



Sudbury Education Resource Fund

PROJECT TITLE

Digital Theater Subscription

ANTICIPATED START & END DATES OF PROJECT

September 2020-September 2021

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$1,500

APPLICANT 1

Rory Channing*

POSITION

English Teacher

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

English, LSRHS

EMAIL

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APPLICANT 2

Alex Xia*

POSITION

English Teacher and Drama Teacher

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

English and Drama, LSRHS

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Tell us about your project idea

In order to supplement our English and Drama classes in the absence of viewing live theater opportunities, our English Department is seeking a [Digital Theater](#) website subscription that streams the best theatre productions from around the world. The quality of every professional performance in the library is visible in the use of multiple camera angles and high-definition production that aren't available in other resources we have researched. This subscription allows us to analyze the techniques used to create drama and emotion. Accompanying the video library are lesson plans and materials that inform and guide educators so that the study of every performance in the library is maximized. This subscription will help us expand our capacity to engage our English and Drama classes and Drama activities, especially during this challenging year of remote learning.

*Names have been changed

What are your objectives?

Our objectives are:

1. To enhance what all students experience in the English and Drama curriculum in lieu of live performances due to restrictions related to COVID-19.
2. For students to be able to delve deeper into their analysis of theatrical texts and elevate their own performance ideas. In the MA Curriculum Framework for Arts, students are expected to:
 - a. **Perceive and analyze artistic work.** Identify ways a contemporary theatrical work pushes boundaries of a theatrical genre (e.g., comedy, musical). (A.T.R.07)
 - b. **Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work.** Analyze the ways one's own cultural and personal perspectives and biases affect understanding of a theatrical work. (A.T.R.08)
 - c. **Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.** Identify how bias, culture, and privilege can affect the criteria used to evaluate theatrical work. (A.T.R.09)
 - d. **Relate artistic ideas and works to societal, cultural and historical contexts to deepen understanding.** Identify the historical and cultural contexts that caused a shifting of stylistic elements between theatre movements. (A.T.Co.11)

The resources within a subscription to Digital Theatre include interviews with theatre professionals, studies of production materials (directors' notebooks, stage maps), and recordings of panel discussions with critics. The use of these resources extends what students are able to access in order to secure their proficiency with the above framework standards.

3. A Digital Theatre subscription will leave educators in both department areas with new, critical ideas about how to teach theater and theatrical texts.

What are your project activities?

Some activities related to this project are:

- Watching videos with predetermined stopping points for questioning, analysis, and conversation
- Applying studied techniques to student-created performances
- Both Socratic and free form discussions relating to directing, acting, producing, and critiquing plays

What is your timeline?

Educators would begin collaboratively studying the subscription library immediately! Then, as soon as possible, we will design lesson sequences that incorporate the resources almost daily. This is especially critical for Semester 1 (the only semester Drama meets; a time in which this class is deeply impacted by the loss of field trips). English students and students in Drama activities will benefit from this resource for the entirety of the school year.

How will you assess your project's success?

Students will be given a feedback form to assess the Digital Theatre Subscription. We will ask them to rate how much they agree to questions such as:

1. I found the Digital Theatre performances to be of high quality.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

2. Being able to watch these performances and pause to critique and discuss portions led to greater learning opportunities for me.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

3. I believe the drama department should continue to use this teaching tool even after the COVID pandemic has ended and live theatre has resumed.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

Students will also be asked to expand their feedback to include their thoughts and opinions about engaging with the subscription.

Teachers will be provided a parallel feedback form to collect their reflections on the subscription and educational materials in comparison to current practices and to student proficiency.

Teachers will be asked to comment on the use of this resource in the design of future students' learning.

How are you collaborating with colleagues, if applicable?

Educators in the English and Drama departments will collaborate through our study of the resources, our planning for resource integration into students' learning, our discussions related to teaching with the subscription, and our collaborative reflections about the impact of what was designed and how students performed.

What additional preparation/training is required for the implementation of your project, if any?

None.

How will you extend the impact of this grant?

Although the subscription is for 1 year, we would undoubtedly gain instructional ideas from the resource that we can use and build upon moving forward. One of the major goals of this grant is to carry us through the COVID period until we can see plays again--and that will hopefully only be this year, but another goal is to broaden our (teacher and student) understanding of theater, and that is lifetime-long learning.

How will you communicate your results to colleagues and the community?

During our department's weekly meetings we have a tradition/routine for each person to share an idea that is new to him/her/them for that week. This is an opportune time for all of our department members to highlight the subscription resource and what we are learning about its use as it relates to students' engagement and students' learning. We will also share the results

of the student and teacher feedback evaluations at this time.

We also hope to record students' own self-created performances, and when those are released to families and our faculty, we would include attribution of their success to the knowledge and skills gained from their study of the resources within the Digital Theatre subscription.

Please indicate what SERF funds will be used for (check all that apply)

Materials

Describe needed materials and their costs:

Item Description	Quantity	Estimated Cost	Link
Digital Theatre Plus Subscription	1	\$3,500	Digital Theatre

What other organizations, fund requests, and deadlines are you working with?

\$2,000 requested of Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (English and Arts Departments Budget; Drama Budget; COVID funds), which brings this proposal's request to \$1,500.

Is this project contingent on receiving funds from other sources in addition to those requested in this proposal? Please explain.

Yes. We have secured confirmation of the supplemental funds from the departmental budgets.

What additional information would you like to share with us?

This website is one of the most exciting we have seen in a long time. It is very high quality, and we believe that it would serve our students well. It has a wide variety of resources that we could use for years to come, even after the subscription ends.

This project and grant application has been discussed with my building principal.

Yes, final sign off from [Principal] on 8/15/20.

BY ACCEPTING FUNDING I/WE AGREE TO: (PLEASE CHECK ALL BOXES)

- Submit detailed accounting to SERF regarding funds expended as part of this grant.
- Submit a final project report within thirty (30) days of completing this grant.
- Provide a testimonial or description of response by students and/or staff to the grant.
 - Publicize project to parents/teachers via email, social media, classroom bulletins, school newsletter.
 - Collect/submit captioned photographs, work samples, and/or other visuals for publicity

purposes.

- Label all items purchased with the grant funds with notice: "Provided by SERF".
- Ensure statements and/or press releases describing project include: "This project is supported by a grant from the Sudbury Education Resource Fund."
- Recognize that providing accounting, reporting and publicity items listed above is a condition of funding and therefore is my/our obligation as a grant recipient.