

**UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
AT LAFAYETTE**

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**Start-up Equipment for New Animation
Studio in Fletcher Hall**

Title

Yeon Choi

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

**Department of Visual Arts,
UL Lafayette**

Organization

Title: Start-up Equipment for New Animation Studio in Fletcher Hall Date: 01/11/2021

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Department/College/Org: Department of Visual Arts/College of the Arts

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

This proposal requests funds for an **Interactive Whiteboard**, a **Flatbed Scanner**, and twenty **XP PEN Graphics Tablets** that will be used in a new animation studio in Fletcher Hall (JLF 220). The new animation studio will be a laptop based classroom, and its main function is to provide a space where teachers and students can work with hybrid media (digital media, hands-on media, and various combinations of both), but there is currently no equipment in this room. Once the proposed equipment is installed, teachers and students will be able to easily connect their laptops to this equipment for classes, presentations, and the creation of individual artworks.

A) Purpose of Grant

In its self-study questions, NASAD (National Association of Schools of Art and Design) asks if students gain understanding and abilities to use various animation methods, including traditional animation, 2D digital animation, and 3D digital animation. Although digital technology has helped artists, creating more possibilities for their works, the use of traditional media is still vital for all animators. The new animation studio (JLF 220) will provide students a space in which they can work with both traditional *hands-on* art media and *laptop based* digital technology.

This grant will provide start-up equipment to use in the animation studio (JLF 220) for teaching and working with various media. The Interactive Whiteboard allows teachers to easily draw, write, play videos, and more when they teach using hands-on-media, and they can easily connect the whiteboard to their computers when they teach using digital media. Students also can plug in their laptop computers to the Interactive Whiteboard for the presentation of their works.

By connecting their laptops to the Flatbed Scanner mounted on a desk, students can easily convert analog images to digital images, so they can continue working on their images digitally during class. The use of graphics tablets is crucial since students can draw, paint, and animate their artworks, actually both visualizing and manipulating the images while they work, simulating the use of a pencil or brush. Students at the university have their laptops and required software; however, they don't have professional quality graphics tablets, mainly due to the prohibitive cost of purchasing them. Although most students have 2D digital animation software, students cannot fully use the program since this program requires graphics tablets for users to be able to draw digitally. If this proposed grant is awarded, XP PEN Graphics Tablets will be fixed to student desks in the animation studio so students can plug them in to their laptops to work on 2D digital animations.

The requested equipment represents the standard equipment that most institutions provide for digital art classrooms. Providing this equipment will broaden the scope of the program. There is an urgent need for this equipment, which will result in improved classroom instruction and student work and allow the Visual Arts courses to continue to meet pedagogical goals and to produce technologically and conceptually proficient students. It will also enable the Visual Arts Department to expand its educational offerings by incorporating additional methods and media. This equipment will help provide our students with a solid educational grounding that meets industry standards, which will contribute to making them competitive on the job market.

The Impact to Student Body

This grant directly impacts the following classes: VIAR 365, Introduction to Computer Animation; VIAR 366, Intermediate Computer Animation; and VIAR 465, Advanced Computer Animation. Additionally, animation students in VIAR 409, Senior Capstone Art Project I, and VIAR 410, Senior Capstone Art Project II will use the equipment. Students enrolled in VIAR 235, Art and the Computer and VIAR 236, Art and the Computer for Time Based Medium can also access the equipment. This grant will have an impact across departments, as students in Computer Science, Informatics, and Moving Image Arts who enroll in Computer Animation classes will also benefit from this equipment. Students enrolled in Basic Design I may also benefit from using the requested graphics tablets. Ultimately, this grant will impact approximately 120-150 students each semester.

Graduates of the Computer Animation Program in the Visual Arts Department are employed in the game industry, the film industry, and in multimedia advertising, both regionally and nationwide. With support and funding, this program will continue to advance, producing graduates who will find a wide range of employment opportunities in their field, including work that will make an important contribution to the economic development of the State of Louisiana.

B) Projected lifetime of enhancement

The projected lifetime of the Interactive Whiteboard and the Flatbed Scanner is approximately twenty years. The XP PEN graphics tablets should serve for approximately nine years. Stylus Pens for the tablets last approximately two to three years, so additional replacement pens are listed in the budget.

C) Person(s) responsible for

i) Implementation

Professor Yeon Choi will be responsible for the implementation of the hardware and software.

ii) Installation

The Louisiana based company Gulf Coast Office Product offers complete installation, which is included in the budget proposal.

iii) Maintenance

Professor Yeon Choi will be responsible for the maintenance of the hardware and software. Gulf Coast Office Product offers an extended warranty included in the budget proposal.

iv) Operation

Professor Yeon Choi will be responsible for the operation of the hardware and software.

v) Training (with qualifications)

Yeon Choi is a Professor of Computer Art and Animation in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She received her B.F.A. and M.A. in Painting from Ewha University in Korea, and an M.F.A. in Computer Arts focusing on Computer Animation from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Her expertise includes digital imaging, animation, film, video, and web design. She can train students and instructors on all of the hardware and software that will be provided from this grant.

D) Narrative of the Budget Proposal

- A. D7500 Interactive Whiteboard: It is a 75" Interactive Whiteboard and will be mounted on the wall in the classroom. The listed budget includes installation and a 3-year warranty.
- B. The Epson Expression 12000XL Photo Scanner will be fixed to a desk at the back of the classroom.

- C. XP PEN Artist Display 15.6 Tablets with Screens: These are 15.6” display tablets and will be mounted on student desks.
- D. Stylus Pens: These are cordless, battery-free digital pens that combine all the advantages of the digital realm with the classical feel of a felt tip marker. They will be stored in a locked cabinet so students can check out stylus pens from instructors.

Budget Proposal

	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
1) Equipment			
D7500 Interactive Whiteboard w/ installation and 3year Warranty	1	\$6,899.00	\$6,899.00
Epson Expression 12000XL Photo Scanner	1	\$3,999.00	\$3,999.00
XP PEN Artist Display 15.6 Pro Tablet	20	\$399.99	\$7,999.80
Extra Stylus Pen	20	\$30.00	\$600.00
2) Software			\$ 0
3) Supplies			\$ 0
4) Maintenance			\$ 0
5) Personnel			\$ 0
6) Other			\$ 0
Grand Total (Requested Funds)			\$ 19,497.80

Previous Step Grants Funded

STEP Grant G298N2 (Dr. Tim Roden, Yeon Choi, Dr. James Etheredge)
 As awarded, STEP grant G298N2 called “Motion Capture Laboratory.” Grant amount: \$99,678.75

STEP Grant G298BH (Yeon Choi)
 As awarded, STEP grant G298BH called “Maya License Renewal for Computer Animation Studio in Fletcher Hall.” Grant amount: \$7,999.60

STEP Grant FA18-20 (Yeon Choi)
 As awarded, STEP grant FA18-20 called “Equipment for Hybrid Animation in the Department of Visual Arts.” Grant amount: \$19,568.58