hundreds of FREE in-person screenings throughout the year in VES Sections around the world, many with panel discussions with filmmakers and VFX teams

Free print subscription to *VFX Voice* and FREE standard subscriptions to Netflix, *Variety*, *The Hollywood Reporter* and *Animation Magazine*

Educational programs and online content, including our extensive Video Gallery, VES Archives, Virtual Production, and Career Development

Leadership opportunities through our Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program, VES Awards nominating panels and View & Vote, and Board or Committee service

And much more!

FEATURED 2024 SCREENINGS



For more information, email: info@vesglobal.org

The VES Board of Directors continued executing the VES Strategic Plan, which is a long-term roadmap for growth, greater industry prestige and sustained global success. In 2024, we made significant progress on the core pillars identified in the plan:

In order for us to support VES members with robust training and resources and to nurture the next generation of practitioners, the Board approved the reconstitution of the *VES Education and Outreach Committee* in September.

- We continued industry outreach and participated in global industry events.
- Our committees continued to address ways to enrich member benefits within and beyond our VES Sections.
- The Board created a Globalization Committee to review 20 aspects of our worldwide growth and explore the best ways to support Sections and global expansion.

We enhanced our core communications tools to better support the needs of our members - launching our refreshed VES website and new (HQ and Section) email templates to bring our global community closer together under a more unified global brand and enhanced messaging.

- The Board adopted new, streamlined Bylaws to govern the Society, and finalized updates to the *VES Sections Handbook* and *VES Policies and Guidelines* to support governance and strategic growth.

VES Vision

A preeminent honorary global organization, the Visual Effects Society, its membership and the visual effects industry are recognized and respected worldwide.

VES Mission

To advance and promote visual effects and empower our global honorary society membership through professional education, enriching benefits, fostering community and industry recognition.



Social Media: During 2024, our international social media audience continued to grow and increase the value and profile of the VES, which also highlighted the fantastic work being done throughout the VFX industry. Across our platforms – which include the VES YouTube Channel, X/Twitter feed, Facebook pages and LinkedIn group – VES had more than 200,000 followers.

If you're not already part of the VES social media community – join us!



VES in the News - VES secured a high volume of media coverage in 2024, highlighting the VES Awards, events, initiatives and expert commentary on trends in VFX artistry and innovation. Our media visibility included impactful stories in entertainment trades and consumer publications worldwide. To read our media coverage on an ongoing basis, visit ["In the News"](#) on the VES website.

Our VES Sections around the world are tremendous ambassadors of the VES, and our international presence gets stronger each year.





2024 VES Section Leadership

Volunteerism is a hallmark of the VES and we are delighted to acknowledge the VES Members who stepped up as Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Vice-Chairs to lead our 16 global Sections in 2024. Along with their Section Boards of Managers, they created value, community, education and connection for our members around the world.

Australia - Ian Cope

Bay Area - Michael Conte

France - Sebastián Eyherabide, Sophie LeClerc

Georgia - Zach Bell, David “DJ” Johnson

Germany - Agon Ushaku, Urs Franzen

India - Rutul Patel, Priyan Parab

London - Charles Chorein, Gianluca Dentici

Los Angeles - Charlotte Nelson, Theresa Patten-Koeckert

Montreal - Stefan Bernschere

New York - Jose L. Marin, Aryeh Reisner

New Zealand - Rachel Copp, Lance Lones

Oregon - John Cherniack, Eric Wachtman

Texas - Colin Campbell, Shane Davis

Toronto - Laurence Cymet

Vancouver - Fred Chapman, Kelsy Wittmann

Washington - Eric Greenlief, Andy Romine



Kim Davidson
Chair



Susan O'Neal
1st Vice Chair



**Janet Muswell
Hamilton, VES**
2nd Vice Chair



Rita Cahill
Secretary



Jeffrey A. Okun, VES
Treasurer

Neishaw Ali

Alan Boucek

Kathryn Brillhart

Colin Campbell

Nicolas Casanova

Mike Chambers, VES

Emma Clifton Perry

Rose Duignan

Gavin Graham

Dennis Hoffman

Brooke Lyndon-Stanford

Quentin Martin

Maggie Oh

Robin Prybil

Jim Rygiel

Suhit Saha

Lopsie Schwartz

Lisa Sepp-Wilson

David Tanaka, VES

David Valentin

Bill Villarreal

Rebecca West

Sam Winkler

Philipp Wolf

Susan Zwerman, VES

Board Alternates:

Andrew Bly

Fred Chapman

John Decker

Tim McLaughlin

Ariele Podreider Lenzi

Daniel Rosen



Archives Committee

The purpose of the Archives Committee is to preserve the history of our craft and our Society by collecting materials and knowledge related to the industry and working with other organizations to promote the understanding of the visual effects art form.

Lisa Cooke, VES, Chair

David Tanaka, VES, Co-Chair

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee plans, designs, and helps produce the annual VES Awards, which provides insight into and knowledge of the field of visual effects for peers, practitioners, students, and the industry. It is your chance to inform the world about what you do with our art and science. To challenge and inspire – including our up-and-coming generation of visual effects artists – to step in, step up and imagine a new world!

Dennis Serras, Chair

Scott Kilburn, Co-Chair

Lopsie Schwartz, Co-Chair

Education & Outreach Committee

The Education and Outreach Committee is dedicated to empowering our members through targeted education initiatives, mentorship, and global collaboration while fostering the next generation of global visual effects talent to ensure we remain at the forefront of industry innovation. Our goal is to nurture and enhance our members' technical and creative expertise across film, television, commercials, immersive media, and games.

Ben Locke, Chair

Karen Heston, Co-Chair

Handbook Ad Hoc Committee

The intention of the Committee is to create and publish a handbook of visual effects under the VES brand. The book should have valuable information that applies to all levels of our field, including but not limited to techniques and technical approaches.

Susan Zwerman, VES, Co-Chair

Jeffrey A. Okun, VES, Co-Chair

Health and Wellbeing Committee

To increase access by members to resources that better assist them in maintaining or improving their health and mental wellbeing thus improving their overall quality of life. Demonstrate to members that we care about them as people. This includes discounts, membership benefits and educational resources.

Emma Clifton Perry, Co-Chair

Philipp Wolf, Co-Chair

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is a permanent standing committee of the Society, as specified in the Bylaws. The Membership Committee's primary purpose is to review applicants for membership, and make recommendations to the VES Board of Directors regarding admission of the applicants to the Society.

Susan O'Neal, Co-Chair

Joe Weidenbach, Co-Chair

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee exists to facilitate the sharing of expertise, establish and promote industry best practices, and be a catalyst for innovation and sustainability across the community. The Technology Committee works on an evolving portfolio of projects selected to advance the art and science of visual effects for the benefit of all industry professionals. Visit the Technology Committee Activities Page for more details.

Nick Cannon, Chair

Sam Richards, Co-Chair

Work From Home Committee

The Work From Home Committee exists to advocate for a mutually workable set of recommendations such that our members and the industry at large can continue to benefit from the new mode of operation that emerged during the coronavirus pandemic. It has a goal of providing resources to educate and assist with enabling any advocacy necessary to ensure WFH and Hybrid Working Practices can continue in some manner into the future.

Gavin Graham, Chair

Colin Campbell, Co-Chair



Nancy Ward
Executive Director



Charles Mesa
*Media and Content
Manager*



Elvia Gonzalez
Associate Director



Jim Sullivan
Director of Operations



PJ Schumacher
Controller



Ross Auerbach
Program Manager



Ben Schneider
*Director of Membership
Services*



Shannon Cassidy
Global Manager



Eric Bass
Marketing Manager



Colleen Kelly
Office Manager



Naomi Goldman
*Communications
Consultant*



Mark Mulkerron
*Administrative
Assistant*

Throughout 2024, VES featured a wide selection of Industry Outreach events worldwide for our members to participate in.



Celebrating its 8th year of publication, our *VFX Voice* print & digital magazine continues to receive accolades as the definitive authority on all-things VFX – and a must-read for our industry around the world. We are proud to deliver *VFX Voice* as a great benefit of VES membership – and our compelling stories with eye-popping visuals are available to the general public at VFXVoice.com



VFX Voice was celebrated by the 2024 FOLIO: Eddie & Ozzie Awards, the most prestigious publishing awards in the country. We won Best Cover Design for a Nonprofit – Professional/Membership Organization for our Winter 2024 *Poor Things* cover! And two Honorable Mentions for Best Cover Design and Best Full Issue for our Fall 2023 *Oppenheimer* issue.



Financials - Balance Sheet

BALANCE SHEET As of December 31, 2024 (ON AN ACCRUAL BASIS)

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
CASH ASSETS - VES HQ	4,548,858	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	94,196
CASH ASSETS - SECTIONS	101,141	ACCRUED MERCHANT FEES	1,747
		CREDIT CARDS PAYABLE	3,538
TOTAL - CASH ASSETS	4,649,999	DEFERRED REVENUE - E-BLASTS	21,500
		DEFERRED REVENUE - AWARDS	273,000
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	215,980	DEFERRED REVENUE - DUES	123,400
		DEFERRED REVENUE - SUBMISSIONS	256,870
OTHER ASSETS		DEFERRED REVENUE - VFX VOICE	147,187
		INSURANCE CONTRACTS PAYABLE	0
PREPAID EXPENSES (AWARDS)	129,691	MEDICAL FSA CONTRIBUTIONS	1,258
PREPAID EXPENSES (VFX VOICE)	111,056	PENSION PLAN ACCRUALS	34,999
PREPAID INSURANCE	22,429	SECTIONS PAYABLE	3,763
ROUNDING	0		
SECTIONS RECEIVABLE	3,698	TOTAL LIABILITIES	961,457
SECURITY DEPOSITS	6,349		
UNDEPOSITED FUNDS	0		
		FUNDS BALANCE	
TOTAL - OTHER ASSETS	273,223	FUNDS BALANCE - GENERAL	3,391,048
		FUNDS BALANCE - SECTIONS	101,141
FIXED ASSETS	22,131		
(Net After Accumulated Depreciation)		NET GAIN - 2024	714,141
LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS	6,454	TOTAL FUNDS BALANCE	4,206,330
(Net After Accumulated Depreciation)			
TOTAL ASSETS	5,167,787	TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUNDS BALANCE	5,167,787



Financials - Income Statement

INCOME STATEMENT January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024 (ON AN ACCRUAL BASIS)

REVENUE		EXPENSES	
ADVERTISING (DIGITAL POSTINGS) & AWARDS SCREENERS	560,500	ADMINISTRATIVE & OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	1,573,841
EVENTS, PROGRAMS & SCREENINGS	25,000	BOD & COMMITTEE EXPENSES	4,336
INTEREST INCOME	150,308	DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	9,830
IN-KIND - USE OF SCREENING ROOMS	5,000	FX CONVERSION ADJUST (LOSS)	15,205
MEMBERSHIP DUES	1,117,600	GRANTS & ALLOCATIONS	0
MERCHANDISE SOLD	2,171	MEMBERSHIP COSTS, OUTREACH EVENTS, SCREENINGS	46,265
MISC. INCOME	13,029	MERCHANDISE COSTS	2,625
ROYALTIES EARNED (VES HANDBOOK)	10,140	PROGRAMS (LUMINARIES / MUSEUM, REALTIME CONF, SIGGRAPH)	68,884
SECTIONS - SPONSORSHIPS & TICKET SALES	76,469	SECTIONS - EXPENSES	250,969
SPECIAL EVENTS (Awards & Honors)	1,425,031	SPECIAL EVENTS (Awards & Honors)	685,605
SPONSORSHIPS & GRANTS	17,400	VES HANDBOOK COSTS	0
VFX VOICE (PRINT & DIGITAL)	343,111	VFX VOICE & DIGITAL POSTINGS	374,058
TOTAL REVENUE	3,745,759	TOTAL EXPENSES	3,031,618