Whetting Our Appetite For Google Apps

by Brent Brotine
photos T. J. Hine

The number, power and ubiquity of Google Apps is steadily moving computer usage into the cloud, and ushering in a new era of online collaboration. C3 members and guests had a first-hand look at many of Google’s newest tools at our “Where’s My Google” program on November 16, hosted by our friends at Various Things Live.

Three expert Google Community Leaders took us on a tour of the Google Apps that are making life easier for creative professionals. We were delighted to welcome Alex Obenauf and Angela Zhao, students at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Dan Yara, student at Loyola University

The program opened with an overview of three Google online apps designed to foster seamless sharing and editing among multiple people on a project. While Microsoft has cloud versions of its popular office applications, they are still dependent on installations—Google does not, and its apps are designed for mobile devices. In addition, Google Apps automatically update without any effort on the user’s side. (Google’s own employees, or “Googlers,” have Tablet Tuesdays and Phone Fridays where they do all their work only on those devices using Google Apps to better the mobile experience.)

We saw how Google Docs offers similar capabilities to Word in an online environment where files don’t have to be emailed back and forth. We watched Google Sheets import spreadsheet files from Excel into its own friendly format. And we explored the Google Slides tool and how it can create presentations faster and easier than PowerPoint.

Alex, Angela and Dan showed us how Google Drive stores all the documents and files created, and how it imports native PDF, Photoshop and other file types.

Moving on to Gmail and Calendar, we learned a number of tips and tricks for managing our mail stream and daily appointments. The team explained how Gmail’s new “hamburger” menu, with layered folders, can provide users with not just an inbox but a full-fledged task manager. We also found out about add-on features that make message sending easier, such as Boomerang (www.boomeranggmail.com) We also had walk-throughs with Google Photos, and the new video conference tool Google+ Hangouts.

To wrap up the program, we saw how Google’s Business Tools can help our members reach potential clients. Dan demonstrated how Google AdWords search advertising can be used to target specific customers at a controlled cost. And Alex showed how it pairs with the Google Analytics tool to reveal what kinds of customers come to our websites, where they go, and how long they stay.

The evening closed with audience discussion, and most importantly a promise from our three Community Leaders to keep the dialogue going. So if you have questions on using Google products, you now have Alex, Angela and Dan as your personal guides. Feel free to contact them at obenaufalex@gmail.com, angelazhao31@gmail.com, or dannyyara7@gmail.com.
**Interconnection, Service, Collaboration**

In our lifetimes, change is a dominant theme. Prophetic musicians herald this regularly—from Bob Dylan’s 1965 hit, “The Times They Are a-Changing” to David Bowie’s 1971 breakout single “Changes.”

As we find new ways to engage our personal and professional lives creatively, what guides Chicago Creative Coalition and the way we interact?

We recognize that as a creative community, we are intrinsically interconnected. It is impossible to act entirely alone. The things that affect me ripple out and affect others, for better or worse, in good times and difficulty. We strive to be aware that the ocean we swim in has ripples and currents that wash over everyone.

We have a solid ethic of service. There is a mistaken impression that those who give get trampled upon. Adam Grant, author of the best-seller “Give and Take” and one of the youngest tenured professors at Wharton says, “If we create networks with the sole intention of getting something, we won’t succeed. We can’t pursue the benefits of networks; the benefits ensue from investments in meaningful activities and relationships.”

Our service to others is an investment in success. It is an invitation to ask, “what is meaningful to you?” We operate under the assumption that everyone has a valued contribution and no contribution is too small. Whether you respond thoughtfully to a question through our popular member email listserve or take a position on the board of directors, you are performing a valuable service to C3, creative professionals, and the world at large.

We stress collaboration over competition. We recognize we live in a world of abundance—abundance of opportunity, abundance of interaction, abundance of ways to express our unique talents. Our interaction is more like a conversation than a diatribe—an opportunity to listen, respond and inspire to greater accomplishment. This kind of collaboration recognizes the place we occupy WITHIN our sphere of influence as opposed to seeking the place that out-paces others.

Reflecting back on our programming year in 2015, C3’s interconnection, service, and collaboration was visibly demonstrated by our participation as a “featured artist” in Chicago Artists Month. We took our place among those who engaged the theme “The City as Studio” and collectively brought art to parks, alleys, porches, and parlors in neighborhoods across the City of Chicago.

This year, find your place in the conversation. The world eagerly awaits your voice and your contribution. Recognize your connection, invest in your success and collaborate with your creative companions in the Chicago Creative Coalition. Happy New Year!
FROM THE BOARD

Wanna Play?

by Kathy Quintanar

As an on-again, off-again C3 member for the past decade or so, I can clearly remember the first time T. J. Hine invited me to join … and the second time … and the third. As a transplanted artist from a small southern Illinois town, I was reluctant to jump in to Chicago’s creative community. It can be a little intimidating to newcomers—like when we were kids and a playground kickball game looks like fun and the right place to be, but one has no idea how to be invited to play.

Happily at some point, I accepted T. J.’s offer and joined the creative collaboration we affectionately call C3. It was like when one of the cool kids in the game turns to you and asks…”Wanna play?” and then promptly assigns you a spot on one of the teams. Though I may never be MVP, this organization has certainly been a part of my development as a creative visual communications professional and I am grateful to be a part of something so good.

Throughout my participation in multiple programs, holiday potluck parties and even Festivus, I’ve developed a sense of belonging and a greater understanding of the creative community and the role I play within it. So, when Stephen Starr, one of the kindest, most gracious people I know, appealed to me to help out the board as C3 secretary, I found it impossible to say no.

Each meeting, it is an honor to be among such talented individuals who are fun, creative and dedicated to artistic pursuits.

The C3 board meets the first Tuesday of every month, and there is always room on the team. Should you ‘Wanna play?’ there are currently open board positions available. Or perhaps you just want to know a little more about the inner workings of this great organization. Whatever your motivation, we welcome your participation and invite everyone to get more involved and make the most out of your membership with C3.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Explore new territory in 2016

by George Berlin

Okay, so Chicago didn’t get the Olympic games but look at all the cool stuff we have going on this year!

We’re starting off strong, with a dive into the deep ends of copyright law and high-level Photoshop in the early months. Grab your hot cocoa and come out for a rousing panel on who owns what, followed by secrets of image editing, known to a few mere mortals, laid out just for you by our leading experts! n00bs welcome, too.

Then, early spring—get your thinking caps on. Learn Jam 2.0 Is here! Last year, we learned to cross-stitch (bitching optional), played the upright bass, painted with colored inks, tried some printing techniques, and even had a little fun with stones and fire. Once again, it’s up to you what you’d like to learn, or teach, in “this speed dating for the brain” where we switch up tips and tricks in each others fields of expertise. Grab a skill and come on down.

Then we roll on into the warm months (remember those?), with a pair of programs on video. We’ll show you how to use it in your work, whether you’re a designer, photographer, or anything else, as well as how to use it to promote your work, followed by some crafty hands-on techniques that work for any budget or level of skill.

Sharpen up your brain with the Chicago Creative Coalition and have a blast, too!

C3 Newsletter Advertising Opportunities

The C3 newsletter is published quarterly from September to July and reaches a wide range of communication arts professionals. B&W ads are accepted in hi-res press-ready pdf format. Contact Cindy McEwen at macindy@aol.com for more information.

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Classified Advertising

C3 MEMBERS RATES
Free for the first 30 words, 10¢ each additional word.

NON-MEMBERS RATES
$25 for the first 30 words, 25¢ each additional word.
We’ll Miss You, Francine
Long-time C3 member Francine Ziev passed away in November after a sudden illness. She was a valued contributor to the C3 board and various committees, and always brought humor, generosity and expertise to meetings and events. She most recently worked as a graphic designer for the YMCA of the USA. Our condolences to Francine’s family.

Your Friendly Overdue Notice
by Michael Tanimura
It’s January 2016, and that means we’re already half-way through our programming year. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2015–16, please do so at www.chicagocreative.org/join-c3/. If you prefer to send a check, please make it out to “Chicago Creative Coalition” and mail to P.O. Box 578477, Chicago, IL 60657-8477.

Cheerio, Caleb!
We’re chuffed to bits that our former intern, Caleb Henderson, is off to study at the University of Buckingham. Caleb has been invaluable to C3 over the past year, performing much of our set-up work behind the scenes and pitching in wherever needed at C3 events. Best of British to you, Caleb, and we’ll be looking forward to hearing great things!

C3 Shines for Chicago Artists Month
by Kathleen Kearns
photos by Warren Perlstein

My City, Our City: A Photo Mashup
On October 17, C3 and our own George Berlin made local history by creating an original photomosaic sculpture as a Chicago Artists Month featured event. Displayed at the Sulzer Library, this 20-foot cityscape was built from more than 100 interactive cubes that displayed projected photos taken by C3 members and friends.

Participants were asked to take photos with their smartphones to be uploaded and tagged on Instagram. We sought photos in seven categories: something that inspires, an urban oasis, a new angle on something familiar, something colorful, something that says Chicago, an awesome architectural detail, and the next face for the Crown Fountain at Millennium Park.

From 1 to 3 p.m. that afternoon, George and his team lit up the sculpture with all images sent in from across the city. Live music and refreshments made the showing an exciting place to mix and mingle with fellow creatives.

My City, Our City: An Art Mashup
Following the cityscape sculpture presentation, C3 opened a companion group art show two blocks away on Lincoln Avenue at the office of 47th Ward Alderman Ameya Pawar. Our opening reception was held between 6 and 10 p.m., and featured photos and paintings by C3 members that portrayed how they see Chicago as a Studio.

Exhibiting works were C3 artists Bob Benenson, George Berlin, T. J. Hine, Kathleen Kearns, Kaitlyn Keely, Joey Korom, Nate Marks, Warren Perlstein, Lisa Richards, Marina Samovsky, Laura Marie Sanchez, David Tanimura, Michael Tanimura and Robert Tolchin. The show remained on display for Chicago Artists Month and beyond, all the way through January.

Our thanks to Alderman Pawer, Planning & Development Director Ernie Constantino, and the 47th Ward staff. To Oona Shambhavi D’Mello, Administrative Director of The Chicago Mosaic School. And to all C3 members who helped with set-up and breakdown—with a special shoutout to Caleb Milkenas who took time to assist us right before leaving Chicago for Britain.

Read more about George’s interactive experience projects online at georgeberlin.com.
C3 Gets In The Loop About Architecture

by Brent Brotine
photo by T. J. Hine

The weather gods smiled on C3 last October 8 as the predicted downpour never materialized and our walking tour of Chicago Loop Architecture went forward without a hitch. A dozen C3 members and guests traversed the central Loop after work, viewing many of our city’s artistic treasures up close with the expert guidance of C3 member Joey Korom.

Those of you who may only know Joey as an artist should know he is also an architectural historian and educator, author of nine books including the series Chicago Hidden in Plain Sight, Skyscraper Facades of the Gilded Age and The American Skyscraper 1850–1940. So we were honored to have Joey as our fearless leader through the urban jungle.

We started in Daley Plaza, where Joey was a fount of knowledge about how the entire block was constructed, right down to how the mortar lines in the courtyard surface were designed to line up perfectly with the Civic Center columns. We heard the backstory about the Picasso sculpture, and what secrets the Chicago Temple building across the street holds.

Like what you see?
Ink Printed digitally on Xerox 700.
Paper This newsletter is printed on Mohawk Options 70# text, 100% PC white. A 100% PCW paper with an exclusive Inxwell process to give the color of ink more pop without having to print on a coated paper.
Process The digital press uses waste-free toner and no fuser oil. The process is 100% chemical free—printed courtesy of Consolidated Printing.

Heading south, we visited such gems as the Marquette Building, the Inland Steel Building, and the Chase Tower plaza where we viewed the Chagall mosaic. Walking to Federal Center Plaza, we studied Mies van der Rohe’s towers alongside Calder’s Flamingo stabile. Turning back north along LaSalle Street, we stopped by the Field Building and other noted landmarks, continuing across the river to the home of C3er Linda Levy and Yervant Chalkagian, where Yervant donned his caterer hat to present us with a sumptuous array of small plates.

Information about Joey’s architecture books, and of course his paintings, is online at joeykoromart.com.

How to join C3
The easiest access to a C3 membership application is through our website: www.chicagocreative.org/join-c3/. Pay online through PayPal or contact membership@chicagocreative.org for a membership application to fill out and mail with a check to: Chicago Creative Coalition, P.O. Box 578477, Chicago, IL 60657-8477, Attn: Membership Director.
E-mail questions to: C3@ChicagoCreative.org or to the Membership Director: membership@chicagocreative.org

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1  A project for The Public Building Commission of Chicago. Design and implement production of the PBC Annual Report
2  Design palette and ‘look’ for Wells Dairy marketing and advertising campaign
3  School Project for the Met. Production Poster for Don Giovanni
4  Museum of Science and Industry Numbers in Nature presentation, ad, and package design.
5  Museum of Science and Industry Numbers in Nature Magazine Ad.
6  Ad design for digital blast to announce the launch of a new website for ByKathyQ facepainting.
1. Internationally famous projection artist George Berlin traveled all the way to Cleveland to debut his latest interactive sculpture “S3” for Ingenuity Fest 2015, a celebration of art and interactivity along Lake Erie.

S3 is the scientific name given to an irregular third heartbeat. It seems a great title for this piece as it explores representing a two-dimensional image of a heart using flat to ages on a three-dimensional surface.

Ingenuity Fest attracts over 40,000 for the weekend every year.

2. Steve Starr and his friend John from San Francisco entertained friends from the United Kingdom for two weeks in the midwest in early October. Steve and John met Philippa and Xerxes Talati on a trek in Chilean Patagonia. They live in Wimborne, County Dorset, UK. As hiking enthusiasts the group spent the weekend hiking the bluffs above the Mississippi River in Wisconsin and Iowa, toured Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin and picked apples in Gays Mills, WI. In Chicago, the newly retired doctors enjoyed the International Museum of Surgical Science, the Art Institute, the Architectural Foundation river tour and especially C3’s Loop Architectural Tour.

3. Kathleen Kearns went on a ten day pilgrimage visiting the sacred sites (and enjoying the amazing food) of Paris. Kathleen and her fellow pilgrims visited Notre Dame Cathedral, the Mosquée de Paris, Sacré-Coeur, Chartres Cathedral, Musée d’Orsay, the Louvre and more. Two highlights were a Sufi dance workshop with Rana Gorgani and a Vivaldi concert in Saint Chapelle performed by Frederic Moreau.

4. Blanca Robledo-Atwood has a new house under construction in Iowa. The 150-year old building used to be a one-room schoolhouse. The interior now has one bedroom, one bathroom, an open kitchen, and a combined space for dining room–living room–office. Still to be built is a wrap-around porch from the side kitchen door to the front door. The entire farm is 25 acres.

Weather allowing, Blanca will be moving the first week in January—yet keeping her C3 membership and continually coming back to Chicago.

5. While the 2015 White House Christmas card wasn’t a Consolidated Printing job as so many Chicago and Illinois political pieces are, Marilyn Jones was nonetheless delighted to be on the list. And both pet dogs Bo and Sunny signed this year’s card!

New Member

Donald Budzinski
DBS Microsystems, Inc.
info@themotiondevotion.com
My Fantasy Is  have a husband and children
I’d Give Anything to Meet  John Cena
Prized Possession  computer
My Inspiration Comes From  my friends and family
Favorite Food  chicken
Favorite Restaurant  Applebee’s
Favorite TV Show  Criminal Minds and WWE Monday Night Raw
Favorite Radio Station(s)/Air Personalities  B96
Places I’ve Traveled  New Mexico, Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Colorado, Minnesota
Three Things in my Medicine Cabinet  Band-Aids, thermometer, ibuprofen
I Always Find this Funny  inside jokes
Favorite Way to Chill Out  pajamas, food and TV
If I Won the Lottery, I’d  get myself a house and car, and donate the rest to animals

C3 Membership Benefits

Programs and seminars  for personal and professional development
For-members-only workshops  that spark new ideas and promote networking
Member exhibitions  that generate awareness, commissions and sales
C3 website showcase  that has search engine preference and directs traffic to your own site
Social events and outings  that strengthen Chicago’s creative community
Publicity opportunities  through the newsletter, website and e-list
Committee and Board  appointments that build leadership skills
Free member classifieds  plus discounts on newsletter display ads
Quarterly newsletter  featuring member success stories and event recaps
Mentoring  opportunities such as internships and special events
Private e-list  where members exchange ideas and provide assistance