Research Grant – Fall 2008

Title or Proposal:
DEMONSTRATE DIGITAL APPLICATIONS FOR THEATRE SCENIC AND LIGHTING DESIGN AT THE LDI NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2008

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Abstract:
I propose to attend the Lighting Dimensions International (LDI) National Conference and Stage Expo 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The principal purpose for attending the conference is to demonstrate in three master classes the work I have been researching with LD Assistant 2008 visualization software since its release last spring. LD Assistant 2008 is an AutoCAD based third party software design tool for entertainment professionals who stage and provide scenic, lighting and sound design services. As a beta tester for this product I have been selected by the conference to demonstrate this innovative new tool that is changing the way theatre designers visualize their creative work.

Proposal:
- At the 2007 conference in Orlando I participated as a panel member for one of the many training sessions demonstrating CAD visualization with LD Assistant 2006. These master classes were so successful that I have been invited to the 2008 session in Las Vegas to teach an expanded three day session using the newly released LD Assistant 2008.
- LDI has recognized me as one of the leading CAD designers using this innovative design tool and has extended this opportunity to showcase the work being done at USF’s School of Theatre and Dance.
- The LDI Annual Conference & Stage Expo is a focal point for over 13,800 performing arts and entertainment professionals. The Conference offers dozens of sessions from audio visual, lighting to the latest in video engineering technology and production. Held in Orlando or Las Vegas in opposite years, the conference attracts over 25% of its attendees from all over the world who share their knowledge and expertise with one another. Stage Expo showcases businesses, products, services, and educational opportunities in the performing arts and entertainment industry. LDI had over 400 exhibitors in 2007 in Orlando and the Stage Expo provides conference attendees with the opportunity to see the newest and best products and services on the market today. Stage Expo is also the setting for special technical and design exhibitions, as well as craft demonstrations.
- My session is designed to demonstrate the powerful lighting and visualization tools available to designers making digital models using animation, patterns, color and intensities. These tools have become an important aspect of 3-D rendering and design. My sessions will show many of the tools and present new ideas for digital rendering. The sessions will start with the basics of 2D tools and advance to the tips and tricks of using the many 3D and visualization tools only available
in LD Assistant 2008, including I-drop, CAD Content, photometric lights and real
time video display.

- As an attendee to the conference I will have an opportunity to attend other
  workshops and sessions related to digital technology and the digital designer.
  Compare and share ideas and our discoveries of using new digital technologies for
  theatre design.

- It also provides me an opportunity to experience the largest exhibition of
  entertainment and technology products.