



IAM REGIONAL TRACKS

A guide to starting a local IAM group.

Overview:

Below is a guide for programming a local IAM group. We recommend starting with one or two tracks and, as the group grows, adding tracks according to the participants' interests. The seven programming tracks are:

1. FILM SCREENING SERIES (a.k.a. IAM MOVIE NIGHT)
2. DISCUSSION CAFE
3. READERS GUILD
4. ARTISTS' SALON
5. DOCENT TO THE ARTS
6. ENCOUNTER PACKAGE
7. IAM EMERGING ARTISTS INITIATIVE (in development)

A few points to consider:

- Anyone is free to take this guide and use it to start something. Our goal is that artists everywhere are gathering to wrestle with the deep questions of art, faith and humanity in order to inspire the creative community to engage the culture that is and create the world that ought to be, and we have created these materials to assist with that.
- Please review [IAM's mission, vision and values](#) periodically to be sure your local group reflects the global IAM ethos.
- If you have a group that is meeting consistently and you are interested in being a regional catalyst for IAM, please contact Christy Tennant (christy@internationalartsmovement.org).
- Only IAM affiliates may use the IAM logo and name. While anyone may start an IAM group, becoming an IAM affiliate (such as those listed on our Groups page) is a process. So please do not use our logo on your site or call yourself "IAM (your local city)" without permission. We encourage groups to use names that are *not* IAM, such as New City Arts Initiative (Charlottesville) and The Gathering (Philadelphia). If you have questions about this, please contact Christy.



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FILM SCREENING SERIES / IAM MOVIE NIGHT

GOAL:

Participants will engage with thoughtfully selected films that stir the heart and soul. Films selected are examples of excellence in film-making, and participants are encouraged to not merely consume the film as entertainment, but engage with the matter and the medium; that is, the content and subject matter, as well as the craftsmanship of the film. Participants will also be challenged/encouraged to approach films they see with respect for the craft of filmmaking.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Curator (the person who selects the films)
2. Space equipped with screen and DVD player and enough space for the expected audience size
3. Refreshments (popcorn, soda, beer)
4. Facilitator (this can also be the Curator, but it can be someone different)

EXECUTION:

The film screening series can be monthly, quarterly, or a special event. Historically, the IAM Film Screening Series (a.k.a. IAM Movie Night) has taken place monthly, which is nice because people can get into the habit or rhythm and plan on making that regular event.

We usually start the film about 30 minutes after people start arriving, to give people a chance to chat and connect before starting the film. Once the film starts, we treat it like a movie theater, in that there is no talking or discussion during the film, and we try to keep disruptions to a minimum.

After the film, the facilitator directs a follow-up discussion of the film to help the audience reflect thoughtfully on the "Matter and the Medium."

Questions for reflection might be:

- What was the filmmaker trying to say?
- How did you feel about the message of this film?
- Was it a well-written script?
- What were its strengths?
- What were its weaknesses?
- What films or books or other stories did this remind you of?



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SUGGESTED FILMS TO SCREEN:

Chop Shop (2007) NR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjL8NLanOeq>

Twelve-year-old street orphan Alejandro (Alejandro Polanco) lives and works amid the mass of auto shops and junkyards known as the "Iron Triangle" just outside Queens, N.Y. When his teenage sister (Isamar Gonzales) arrives, the ambitious boy is inspired to make life better for them both. Nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, this second feature from director Ramin Bahrani is a tough, eye-opening look at life on society's margins.

In the Realms of the Unreal (2004) NR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSzzirIP0No>

By day, [Henry Darger](#) was a reclusive janitor who had few -- if any -- friends. But at night, he became a literary artist with a unique vision. Darger's 15,000-page novel is a wonderland of imagination as it details the exploits of seven angelic sisters who lead a rebellion against child-enslaving men. Featuring the voices of [Dakota Fanning](#) and [Larry Pine](#) and the work of talented animators, this film tells the story of Darger's hidden world.

Wit (2001) PG-13

<http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=YiYi&hl=en&emb=0#q=Wit%20trailer&hl=en&emb=0>

Emma Thompson stars as Vivian Bearing, a disciplined, esteemed English professor dealing with a sensitive issue -- her health. After being diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Vivian is forced to reassess her life and decide what's really important. *Wit* also tells the stories of the people Vivian touches, including her healthcare team. Directed by Mike Nichols and adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Margaret Edson.

Sketches of Frank Gehry (2005) PG-13

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vu9orvtStdY>

Architect Frank O. Gehry's signature style of sleek curves and modern angles is explored in this intimate documentary by Sydney Pollack. Pollack starts with Gehry's original sketches and follows their evolution from a 3D model to a computer-assisted rendition to construction and finally, the polished finished product. Works featured include the Fish in Barcelona, the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and various residences.

YiYi (2000) NR

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiM5XDeTxjk>

Among movie critics' highest-rated foreign films of 2000, *Yi Yi* chronicles three generations of a Taiwanese family mired in a crisis of self-doubt. A chance meeting with a former lover compels a father to question the assumptions on which his life is based. Warm and thoughtful, *Yi Yi* posits that truth is something we may never know.



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Helvetica

Trailer: <http://www.helveticafilm.com/trailer.html>

Helvetica is a feature-length independent film about typography, graphic design and global visual culture. It looks at the proliferation of one typeface (which celebrated its 50th birthday in 2007) as part of a larger conversation about the way type affects our lives. The film is an exploration of urban spaces in major cities and the type that inhabits them, and a fluid discussion with renowned designers about their work, the creative process, and the choices and aesthetics behind their use of type. Encompassing the worlds of design, advertising, psychology, and communication, Helvetica invites us to take a second look at the thousands of words we see every day.

Requiem (2006)

Trailer: <http://www.apple.com/trailers/independent/requiem/>

It is the 1970s, and Michaela (Sandra Hüller) is about to break free from the small town in Southern Germany where she has grown up her whole life. Leaving behind the strictures of her Catholic home, she heads off for university. But Michaela is subject to strange attacks and labeled an epileptic by puzzled doctors. Now, among new college friends, she increasingly finds herself paralyzed by terrifying visions of devils.

Based on the true story of Anneliese Michel, a 23-year-old German college student who was believed to have been possessed by multiple demons, stage actress Sandra Hüller gives a stunning emotional tour de force in her feature film debut, for which she received the Silver Bear award at the Berlin International Film Festival for best actress. The film garnered the FIPRESCI Prize for director Hans-Christian Schmid.

Ace in the Hole (1951)

Clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwTMJ3zNqdg>

After being fired from a number of big city newspapers, hotshot reporter Chuck Tatum (Kirk Douglas) is reduced to working for a paper in dead-end Albuquerque. On his way to cover a rattlesnake hunt, Tatum accidentally stumbles on a story that he believes can get him back in the big time, if he plays the yarn long enough and can keep it to himself.

Billy Wilder's follow-up to *Sunset Boulevard* is one of the most scathing indictments of American culture ever produced by a Hollywood filmmaker, legendary for both its cutting social critique and its status as a hard-to-find cult classic.



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ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES:

Host a screening with the filmmaker. We have found that filmmakers and directors value the opportunity to participate in a screening of their work. Consider identifying local filmmakers in your area and inviting them to participate in the screening. For this, you would follow the program above, but afterwards, have someone facilitate a talk-back or Q&A with the filmmaker. Begin by having the moderator/facilitator ask a few pre-planned questions, then move into a time of audience Q&A.

Combine efforts with a social justice network. Some films deal very specifically with areas of social justice or life's hard questions. You might invite a local organization to partner with you. For example, when we screened the film "TAKE," which deals with issues of forgiveness, incarceration and capital punishment, we invited people involved in prison ministry to join us. The director/screenwriter was there for the talk-back, and we provided information for people to take home with them to get involved with serving the incarcerated population in a rehumanizing way.



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DISCUSSION CAFE

The Discussion Cafe materials are IAM-generated content geared at facilitating small group discussions around the mission, vision and values of International Arts Movement as they relate to the arts. All of the resources are available as free PDF downloads from <http://www.internationalartsmovement.org/blogs/discussioncafe>.

This model works nicely as a weekly or bi-weekly discussion group. Beginning with an article or book, a point person facilitates a discussion about the topic at hand. While we make discussion questions available, they are just suggestions; often, the discussion takes off and new questions arise. These are just a means of helping to get started.

GOAL:

To facilitate a discussion that moves the "art, faith and humanity" conversation forward.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Facilitator
- Meeting place (We suggest selecting a central location, like a coffee shop or diner conducive to a small group gathering in a corner. A home is also a great option, if it is conveniently located.)
- Refreshments (If meeting in a public place, patronize the venue. If home, provide some sort of snacks, coffee, beer, wine, etc.)
- Printer (to print materials)

STARTING DISCUSSION CAFE:

- Word of mouth invitations seem to work best for getting started.
- Facilitator will prepare materials in advance. Usually this means printing an article from the Internet or copying it from a magazine.
- Facilitator will notify IAM Global (christy@internationalartsmovement.org) of the details (date, location, time, etc) and it will be added to the IAM web site calendar.
- Facilitator will keep list of local participants and update them with info.
- Facilitator can also email article to participants ahead of time so they have time to read it before the meeting.
- Facilitator will lead discussion and keep it on target with IAM's Mission/Vision/Values (<http://www.internationalartsmovement.org/IAMglobal/pages/335-vision>)

RESOURCES FOR GETTING STARTED:

- [Refractions Discussion](#) (An eight-week curriculum consisting of excerpts from Refractions, a collection of essays by Makoto Fujimura.)
- [What is Art For?](#) (A five-week curriculum based on newspaper and magazine articles exploring the purpose of art.)
- [On Genius and Making Art](#) (A Five-Week Curriculum based on newspaper and magazine articles.)
- [Discussion Cafe](#)



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READERS GUILD

The IAM Readers Guild is designed to allow readers to interact with others in their own community as well as the wider IAM global community, and to learn a “deeper empathy” through experiencing great writing that wrestles with big ideas in many cultural contexts.

Each month, groups around the world will meet to discuss the book of the month, beginning with a list of questions that will be sent to all groups and welcoming spontaneous discussions as they arise. A member of each group will take notes and blog a brief summary of the group discussion after the meeting, allowing all the readers a wider experience of the book.

GOAL: To read well. Becoming an engaged reader requires commitment and intellectual curiosity, but the rewards are great.

REQUIREMENTS: Leading a local Readers Guild involves a minimal amount of commitment. Here's what you'd be committing to:

- You would be the local point of contact for anyone interested in plugging in there (your email would be on our web site)
- You would decide on a time/date/location for the monthly discussion of the book/meeting of the guild and communicate that to us and people involved there.
- You would facilitate the discussion, using discussion materials we provide as a starting point.
- You would make sure a feedback/report is sent to us after your group meets. This can be written by you or someone in your local guild. We will post feedback from local groups on the IAM Readers Guild web page.

STARTING READERS GUILD:

- Send readersguild@internationalartsmovement.org an email with the following information: name of city, name & email address of facilitator, name & address of venue (if this is a private home, we do not post it on the web site - we ask people to contact the host directly for info), and the dates and times of your meetings.
- Invite people & send them the list of books (<http://IAMreadersguild.com>)
- Host/facilitate discussion (you may use our Discussion Guide or come up with your own)
- Write a short synopsis of your discussion and send it to readersguild@internationalartsmovement.org for posting on the IAM Readers Guild blog.



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ARTISTS' SALON

These work well as a quarterly (every 3 months) or monthly event. This is an opportunity for a small group of cross-discipline artists to share their work, talk about their craft and share feedback with each other. This can be very informal, with a "living room" feel, or it can be more of a formal reception and talk-back.

GOAL: To feature 3-4 artists of different disciplines, giving them a platform to share their work and the audience a chance to engage with the art and artists in a more personal way.

REQUIREMENTS: Space to meet that is suitable for the type of salon, a point person to host the event.

SUGGESTED FORMAT: [Please click here for the resource, "How To Hold an Artist's Salon."](#)



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DOCENT TO THE ARTS

Docent: a person who is a knowledgeable guide, esp. one who conducts visitors through a museum and delivers a commentary on the exhibitions.

GOAL: To give non-artists a guided experience, helping them to better understand and appreciate the arts.

REQUIREMENTS: Personable artists who are experts in their field and who are comfortable sharing openly about their work and lives as artists. They should also be people who are not easily offended by questions like, "What does this mean?" or "Can I touch the sculpture?"

EXECUTION: Identify an exhibition, theater or dance performance, or other arts experience to feature. Invite an expert in that field to meet beforehand with the group to help them prepare to have a more meaningful experience with that art.

EXAMPLES OF PRIOR IAM DOCENT TO THE ARTS EVENTS:

- **JAZZ:** We invited ten guests to attend a Jazz at Lincoln Center performance featuring a well-known jazz guitarist. IAM's Kevin Gosa holds a MFA in Classical Saxophone, and his knowledge of music history is extensive. The evening of the performance, guests met at IAM's Space 38|39 and Kevin spent one hour talking to them about the history of jazz and, specifically, the place the guitarist held in jazz's meta-narrative. He played music clips to demonstrate bits of the history, and the patrons had a chance to ask questions. The group then went out to dinner together, then to the performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center.
- **BALLET:** We did the same thing with ballet. We bought tickets for a performance of the American Ballet Theatre, and Karen Lacy, a professional ballerina (who teaches for ABT) met with the patrons for one hour prior to the performance. She showed slides, shared personal stories and talked about the art of dance. She point out things for the patrons to look for, and then she attended the performance with them.
- **SCULPTURE:** We brought a group of patrons downtown to the studio space of sculptor and installation artist Julie Allen, who let them explore her workspace and talked about her latest exhibition. She even let them touch her sculptures, but this is not normative! The guests were allowed to ask questions and left with a better understanding of - and appreciation for - that art form.
- **CULINARY ARTS:** We invited pastry chef Daniel Nayeri and Wine Sommolier Matt Heard to lead a group of patrons through a wine, cheese and chocolate tasting. Each docent explained how to "taste," what to be sensitive to (top notes, bottom notes, color, fragrance, etc.)
- **OPERA:** Rachel Hall, then a student working on her MFA in Opera from Manhattan School of Music, gave a half-hour performance coupled with short explanations of classical opera. She performed songs in Italian, French, German and English, explained the history of the works and why she was drawn to pursue opera.

In addition to serving the audience, this is also a wonderful opportunity for artists to have the joy of sharing their passion with an eager crowd. For a student of opera, for example, it is a great chance to shine, while also sharing knowledge and insight with a group of people, spurring on a passion for the arts.



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ENCOUNTER PACKAGE

Many of the talks from previous IAM Encounters are available in our store. These include talks by theologians and artists who are experts in their fields. We recommend downloading the talks and gathering a group of people to listen to them together then discuss them. Each talk has a discussion guide; email christy@internationalartsmovement.org for the guides you want.

IAM WORKING ARTISTS INITIATIVE (WAI)

This curriculum is currently in development. Please contact christy@internationalartsmovement.org for more information.