IFTF 2023 Transparency Report

This report summarizes the activity of the [Interactive Fiction Technology Foundation](#) (IFTF) from January 2023 through December 2023, including a high-level accounting of the organization's financial income and expenditures. As a public-service organization that many people entrust with their time, attention, and money, IFTF presents this report in an effort to show how it has applied its community's investments over the past calendar year.

IFTF president Justin Bortnick wrote and published this report in May 2024, based on IFTF's internal financial records, public blog and forum posts, a template from prior year reports, and consultations with IFTF leadership. All monetary amounts that appear in this report are expressed in U.S. dollars.

Summary

Program Activity

Conference

Reported by Andrew Plotkin, 2023 Conference chair

After two online-only events, NarraScope returned as a hybrid live/online conference at the University of Pittsburgh. Brianna Lei introduced the conference by talking about "Entering your Villain Era"; we then presented 32 further talks. About 100 people attended in person and another 300 registered to participate remotely.

For more information and financial details, see our [report on NarraScope 2023](#). To view the talks, [see our Youtube channel](#).

We will continue the hybrid NarraScope tradition in 2024 at The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, NY.

Education

Forthcoming

Grants

Reported by Hugo Labrande, Grants Committee chair

Following discussions in late 2022 and with our advisors in early 2023, the Grants Administration Committee was created with the goal of launching a trial for a micro-grants cycle. The committee worked on establishing and documenting processes as it moved to their implementation through the spring/summer of 2023. We were successful in assembling an awesome roster for our Grants Advisor by September, and launched the call for projects around that time.

All the projects applying for a micro-grant aligned with our mission, and focused on a lot of different and interesting areas (tools, community, history, accessibility, etc.). The final selection was handed in by the advisors by December 2023, with disbursement occurring in early 2024. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

From this very successful initial trial, the committee intends to move towards attempting to make the grants cycle sustainable in the long run, i.e. a yearly effort that would require developing additional fundraising efforts.

IF Archive

Reported by Andrew Plotkin, IF Archive Committee chair

In late 2023, following a public discussion of the Archive's workflow, we began work on a new administrative interface. The aim was to create a new volunteer corps to accept Archive submissions, file them, and edit their descriptions and metadata. (The old admin interface was "David Kinder logs into the server as root and moves files around.")

We began recruiting new volunteers in November and started beta-testing the interface. We were still ironing out interface issues as 2023 closed out, but the new team was in place and getting settled in their duties.

We also imported a table of IFWiki pages that linked to IF Archive entries, and populated those as links from the IF Archive back to IFWiki. Archive entries can now display both IFWiki and IFDB links.

As usual, IFComp was our largest upload event, comprising 74 games and 700 megabytes of data. Spring Thing was about 128 megabytes. Outside of these, we received about 370 file contributions in 2023, totalling about 1.6 gigabytes.

IFComp

Reported by Jacqueline Ashwell, IFComp Committee chair

The 28th annual IFComp had another successful year, with 74 entries. The IFComp Colossal Fund raised $7,523, 80% of which was set aside for the 51 authors who qualified for a cash prize. 26 non-cash prizes were also offered by donors to winning authors.

IFDB

Reported by Dan Fabulich, IFDB Committee chair

IFDB for 2023: IFDB continued growing in 2023. We got our 50,000th member rating, 13,000th game listing, and 13,000 written review. We also rolled out the IFDB Awards, and a number of security enhancements.

IFWiki

Reported by Jonathan, IFWiki Committee chair

During 2023 we added an interactive events calendar to IFWiki's Main Page, which has proved not only to be a useful resource for the community but also an incentive for people to begin editing the wiki. We also began discussions on how the education committee might use the wiki, and how we could organise the existing game and author pages into searchable databases, which would minimise redundancy and help us maintain the wiki more easily in future.

Intfiction Forum

Reported by Dannii Willis, IntFiction Forum Committee chair

The Interactive Community Forum continued with a largely uneventful year. This year's biggest change was the addition of a Spanish category, which we welcomed along with mods Jade, n-n, and Ruber Eaglenest.

Twine

Reported by Chris Climas, Twine Committee chair

The Twine committee did not have much activity to report for 2023. Twine releases on macOS continue to be signed using the IFTF Apple developer account. While production work continued on the print edition of the Twine Cookbook, its release is planned for 2024. This will take the form of a printed edition for sale online and an equivalent ebook version which will be made available free of cost.

Financial Summary

In 2023, IFTF took in $22,509.58 and spent $27118.65, for a net loss of -$4,609.07.

At year's end, IFTF's bank accounts held a total of $8,313.10.

Income

In 2023, IFTF took in $22,509.58, as detailed in the following sections.

Donations

Modest gifts from individual donors, both one-time and recurring, continue to act as IFTF's financial backbone.

Individuals and small companies donated $8,977.91 to IFTF in 2023. Of that total (and with transaction fees subtracted):

- $6,704.27 was earmarked for IFComp, via The Colossal Fund fundraiser.

- $43.93 was earmarked for Twine
- The remaining $2,197.22 went into IFTF's general fund.

Conference Sales and Sponsorship

2023 saw NarraScope return to an in-person event, and the following income sources:

- $5,346.39 from individual conference registrations.
- $2,545.32 in individual donations
- $4,942.11 in institutional donations through conference sponsorship.
- $90.24 from a class action lawsuit payout from Zoom

Other Sales
$36.90 in royalty sales

Expenditures

Professional services
- Insurance: $781.00
- Legal Fees: $739.00
- Commission for IFComp logo: $255.00
- Accessibility testing: $200.00

General Expenditures
- Amazon AWS: $79.39
- Cloudflare: $300
- 10 ISBNs: $295
- Domain renewals: $348.49
- Fastmail: $477.48
- Mailchimp: $55.25
- Sendy: $69.00
- PO box: $216
- Web hosting: $1857.50

IFComp prizes
- Colossal Fund payouts: $5489.29

Conference Expenditures
- NarraScope cost IFTF $2,898.59 to produce in 2023. A full breakdown of expenditures is available in the [2023 NarraScope Financial Transparency Report](#).