

College of Fine Arts Vision Plan – FY 2003-2004

Since the first Vision Plan for Information Technology was completed in 1991, the College of Fine Arts has systematically implemented student microcomputer facilities, technology classrooms, a College-wide network, and other technology infrastructure needed to serve the instructional mission of the College.

This year, the process continues with the deployment of specific equipment and software intended to address five technology areas: upgrades to the existing network infrastructure, an initiative to encourage mobile computing, technology classroom additions and upgrades, and improvements to existing computer laboratories and the sound recording studio.

This document is a revision of the Vision Plan originally submitted for FY 2003-04 and the project descriptions have been updated where appropriate to indicate current status. There are two major additions as well, the digital conversion of the Visual Resource Collection and a new program intended to help faculty build instructional materials.

[Network Infrastructure]

Using existing funding, ITAC awards received during FY 2003-04 and additional monies requested this year, upgrades are planned that will provide gigabit service and improve security by enhancing our ability to segment the network. Beyond that, trends in student computing and increasing pressure on limited computer laboratory facilities make more pervasive wireless coverage desirable. The College intends to take advantage of recent improvements in mobile computing to make student laptop ownership a practical reality.

[Mobile Computing]

To begin the process of acquainting students with the wireless capabilities on campus, the College of Fine Arts purchased a dozen Apple iBooks and a cart for their storage. They are available for loan to students working within the Fine Arts Library. The Portable Computer Classroom project proposed last year by Art and Art History builds on the same concept. Beginning in the Fall 2004 semester, freshmen participating in the Art and

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Art History “Foundations Program” will have access to a mobile cart with laptop computers purchased using a portion of the FY 2003-04 ITAC award. The Portable Classroom proposal will augment existing computer laboratories in the College as will the improved wireless coverage (also funded this fiscal year).

[Technology Classrooms]

Two years ago, six new technology classrooms were partially developed in the School of Music. By minimally equipping each room with a video projector, document camera and a method for connecting a laptop, basic technology classroom functionality was provided to the general acclaim of the music faculty. Last year, we requested additional funding, with the intention of completing those six classrooms. We request funding again this year for the project. The full technology package proposed for two other general-purpose classrooms within the College, ART 1.110 and ART 1.120 was completed using existing funding. In addition to the fixed Technology Classrooms, plans to provide portable audio-visual equipment proposed in last year's document and intended to support instructional activities in the Department of Theatre and Dance were also completed.

[Computer Laboratory Upgrades]

Several project proposals involving equipment upgrades to existing computer laboratory facilities were part of the Vision Plan for FY 2003-04. The Fine Arts Microcomputer Lab, Music Microcomputer Lab, Electronic Music Studios, and the Theatre and Dance Lab all requested funding to retire obsolete equipment and add additional capabilities. All were funded using recurrent ITAC funding with the exception of upgrades for the Electronic Music Studios. Funding was also requested to implement a new computer laboratory printing solution for the Fine Arts Microcomputer Laboratory and the Theatre and Dance Laboratory, a proposal we include again this year.

[Sound Recording]

The College maintains an audio recording facility in MRH that serves as a primary resource for students seeking music performance and composition degrees as well as providing production support for indigenous theatre productions. The current recording consoles, which have been in service for over 20 years, require renovation and/or replacement. Last summer, existing College funding was used to renovate the main console, and ITAC funding is once again requested to replace the secondary console. The School of Music is also planning to initiate a Recording Arts program in the Fall of

2004 which will necessitate the addition of a new control room with a Digital Audio Workstation.

[Visual Resource Collection]

This year, the college will use recurrent ITAC money to fund a portion of an information technology staff member in order to provide better support to the Visual Resource Collection (VRC), an image library used primarily in the Art History program. The collection, which consists mainly of approximately 500,000 slide-based images, has had modest technology needs up to now, but the addition of a SQL-based catalog along with an intention to begin using digital images will require additional IT support. Several steps are planned. First, existing funding will be used to convert the small number of digital images acquired over the last few years to a campus-wide, perpetual license. Second, some additional images will be purchased to replace the slide-based ones used in selected courses. Third, a new web-based tool, now under development by Liberal Arts for use by the Classics, Middle-Eastern Studies, Germanic Studies will be adopted by the Art History program. Since a tradition of image sharing has existed between Classics and Art History (usually involving the physical transfer of slides across campus), such a collaborative effort makes sense and should improve the instructional capacity of both. Both colleges provide service courses to the entire campus, and it is our intention to request additional funding for digital image acquisition and further development of the Web-based tool in a joint, separate request to the ITAC for next fiscal year.

[Instructional Materials Development]

With the completion of several student computer labs, a number of technology classrooms and other technology-based instructional facilities, Fine Arts faculty would benefit from additional help in the creation of instructional materials. A number of our faculty have received ~FAST Tex grants offered by the Center for Instructional Technologies (CIT), but these grant requests have tended to be from the “early adopters”, and strategies are needed to encourage more of our faculty to participate.

We propose offering a two-step model for the development of technology-enhanced instructional materials. The first step, based on a program offered last year by the College of Liberal Arts, would pay Fine Arts faculty to attend a technology “boot camp” where they would be exposed to a variety of technology-based instructional techniques and tools. Faculty would receive a small stipend for which they would attend a number of short courses offered during the summer by the CIT on instructional topics like “Introduction to Blackboard”, “Teaching with Powerpoint”, and “Teaching with Video and Graphics”. With the knowledge gained in the courses, and in consultation with members of the CIT professional staff, they would then produce a short proposal for the design and implementation of technology-based materials like a Web Site, a series of Powerpoint presentations or an instructional video. We intend to submit a joint proposal with the CIT to implement this program next year. Meanwhile, we intend to fund a pilot version of this program next summer (2004) in order to get some projects “into the pipeline”.

Any proposals produced in the “Boot Camp” would then be eligible for project completion funding. Up to now, projects gaining ~FAST Tex support have resulted in prototypes that often needed further work for practical classroom use. This part of the instructional materials plan would improve the situation by providing additional funding with which to complete a given project. So that the funding is used efficiently, we further propose the establishment of campus “service bureaus” capable of accepting projects and applying appropriate resources to their completion. The CIT, for example, is ideally situated to provide such services since they already have a pool of skilled professionals and talented students who currently work on such projects. With this two-step process, the “Boot Camp” and project funding coupled with a central service bureau, we believe it will be possible to provide for the regular, efficient creation of technology-enhanced instructional materials.

To summarize, the College of Fine Arts is requesting ITAC funding for several projects that address infrastructure, computer lab, technology classroom and curriculum needs:

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Each project builds on the already established infrastructure and will enhance instructional technology for students in meaningful ways.

Project Title	Department	Estimated Cost
Portable Computer Classroom	Art & Art History	\$ 33,460
Complete Six Smart Classrooms	School of Music	\$ 30,000
Technology Classroom upgrade for General purpose Classroom - ART 1.110	Fine Arts IT	\$ 30,000
Music Microcomputer Laboratory (MML) Upgrades	School of Music	\$ 13,226
Electronic Music Studio (EMS) Upgrades	School of Music	\$ 17,625
Audio Workstation for Recording Technology Program	School of Music	\$ 35,000
Theatre and Dance Computer Laboratory (TaDL) Upgrades	Fine Arts IT	\$ 34,635
Additional A/V for Theatre and Dance	Fine Arts IT	\$ 8,554
Fine Arts Microcomputer Laboratory (FAML) Upgrades	Fine Arts IT	\$ 20,800
Replacement Console for Control B	Fine Arts IT	\$ 25,000
Printing solution for FAML & TaDL	Fine Arts IT	\$ 28,635
Additional Wireless Coverage	Fine Arts IT	\$ 50,000
	Total Requested	\$ 326,935