8th Grade Immersive Art Project & Budget Proposal

ARTEDC 4100

Proposed by

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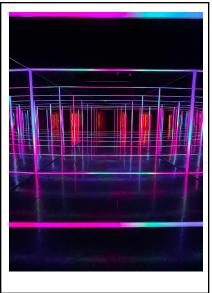
Middle School Art Teacher

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Introduction

Otherworld is an immersive art experience located on the east side of Columbus that has an overall science fiction and fantasy theme — mythical creatures, dreamlike plants, futuristic science spaces, and childhood monster creations. Senses are fully engaged with colors, sounds, movements, and lights. Visitors can wander their way through the seemingly endless spaces to explore, with each room, tunnel, or hidden space uniquely embellished and considered as part of the whole experience. There is a loose storyline you can follow, or you can just freely explore.

This space feels amazing. It is obvious the creators' imaginations were allowed to run free. There is a multitude of materials and techniques used throughout the space, including the interactive play of projected, motion censored art. Anyone who appreciates creativity and any form of art would enjoy and feel inspired by experiencing Otherworld.

Mission and Goals of the Project

I would like to bring my 8th grade art students to this space, where they can experience art in an immersive, untraditional way. I also want them to have the opportunity to meet some of the artists who created this space, hearing directly from them how Otherworld came together as a team project. These mentors can talk about being professional artists to my students who, as 8th graders, are encouraged to be future thinking in what types of careers interest them.

After the students experience Otherworld and talk to artists who produced it, they will work together, with my guidance, to create their own immersive art installation that will be displayed at the school in a large, accessible area. The students will collectively decide on a theme and conceptual layout, and then in groups they create the elements for the installation, including visual, sound, and interactive. Once completed, the display will be installed by myself and the students at the school in a professional manner.

The students will plan an "opening reception" where their families will be able to come to see their installation. Afterwards they will introduce and reveal it to the students, presenting their process and meaning behind the work.

- Students get to see how multiple artforms come together to create one experience — visual 2D and 3D art, light, and sound

- Students will get to experience art outside of "traditional" settings like museums and galleries

- Students get to see possible art careers, especially as 8th graders who have artistic interest and who are encouraged to be thinking about possible future careers

- Students with learn how to plan, execute, and professionally install an artwork display that will be seen by the school community

- Students will learn how to promote public artwork

ODE Standards Connections

- 8.2 CO Research artistic professions of personal interest.

- 8.2 CR Brainstorm, refine and select solutions for original works of art

- 8.3 CR Demonstrate visual literacy through application of the elements of art and principles of design to communicate an idea

- 8.1 PE Apply artisanship when preparing and presenting works of art

- 8.2 PE Select materials and techniques to independently create works of art

- 8.4 RE Understand how cultural factors affect what contemporary artists create

Attendees

8th grade art students (50)

Volunteer parent chaperones

Otherworld Creative Support

Founder, Creative Director — [Jordan Renda](#)

Lead Scenic and Prop Maker – [Ira V. Tecson](#)

Fabrication Director – [Leland Drexler-Russell](#)

Art Director – [Scott Schaaf](#)

Animator/Project Mapper – [Donnie Mossman](#) ([Pacemour Creative](#))

Lead Textile Artist – [Pilgrim Heidi Kambitsch](#)

Installation Painter – [Laurie Spapiro](#)

Description of Project Location:

Otherworld

5819 Chantry Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43232

<u>Project Summary</u>

Background

Many people (students included) think that art mainly exists in galleries and museums. They also usually think of 2D art that is only meant to be looked at.. But there are many more ways to view and even interact with art. I want to introduce my students to public art — more specifically, installation art.

Otherworld is a unique, immersive art experience that includes sound and interaction. It is a collaborative installation that brought together many different types of artists, some of whom still live in Columbus and continue to work at Otherworld.

Having my students not only experience this work, but also meet some of the creators would be a powerful experience for them, learning about collaborative creativity and how art can exist outside of the museum.

Objectives of the Project

- Have students experience an immersive, interactive artwork
- Have students meet with professional artists to hear about their experience
- Have students create their own immersive installation at the school
- Have students plan an opening event for the installation
- Allow other students, as well as staff and parents, to experience the 8th graders immersive installation

Project Description

- After meeting the professional artists who created Otherworld, students will decide as a class what theme they would like to use for their immersive installation.
- Once a theme is decided, students will brainstorm on different elements they could include that would fit into the theme
- Students will form into groups based on the elements for the installation they want to work on — examples: Lights, sound, interactive element, visual work (2D and 3D)
- Students will work in their groups for 2 weeks, collaborating on elements for the installation
- With the guidance of the teacher, ½ of the students will put the installation all together, while the other ½ will plan the opening reception, including a presentation and any marketing within the school and to its community

- Students will host an opening reception of the installation for families and the Otherworld artist mentors
- Students will host an introduction and reveal to the rest of the student body

Beneficiaries of the Project

The beneficiaries of this project not only include the students who will view the exhibit, but also the professional artists they will meet. "A public art ecosystem resonates with artists and other creatives as a visual reminder that they are embraced by a community" (Americans for the Arts, 2018). Otherworld will show the students another way to engage in the art community professionally, and will allow the professional artists a way to mentor and inspire young artists, as well as show the 8th grade students career options they might choose in the future. "When students get to meet and interact with an artist they not only learn skills, they see art as a valid and valued career option for themselves" (Beam, E., 2016).

Parents, staff, students, and the extended school community will also benefit because they will get to experience an immersive installation they might not otherwise have had the option to see. If the extended community cannot make it to the Otherworld exhibition, they will still be able to experience this type of experience through the student's installation. "70 percent of Americans say they experience the arts in a "non-arts" venue such as a park, hospital, shopping mall, or airport" (Americans for the Arts, 2018).

Duration & Timeline

This project from start (viewing the Otherworld exhibit) to finish (reveal to the student body at the middle school) will take approximately 4 weeks:

- Visit installation - 1 day
- Collectively decide on theme - 2 class periods
- Brainstorm on elements of installation - 1 class period
- Create elements of installation - 2 weeks
- Install installation/Plan opening - 1 week
- Opening reception - 1 day near finish
- School reveal - 1 day after opening reception

Proposed Budget

- 50 Tickets/$15 each — $750

- Bus transportation — $200

- Professional artist mentors — $500

- Art materials — $500

    - Neon paint

    - Black lights

    - Rope/string lights

    - Fabrics/textiles

    - Wire mesh

    - Structural support

- Provided art materials — $0

    - Paper

    - Canvas

    - Glue (cold and hot)

    - Reclaimed materials

    - Black lights

    - Rope/string lights

- Classroom iPads/Chromebooks — $0

References:

Americans for the Arts, A. (2018). (rep.). *Why Public Art Matters* (pp. 1–8). Washington, D.C.: Americans for the Arts. https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/Why%20Public%20Art%20Matters_FINAL_web.pdf

Beam, E. (2016). Why Bring Artists Into Your Classroom [web log]. Retrieved 2023, from https://artstarts.com/blog/why-artists-classroom-april2016.