



TECHNOLOGY  
RESEARCH  
COMMITTEE

## 2006 – 2007 Grant Project Report

**Project Title:** Building LCS – A Digital Video Production

**Project Creator(s):** Karen Rowe  
Mary Rokhvadze

**School District:** Laurens Central School

**Grant Award:** \$2407.92

**Contact:** [cmrokhvadze@laurencs.org](mailto:cmrokhvadze@laurencs.org)

**Building LCS**  
**2006-2007 RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL**  
**TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH COMMITTEE**  
**FINAL REPORT**

**Project Title:** Building LCS

**Project Director:** Karen Rowe

**Project Creators:** Karen Rowe and Mary Rokhvadze

**Grant Award:** \$2407

**Project Description**

“*Building LCS*” is a multi-media, collaborative project with Advanced Art students and the Library Media Specialist. During this project, students researched, wrote, and created a multimedia video which documents the progression of a large-scale, multi-stage building project at LCS. Videos created during this project will be cataloged and will serve as an archive of the many changes our district's school buildings will be undergoing.

**Objectives**

The purpose of this grant is to enhance student learning by encouraging students to incorporate a variety of multimedia technology, research, and artistic skills into an authentic and meaningful project. Students will learn video production, from storyboard writing to creating and editing a video using video production software. Pre-production will include researching and analyzing similar projects. Post-production will include editing footage, as well as the evaluation and selection of multimedia materials. As a team-project between Art and Library Media, this project supports cross-curricular learning and instructional collaboration.

**Budget**

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1 Canon ZR500 Digital camcorder	Buydig.com 80 Carter Dr. Edison, NY 08817	\$214
MacBook Pro	Apple Computer Inc. PO Box 281877 Atlanta, Georgia 30384	\$1799
Canon A520 Digital still camera	Buydig.com 80 Carter Dr.	\$168

<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Cost</b>
	Edison, NY 08817	
10 JVC 60 minute Mini-DV tapes	Long's Electronics 2630 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave South Irondale, Alabama 35210-1240	\$9.99
<b>Total Equipment cost</b>		<b>\$2191</b>
<b>Total cost to school</b>		<b>\$9.99</b>
<b>Total grant</b>		<b>\$2407</b>

### **Project Activities and Timeline:**

*September, 2006*

The initial phase of the project included the ordering of equipment and materials. After thorough research and consultation with numerous other visual arts professionals, we decided to purchase a MacBook Pro, instead of a Dell Latitude. This laptop includes a variety of digital media tools that are more consistent with the goals of this project. The cost of the laptop was originally quoted as more expensive than expected. Because of the cost difference, we were not able to purchase books and videos as originally proposed. In the long run, the cost of the laptop was less than originally quoted.

*November, 2006 - January, 2007*

The use of multimedia technology was introduced to Advanced Art students toward the end of the second quarter of the school year. Six students were enrolled in the class at this time and were presented with an introductory multimedia lesson called "I Am" in order to familiarize themselves with the new equipment that included: a digital video camera, digital still camera, tri-pod and Mac Book Pro laptop computer. This assignment required them to visually and audibly illustrate several verses of a poem about themselves, called "I Am". Students were given several methods to help them plan out the video including a simple storyboard, sketchbook assignments and a sample video. Instruction was then given on using the *iMovie* program, demonstrating how to build their video and incorporate a variety of visual and audio elements. Books on using *iMovie* were also made available to the students for support in this project. Most students were very eager to use a variety of digital effects available on the MacBook Pro and incorporated a range of transitions, special effects, titles and music into their final "I Am" movies.

*February, 2007*

In early February, Advanced Art students were challenged to use their knowledge of multimedia to create a team video called "Building LCS." Students were exposed to documentary film through a presentation by a local film maker, viewing of infomercials previously made by middle school students, and a range of video clips available on the internet. A brainstorming session was held with the students to help formulate ideas and themes that they would like to incorporate in the movie. They were encouraged to make

use of websites to research various roles, make storyboards, and select jobs that they felt they would like to take on. Some students felt they would be comfortable as interviewers and actors, while others chose to take on behind the scenes jobs as researchers, screen writers, and camera people. Lists of candidates to interview were generated and students decided to take the direction of "LCS: Past and Present, Young and Old". Weekly pow-wows were held where teacher and student decided on jobs for the week. Students were evaluated on their progress through self and teacher assessment. Grading was done weekly on their proposed assignments and completion of the task(s) (see attached). The students wrote interview questions, took digital still and video footage of many places around the school, and compiled interviews with a variety of students of all ages, as well as faculty and alumni.

*March, 2007*

In mid March students were asked to use their visual art skill to document LCS through paint. Advanced Art students completed paintings of memorable places around the school. Students involved in the Visual Art Media Club were also invited to participate in the project and have added their insight into the documentary, taking digital video footage of areas around the school that are beginning to see change as the building project takes shape. Students now await groundbreaking mid summer in order to compile all the media in a progressive fashion.

#### **Project Highs and Lows:**

The introductory "I Am" video projects were extremely well done and very successful. Students spent time exploring the many options that the Mac Book Pro offered and incorporated these into their work. The purchase of the Mac Book Pro was a good choice as it offered students exposure to an additional computer platform. Students took advantage of the cameras and did an excellent job capturing and compiling a large variety of high quality still and video footage that will contribute to, and form a large part of the finished documentary.

Students did not follow through in beginning the compilation of the video itself. They seemed to burn out on doing two video projects in one school year. Despite frustration and lack of motivation on the part of the students, it may have been too much to expect. The students in this class seemed to have other expectations for the course, including creating hands on visual arts projects, such as drawing and painting.

Delay in the building project's groundbreaking from spring until summer may have also attributed to some lack of interest.

#### **Project Evaluation**

For the future, we feel that we would like to re-evaluate the age group and who would participate. During informal conversation, the sense was that there would be a greater interest in younger age students. We would like to offer the project to interested students, both in art classes and media club. In the long run, the project would not be an overall class requirement. In order to keep interest high we would also forgo any other introductory video projects prior to this one.