

Title: CHI PLAY representation at the SIGCHI CMC meeting in San Jose 2015

Conference: CHI PLAY

People: Lennart Nacke (Chair, CHI PLAY steering committee) & Anna Cox (General Co-Chair CHI PLAY 2015 & 2016)

Subject matter: The majority of members of the CHI PLAY steering committee, who are ACs for CHI 2016 are on the newly formed, virtual Games Committee and are therefore not going to be in San Jose around the time of the CMC. This includes the Chair of the Steering Committee, who also has teaching commitments that prevent him from flying to and from San Jose at this time. Unfortunately, this situation only came to light recently. One of our steering committee members is serving on an alternate committee and has volunteered to represent CHI PLAY at the CMC; however, this involves changing existing travel arrangements.

Changing the flight dates at this late stage incurs an additional cost of \$3,000 bringing the total cost of the flight to \$4,500. This is NOT for a business class ticket. Even the airline staff are shocked at the price. We have engaged in lengthy discussions with the airline about ways in which we might be able to reduce the total cost but have not been successful. Changing the flight dates by a day or so does not make a significant difference. The explanation is there are only fully flexible tickets now available with this airline. Further flexibility in travel dates is not possible because of work and family commitments.

Duration: This is a unique situation that has occurred as a result of some factors coming together at the wrong time. We will ensure that in future years we can plan further ahead to ensure that CHI PLAY is represented at the CMC.

Funding requested: We seek a contribution from the SIGCHI development fund towards the \$1500 shortfall.

Additional funding: SIGCHI has kindly agreed to contribute \$1500 towards the flight costs. Also, we are providing \$1500 of personal funds.

Expenses details: Return flight to San Francisco

Relevance: CHI PLAY steering committee development

Potential value: CHI PLAY is a young conference that started in 2014. We have already been successful in creating a vibrant and growing community (150 attendees in 2014, 180+ attendees in 2015). The steering committee are committed to making it a long-term success. We, therefore, view attendance at the CMC meeting in San Jose in Dec 2015 as an important opportunity for us to learn more about SIGCHI and the other sub-conferences. It is also a unique chance for us to network with representatives from other sub-conferences and to identify opportunities for cross-conference collaborative events that could be implemented as early as CHI PLAY 2016.

The relative youth of the conference makes attendance at the CMC more critical for us than it perhaps is for other more established sub-conferences. We take very seriously the opportunity to learn from our more experienced colleagues and hope that the committee will agree to support us at this critical time in CHI PLAY's development.

Kind regards,

Lennart Nacke
Steering Committee Chair for CHI PLAY

Note from the CMC:

We are agreeing to funding this request for CHIPlay given the financial history of the conference

Notes.

1. This is only being supported as this is the first time CHIPlay will attend the full CMC
2. This is supported by the CHIPlay steering committee chair as attending the full CMC is seen as an investment towards the future
3. This is an "idea which wouldn't typically be in the standard budget for a conference and which does not create an unsustainable precedent" as this is to attend a first full CMC.
4. Support has been extended but we will need to avoid this happening in the future. We will ask steering committees to commit to people attending using the agreed funding mechanisms in advance.