2006/2007 CAH Interdisciplinary Award

FINAL PROGRAM REPORT

Principal Investigator: Thomas N. Potter, Assistant Professor
Department / Program: UCF Department of Music
2nd CAH Participant: Charlie Abraham III, Associate Professor
Department / Program: UCF Department of Art, Graphic Design Program
3rd [Outside] Partner: Janice Newell, Project Manager
Commercial Venue: All Staging Unlimited
10101 General Dr.
Orlando, FL 32824

Project Title: OPERA AND ART FOR CHILDREN: EDUCATION OUTREACH SCENERY

Award dates (including no cost-extensions):
Start date: February 2007
End date: August 2007
Was a no-cost extension requested for this project?

Yes (If Yes, provide reason for need of a no-cost extension)
X No

Amount awarded: $8,983.00

Brief description of project objectives:
The Interdisciplinary Research Award was to fund the creation and production of portable scenery to be used in the continuance and expansion of the educational outreach arm of the UCF Opera program. UCF Graphic Design students were informed of a competition to design backdrops for three separate children's operas: Jack and the Beanstock, Goldilocks and the Three Bears in Outer Space, and Little Red Walking Hood. The students whose work was selected by a panel of judges [including the composer of those three children's operas] were awarded cash prizes from the granted funds. The remainder of the monies went toward the printing of those backdrops and to portable storage units for the backdrops

Were these objectives accomplished as scheduled?

Yes
Describe project findings: Explain future funding possibilities:

Although the UCF Opera program has now been temporarily suspended, I am hopeful that it will return to the music curriculum within the next year or two, and that the opera sets will again be used to bring opera to school children throughout the greater Orlando area. In these times of budget cuts, both to University and Public School Arts Programs, this is an essential service we (the UCF Music Department) need to offer to our community.

The portable sets are easy to transport and provide clarity of scenes in the opera productions. They are beautifully creative and colorful in design, and serve their purpose well. Feedback from the schools UCF Opera served prior to its temporary suspension was extremely positive and demand for performances was rising quickly. Costs for taking the programs to the schools are easily covered by the minimal fee we can charge the schools. UCF Opera’s Educational Outreach program offers valuable experience to our voice students and allows them to assist in the expansion of opera awareness among the youth of greater Orlando.

CAH Interdisciplinary Awards are considered “seed” monies to provide for the basis of future research endeavors. How has funding provided for this project impacted your plans for future research activities?

Some of the new sets which were built as a result of this Interdisciplinary Research Award have not yet been used, due to the temporary suspension of the UCF Opera program. Once UCF Opera is reinstated, I plan to build upon the audiences we can reach throughout the greater Orlando area.

In addition, I believe that the efforts of these productions could be melded with that of Orlando Opera’s Affiliate Artists Program, creating yet another strong collaborative bond between UCF and an off-campus arts organization. Such collaboration may open doors for each of the two organizations to pursue new avenues of funding for future activities.

Signed: [Signature] [Principal Investigator]
Date: 2-26-09