



USING AN INTERACTIVE TIMELINE TO CONTEXTUALIZE ART HISTORY

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OUTLINE

- Overview of Project
- Inspiration
- Development of Idea
- Ethnography Exercise
- Software Choice
- Proof of Concept
- Full Product Development over Summer 2020
- Product Implementation with Orange County Public Schools

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT

- This timeline was developed as the main project as part of the course, Digital Interaction for Informal Learning
 - Taught by Dr. Maria Harrington
 - Partnered with Orlando Museum of Art
- The course centered around building an idea of how a digital product can be used for informal learning and supplement a museum visit

WHAT IS INFORMAL LEARNING?

- Informal learning is the name given to learning that's unstructured and takes place away from traditional, formal learning settings, like a classroom. It has no clear goals or set objectives as it's often unplanned and self-directed by the learner
- Orlando Museum of Art Activities:
 - Scavenger Hunts in the galleries (field trip)
 - Sketching in the Gallery
 - Story Time

INSPIRATION

- Personally, I am someone that walks through art exhibits fairly quickly
- What would make me stop for longer?
- What gives me a deeper connection to art?
 - Museum docents are able to provide stories about the artist, the inspiration behind these masterpieces – but they can't follow along beside everyone during a museum visit



DEVELOPMENT OF IDEA

- The name of the game is context!
- Give people a story to think about

ETHNOGRAPHY EXERCISE

- Each student in the course had to visit OMA and spend an hour observing some part of the museum
- I chose a portion of the *People* gallery within *The American Journey*
- My main observations for this gallery were:
 - Nearly all of the paintings were hung above a child's eyeline, so they run right through this part of the exhibit
 - Adults would stop at 1-2 paintings in this exhibit for 5 seconds to look at it, max
 - What could I do to make museum attendees stop and connect with the art?

SOFTWARE CHOICE

- Paid or Open Source?
 - Spoiler alert: free is often the winner – [knight lab](#)
- Also known as TimelineJS, this product makes it simple for anyone to use and create an interactive timeline
- How does it work?
 - Using a Google Sheets template, I entered the information for each timeline entry
 - [My Template](#)
 - What if I needed to bold certain words, or italicize, or add a link?
 - This template allows the user to use HTML tags within entries!

TARGETED AUDIENCE

- Following the advice of our OMA consultant, I targeted 5th grade students
- To show the potential applications of this idea, I researched the education standards for 5th grade
 - Cpalms.org
 - I targeted history, social studies, and art standards for 5th grade
 - Do I recommend doing this in your projects? Absolutely!
 - If you're working on something that is intended to be implemented into K12 education, the sooner you know how well it can fit within the guidelines – this will be a challenge you will face!
 - It can also be a part of a grant application to develop an product (like this project was)

PROOF OF CONCEPT

- Preview of Proof of Concept
- It worked!

FULL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OVER SUMMER 2020

- Surprise! Early in Summer 2020 I received an email that my project had been selected by OMA's education staff to be included with a grant application!
- Funding came through in July-ish, and I started putting together the Google Sheets template with the pieces from OMA's collection that were selected by the Education staff, and placing the text entries as well (these entries were also written by OMA's education staff)
- I would send an update once a week stating my progress and seeing what was needed (including formatting – that was very important)
- We wrapped up the project in September, and now it will be used for OCPS virtual tours in their webcourse modules

PRODUCT IMPLEMENTATION WITH ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- [Final version of Timeline](#)

FINAL ADVICE TO OTHER GRAD STUDENTS:

- If you're trying to build your portfolio and have a project such as this and you want to build your connections, do what I did: shamelessly tell your point of contact that you want to keep developing your idea
- Make sure they know you're interested in working with them
- No really, in the final presentations for this course I said at the end of my presentation: "I have time to work on this paid or not this summer if you want to develop it further. Email me."



CONTACT INFO:

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