

Container Project

Repatriating Technology
Empowering our community

THE CONTAINER PROJECT
UNESCO's Programme to Harness ICT's for Education, 32 C/5 – Subprogramme V.1.2



CARRIED OUT WITH UNESCO'S ASSISTANCE



Background

The Container Project was established in 2003 in the community of Palmers Cross whereby a 40ft container was retrofitted into a community multimedia centre, offering sensitization and training in various ICT skills for a number of marginalized youth and other groups in and around the community. These computer courses are certified by the national Human Employment and Resources Training (HEART) Trust. This being the only certification many of the participants will ever achieved. Further skill set to include Digital Music, Photography and Video Production were to be incorporated into Multi Media Presentation packages, lead by Media Arts workshops. Since December 2004 the Container offers the only internet access point in the community, the Container has galvanized tremendous interest from both the immediate and surrounding communities in its alternate mode of training for personal and community development.



Mongrelised Approach



The mongrelised approach taken was a consequence of necessity rather than choice, however it proved to be the ideal ingredient in the successful implementation of the initiative. The lesson then must be that every project needs a certain amount of conviction and heart to be able to conquer all odds. In this instance I was more concerned about the development of the community than for myself, the flip side to which I have so enhanced my personal gratification that its unbelievable how fulfilled it as made me. This came about because I had an in-depth understanding of the community, and essential street credibility and influence. I because I wasn't bounded by any contractual clauses/funders specification. I was able to personalize each step of the process and analyze what and how things were done, as if I was the recipient and how as a hardcore street person I would accept or react to an initiative like this. The added value to the project came through the direct and consequential involvement of the community.

Sustainable Economy

The tardiness of the traditional mainstream funding of bottom up initiatives is significantly retarding the development of community new media practices. It is therefore important that we focus on the type of developments and financial strategy that will most afford sustainable economic emancipation. This lends itself to the fact that successful implementation of a grassroots process will eventually attract mainstream attention (+ or -). The most dynamic economic solution that presents itself to street/community media arts initiatives, I believe lies in culture production. These communities have a unique opportunity to develop inspired content material that is required to drive the mainframe of new media development. This was true in the advent of the web but has been systematically shied away from by the mainstream because they lack the creative consciousness of the inspirational storyteller. It therefore stands to reason that community/street media economy needs to know how to use the tools created by the mainstream economies. We need to be able to tell our own stories.



Networks

Charitable consciousness have given rise to a fundamental feature of community arts activism in a favorable network or workers, sharers and givers persons who work tirelessly to make things happened above and beyond their resources. This forum is an international collective that has served to strengthen/foster the growth of new media initiatives around the world. Most community multimedia project resemble the container I see synergies all around regardless of the institutional or financial center, this is a significant aspect of the infrastructure that keep and help to sustain new media access to communities.



Conclusion

I would like to end this presentation by offering up a thank you to all the people who have stuck to their guns (literally) to make things happen. It is ironic sometimes the path that we all come at the source from but due diligence have seen us through and the dynamics will continue to flow. Banff is an expressly special place for me it was here that I first publicly mentioned the container project and here where I got my first taste of public presentation, its also where I realised that if you stumble you can fall but if you fall you don't have to stay down you can rise up and make your stand.

I want to thank personally Sarah Diamond and Susan Kennard for the hospitality that they have always afforded me and nuff respect for your staff who have always been ultra efficient. Thanks 4ever!!

Thanks 4 u'r Continuing Support

!!Happy 10th Anniversary!!

INTERACTIVE SCREEN

And

Here's Wishing you

Jubilating and Prosperous

FUTURE