

Student Creative Arts Council Grant – Brown University

1. Project Information
2. Project Title: Hong Kong Umbrella Movement Exhibition
3. Amount Requested (\$1,000 max): \$1,000
4. Dates of Project (must be between 1.1.16 - 6.30.16): 4.1.16 – 6.30.16
5. Project Description (400 words max):

Four Public Humanities students seek to curate a series of exhibitions, “The Hong Kong Umbrella Movement Exhibition”, examining the most influential social movement in Hong Kong’s history. From September through December 2014, thousands of Hong Kong protesters occupied major city intersections in response to changes in Hong Kong’s electoral system; protestors called for universal suffrage and a more democratic Hong Kong.

As part of an ongoing collaboration, Brown University’s John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage sent graduate students to the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to facilitate workshops around activism and art in January 2015. Our most recent CUHK visit (January 2016) culminated in over fifteen personal interviews with students, professors, and artists who participated in the occupations. These interviewees laid bare their individual experiences of life and struggle in the occupied zones, and we hope to share their experiences in the exhibition. We also had the pleasure of meeting two documentary filmmakers whose films we would like to include in the exhibitions or as a separate film series.

The amazing creativity and public art resulting from this movement has caused this time to be considered “the most creative time in Hong Kong’s history” (CUHK Professor interviewee) and this will be the focus of our exhibit at the Granoff. In addition to the Granoff, three other locations will house exhibits: University of Rhode Island, New Urban Arts, and the John Nicolas Brown Center. Our connections with CUHK will provide documents and photographs of Umbrella Movement, to which we will add our recorded interviews and the documentary films we collected. This triangulation will allow for a comprehensive understanding of public art and creativity during the Umbrella Movement.

Professor Oscar Ho, Cultural Management Professor at CUHK, held a similar event (The Umbrella Festival) in Hong Kong which actively responded to the current societal concerns. A description of the festival reads, “With a dedication to local artists, the Umbrella Festival presents diversified works to reenact and rethink about the issues... and hopes to provoke critical thinking and discussion, including visual art exhibits, film and video screening, performance art, drama, dance, and many more.” It is in this similar fashion and spirit that we four Public Humanities scholars propose the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement Exhibition at Brown University in order to shed light on the role art and activism can play in local and national social movements.

Relevant Goals and Events for the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement Exhibition

- March 23: Items for University of Rhode Island exhibit printed, framed, and labeled
- April 04: University of Rhode Island exhibit opening
- April 21: University of Rhode Island reception and gallery night
- April 29: Brown University's Granoff Center installation/opening
 - University of Rhode Island exhibit closing
- May 02: Brown University's John Nicolas Brown Center (JNBC) exhibit opening
 - New Urban Arts exhibit opening
- Transfer some University of Rhode Island content
- May 05: Umbrella Movement Documentary Film Series @ JNBC
- May 13: Projected Brown University's Granoff Center closing
- May 28: Brown University Commencements
- June 30: Projected JNBC closing

Hong Kong Umbrella Movement Exhibition						
<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>UNIT</i>	<i>X</i>	<i>RATE</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>	
Designers						
Project Designer	1	designer	x	25/hr x 40hrs	1000	
Electrical Designer	1	designer	x	25/hr x 40hrs	1000	
Total					2000	
Supplies						
Lennon Wall* Supplies						
Paper/ Sticky Notes	5	packets	x	10	50	
Markers	1	packet	x	20	20	
Total					70	
Incidentals					100	
				TOTAL	2170.00	
Potential Income						
Source	Amount				Total	
John Nicolas Brown Center	\$500				500	
				TOTAL FUNDS	500	

*The Lennon Wall was used during the Umbrella Movement for supporters to write words of encouragement, support, thoughts, etc. This is one element of the movement that is requested by CUHK so that we can collect all of the Lennon Wall notes and send them back to CUHK so they can add to their archive.



BROWN

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I write in support of a grant request by four Public Humanities MA students to support a series of exhibits on the Hong Kong Umbrella Movement. This project builds on the work of collaborators at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Cultural Management program, and on the support of Brown's Office of Global Engagement which funded a research trip for Brown students and faculty to Hong Kong this past January. In addition, the students will work on the exhibits as part of the required "Methods of Public Humanities" course which I teach.

Addressing the creative flowering that occurred during the protest last year in Hong Kong, these exhibits will explore the relationship between art and activism and tie student protest movements in Hong Kong to the concerns of U.S. students as expressed through visual and media arts. The Brown students will curate a set of photographs collected by CUHK students and faculty, include student and professional documentary films, explore the musical groups that composed "24 hour songs" on the streets of Hong Kong during the 79 days of the occupation, and edit interviews they did in Hong Kong with students (both high school and college) who were in the streets.

We have a series of exhibits planned around Providence, with the one at the Granoff being the planned centerpiece of the project. The Center for Public Humanities plans to support these important exhibits and events planned for later in Spring 2016 both financially and with faculty expertise. In addition to help in exhibit planning, faculty fellows at the Center for Public Humanities, Robert Lee and Elena Shih will serve as consultants on Hong Kong and Chinese politics and on the context for the art and activism the MA students seek to explore.

These will be important events in Brown and in Providence. Any support you can offer will be repaid by lively and exciting conversations and learning for the Brown students who come to the exhibits and for those who curate them.

Susan Smulyan

Professor, American Studies
Director, John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage