UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Start-up Equipment for Sound Recording and Monitoring System for Animation, New Media & Digital Art, and Sound Design Courses

Title

James Tancill

Name of Submitter

(Faculty or Staff Only)

College of the Arts, Visual Arts

Organization

Title: Start-up Sound Design Equipment for Fletcher Hall Room 220 **Date:** 07/14/2021

Name (Contact Person): James Tancill

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Department/College/Org: Department of Visual Arts

Abstract:

This is a proposal for start-up sound design equipment and technology for JLF 220. Sound Design is mandatory for all Animation and New Media & Digital Art students, and is integral for their professional development. Due to failed hardware that is over a decade old, the classroom for Sound Design, JLF 209H, currently does not have a working sound system, and is employing a pair of desktop computer speakers as a stop-gap measure. Unfortunately, this temporary solution falls critically short of both our students' needs and our own mission to provide students with experience and training in industry stand-ard tools and techniques of audio manipulation, mixing, and sound design. These proposed upgrades to JLF 220 will bring the classroom space into line with the minimum needed assets to prepare students for fruitful careers in digital and time-based media, while simultaneously providing the Sound Design class a proper space.

All students majoring in Computer Art & Animation and New Media & Digital Art employ audio in some form or another, as soon as they are taking courses pursuant to their major. Start-up sound equipment in JLF 220 will not only benefit the students required to take Sound Design, it will also benefit the other 10 courses in the visual arts curricula that have sound as a major component.

a. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole:

This grant's purpose is to create sound editing interfaces with speakers for both the students and instructors in JLF 220, where there are currently no capabilities. Currently, VIAR 308 Sound Design, which is required for all Computer Art & Animation and New Media & Digital Art students, is being taught in JLF 209H which does not have a proper working sound system; computer desktop speakers are being used to project sound across classroom with up to 22 students at a time. Sound Design is an integral part of the animation and new media curricula, and the instructor's ability teach the course in a room with proper industry standard equipment dedicated to the interaction of sound and computer-based media is essential.

In addition to VIAR 308 Sound Design, the following 13 Visual Arts courses use sound as a component:

- VIAR 365 - Introduction to Computer Animation
- VIAR 366 - Intermediate Computer Animation (must be taken 2 times)
- VIAR 465 - Advanced Computer Animation, (must be taken 3 times)
- VIAR 409 - Senior Capstone Art Project I
- VIAR 410 - Senior Capstone Art Project II

- VIAR 335 - Media Workshop (must be taken 2 times)
- VIAR 435 - Advanced Media Workshop (must be taken 3 times)

With the sound upgrades in JLF 220 students will finally have an opportunity for the first time to work with sound in 5.1 surround, as well as standard stereo and mono formats for their multi-tracking needs. Mostly, the students are restricted to working with their laptop speakers or headphones, which limits their ability to explore sound in their projects.

In the proposal, the room will be equipped with a multi-input USB interface with stereo monitoring for the instructor, and another multi-input/output USB interface with 5.1 surround monitoring for the students, and basic instruction. To assist with the student's recording needs, additional 2 input USB interfaces are also included for the students to check out for mobile recording to be used on the 5.1 surround system. The surround system is also designed as stand-alone, so that any student can interface through their own computer.

Adding the new sound technology in JLF 220 will provide an industry standard system for the students to work on, and provide a space to promote exploration and experimentation with sound in the visual arts.

b. Projected lifetime of enhancement:

The sound equipment should last 7-10 years or more, at which point at a minimum new computer audio interface replacement is recommended. 2 replacement speakers are in the proposal to ensure a lifetime of 15 years or more for the sound output.

c. Person(s) responsible for

i. **Implementation:** James Tancill, Instructor of Studio Art, Department of Visual Arts (College of the Arts); Yeon Choi, Professor, Computer Art and Animation, Department of Visual Arts (College of the Arts); Ana Mouyis, Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts (College of the Arts); Jamie Baldridge, Associate Professor, New Media & Digital Art, Department of Visual Arts (College of the Arts)
ii. **Installation:** James Tancill
iii. **Maintenance:** James Tancill, Yeon Choi, Ana Mouyis
iv. **Operation:** James Tancill, Yeon Choi, Ana Mouyis
v. **Training (with qualifications):** James Tancill, Yeon Choi, Ana Mouyis

d. Purpose and justification for each of the items listed in the Budget Proposal.

We are requesting sound design start-up equipment for JLF220 at the cost of $8,470.86 (breakdown follow page).

- Tascam US-16x08 USB Audio/MIDI Interface (multi input device for interfacing with mixing software)
- PreSonus Sceptre S8 8 inch Powered Monitor (monitor speakers for surround sound mixing)
- PreSonus Temblor T10 10 inch Powered Studio Subwoofer (speaker for low frequency aspects of mixing)
- PreSonus AudioBox USB 96 Desktop 2x2 USB Audio/MIDI Interface (portable interface for sound mixing)
- Pro Co EXM-10 Excellines Microphone Cable - (XLR cables for input to interface devices)

- Pro Co BP-10 Excellines Balanced Patch Cable (¼ inch cables for input to interface devices)
- Sennheiser HD 300 PRO Closed-back Professional Monitor Headphones (closed ear headphones for mixing)

Budget Proposal

1. **Equipment**   **$7967.10**

2x Tascam US-16x08 USB Audio/MIDI Interface $319
10x PreSonus Sceptre S8 8 inch Powered Monitor $599.95
1x PreSonus Temblor T10 10 inch Powered Studio Subwoofer $429.95
5x PreSonus AudioBox USB 96 Desktop 2x2 USB Audio/MIDI Interface (Blue) $99.95

2. **Software**   **$**

3. **Supplies**   **$503.76**

12x Pro Co EXM-10 Excellines Microphone Cable - 10 foot $21.99
12x Pro Co BP-10 Excellines Balanced Patch Cable - 1/4-inch TRS Male to 1/4-inch TRS Male - 10 foot $19.99
2x Sennheiser HD 300 PRO Closed-back Professional Monitor Headphones $199.95

4. **Maintenance**   **$**

5. **Personnel**   **$**

6. **Other**   **$**

TOTAL: **$8,470.86**