Principal Investigator: Dr. Lori C. Walters  
Co-PIs: Eileen Smith and Dr. Karla Kitalong  
Departments of Investigators: History, Digital Media, and English

Project Title: *Come Back to the Fair*  
Amount awarded: $7,500

Project Objectives: *Come Back to the Fair* is an interactive journey unfolding the events, sights, sounds and personal reflections of the 1960s through the lens of the 1964/65 New York World’s Fair. The 3-dimensional environment serves as an interdisciplinary Web-based platform for learning and exploration.

The CAH Interdisciplinary Award funds were sought to:
- Provide for the construction of models for a portion of the Fair that would enhance the visual understanding of the concept for external grant reviewers.
- Facilitate usability evaluation of proposed user interface.

Project Activities:
- Construction of models for the Transportation Area – The Underground Home, concession booths and accompanying props.
- Redesign of project website
- Investigation of potential user interfaces.
- Usability evaluation of user interface.

External Funding:

Prior to receiving the CAH grant we submitted a proposal to the initial proposal solicitation of the National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Humanities Start-up Grant. While we were not successful in the November 2006 round, we were awarded the grant in April 2007, with $29,989 becoming available in September 2007.

While NEH Digital Humanities grants can now provide up to $50,000 – during these first two rounds, funds were limited to $30,000. The CAH grant supplemented the NEH grant by providing for additional modeling hours and a graduate student evaluator.
We submitted a proposal to the initial HASTAC-MacArthur Foundation for $100,000, but this application was declined.

Future Funding:

The combined CAH and NEH monies provided for the construction of a significant portion of the Fair’s Transportation Area and formative testing of both the concepts and a prototype of the interface with 6th grade students at Stewart Magnet Middle School in Tampa.

While developing the Transportation Area, we have established partnerships with the Queens Museum of Art QMA) and the New York Hall of Science (NYHS). These institutions are on-site in Flushing Meadows Park in New York, the site of the Fair. We are excited with the possibilities of future grant applications as we are no longer limited to the development of web-based experiences. Our goal is to create fully integrated educational experiences, on site at the QMA and NYHS, based on the New York World’s Fair. Our subject affords us the opportunity to submit to a wide variety of granting bodies including: National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Sloan Foundation, JM Kaplan Foundation and numerous other private foundations.

Publications/ Conference Presentations:


Comments on CAH Interdisciplinary Grants as seed money for future research endeavors:

The CAH Interdisciplinary Grants provide UCF researchers with a starting point to access external grant monies. They assist in creating significant examples of the potential value of grants for reviewers. Of equal significance is how they foster interdisciplinary partnerships and break down the siloed nature of academic departments.