FALL 2013
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT
GRANT REPORT:

OTIS COLLEGE
USING A SELF-PUBLISHING TO GROW IDEAS
+ IDENTIFY PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
What's this grant about?

I designed a book about the fall 2013 Neighbor-Gap-Bridge semester and used it as a platform to:

1/ Better understand my thinking

2/ Begin to identify new professional opportunities

3/ Generate concept + content for these new professional activities
How did designing the book help do this?

The organizational process involved in designing the book helped me clarify my thinking. Developing visual diagrams for pedagogical concepts helped me to hone my ideas. Keeping a “user” or audience in mind helped develop clarity.

This rigor in addition to my consultants guidance prepared me to consider the next professional steps I might take.
What is Neighbor-Gap-Bridge?

NEIGHBOR-GAP-BRIDGE is a global community building initiative, aimed at linking core human motivations and cultural experiences with the goal of increasing worldwide happiness. Digital connectivity, on the surface, appears to have narrowed gaps in communication, community and perhaps intimacy, but in reality has created new, more elusive, invisible gaps. The world appears to have gotten smaller and more connected, but these new, less visible gaps have resulted in an oversized sense of fragmentation in our relationships and communities.

NEIGHBOR-GAP-BRIDGE proposes engagement and processes that may close some of these gaps, allowing a new context for behavior and interaction. This initiative benefits separated and disenfranchised citizens, both locally and globally, inviting them to assume leadership roles that help to create more meaningful connections. As a 2011 Design Ignites Change Award recipient as well as 2012 Teaching Artist in Residence at the Skirball Cultural Center in conjunction with the Library of Congress exhibition “Creating the United States,” NEIGHBOR-GAP-BRIDGE is in an advantageous position to shepherd an ongoing course, by the same name, at Otis College of Art and Design.

Taught within the Creative Action program at Otis College, in Los Angeles California, which fosters team-based, interdisciplinary learning, in an open-ended, art and design inquiry, NEIGHBOR-GAP-BRIDGE is designed as a laboratory and views a student’s role as ethnographer and the college’s surrounding environment as tribe. Using pedagogical tools for observation and inquiry, students actively investigate the customs, history, attitudes and peoples – in their own backyard.
The grant supported three consultants, who reviewed Neighbor-Gap-Bridge materials and who made recommendations for better communication as well as for next steps:

Michele Jaquis
Assistant Professor and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies, Otis College

Christopher Michlig
Assistant Professor, University of Oregon

Chris Chapin
Professor, Kansas City Art Institute
THE FOLLOWING NEW PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS RESULTED FROM GRANT ACTIVITY:

Bard College Conservatory consultant. Currently developing new audience/community + donor engagement experiences

Neighbor-Gap-Bridge white paper published by Industrial Designers Society of America for 2014 Educational Symposium

Neighbor-Gap-Bridge consulted with a music based, social design start-up: spring 2014

Neighbor-Gap-Bridge white paper submitted to The 2014 AICAD Symposium.
THANK YOU.