

Minutes of CENIC's Museum Task Force

July 22, 2004

12:30-2:00 p.m.

Chair: Ed Johansen

Ed Johansen opened the meeting with an overview and appointed Nikayla Thomas to be the Vice Chair of the task force. Nikayla is the former executive director of CALTEL.

The meeting participants discussed two task force projects:

Proposed Joint El Monte Project

The proposed Joint El Monte Project of the Latino/Museum Education Task Forces involves linking Mexico's National Museum of Archaeology and Mexico's Museum of Anthropology to the El Monte high school district. El Monte is internally already set up for broadband connectivity and is planning to join CENIC's CalREN in the new future, through several educational institutions, including UCLA at its visualization portal, USC, CalTech-JPL, University of Pennsylvania-Magpie, and UNAM (University of Mexico) through CUDI (Mexico's version of Internet 2). El Monte high school district is also in the process of developing a CAVE (a three dimensional viewing environment) in which to show real artifacts in a virtual setting.

Alex Ramirez reported that a letter of intent to the NSF Informal Sciences Program had been rejected but that it could get passed with some further refinement.

Participants in the project should include: representatives of the gigabit network of the El Monte High School District, CUDI (Mexico's Internet2), University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the National Museum of Archaeology (Aztec Art/Pre-Columbia Art), the National Museum of Anthropology (Colonial Art), NSF, NEH, NEA, UCLA's Department of Art History, USC, Caltech/JPL, UCSB and UCSD's San Diego Supercomputer Center.

The committee discussed ongoing efforts and securing representatives from the Getty, LACMA, Fowler Museum, Huntington Library, Natural History Museum and the California Science Center. Ed reiterated that "museums" include libraries and science centers.

The task force should look into funding from the Institute for Museum and Library services.

The committee discussed LACMA's participation. Dan Theobald reported that LACMA was interested in participating and may have the resources to do so more fully.

Egyptian Project

The task force also discussed its Egyptian Project which it anticipates will secure interest from some of the major museums in the state.

The proposed Egyptian Project of the Museum Education Task Force will provide visual and historical access via video-conferencing to Egypt's ancient pyramids and archeological finds.

The proposed project should involve representatives of the GEANT of DANTE (Europe's Internet 2), University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Library of Alexandria, National Science Foundation ("NSF"), National Endowment of the Humanities ("NEH"), National Endowment of the Arts ("NEA"), UCLA's Department of Art History, USC, Caltech/JPL and UCSB.

The task force discussed developing a proposal to involve representatives from the American Research Center in Egypt ("ARCE"), Getty, LACMA and the Fowler Museum.

An important note is that the current technology the museums have on hand will not meet the programmatic goals of the project and any proposal will need to stress connection via CalREN.

Possible Relationships to Build:

Amgen Center

<http://www.amgen.com/community/sciencecenter.html>

Eli Broad

Cleveland Museum of Art

Ann Doyle from Internet 2.

(others)

Task Force Participants

Jeff Baumann

Ira Bray

Ed Johansen

Richard Lowenberg

Mark Macias

Alex Ramirez

Dan Theobald

Nikayla Thomas