THE MOORE & HUFSTEDLER FUNDS
FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF STUDENT LIFE AT CALTECH
Project Proposal by the Dark Room User Group

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. Project title, purpose, and intended impact on student life.

Upgrade of the dark room in the SAC: purchase enlarging lens and print washer

The miniaturization of electronic chips that was fueled by the work of Mr. Moore reached photography in the 90s. In the past few years there has been a revolution in the way people snap images, store and print them. To the casual observer this development seems to make the traditional way of processing and printing film obsolete. Yet there is something deeply satisfying to carefully compose images the way Alfred Stieglitz, Ansel Adams and Edward Weston did using traditional view or medium format cameras using black and white film. These films are then developed and printed inside of a dark room on black and white silver gelatin paper using tray processing to obtain traditional fine art prints.

The Dark Room User Group (DRUG) offers members of the Caltech community a place to do this processing. While members of the club typically own cameras and purchase consumables (as film, photographic paper and chemicals), the club offers a room equipped with enlargers, a safe light, processing trays and drying space to create the final prints.

Historically many of the items used in the dark room where donated by former members (and judging by the names in the logbook mostly in the 70’s and 80’s). Two of the enlarging lenses available are single coated Schneider Kreuznach lenses (80mm, 135mm) from the 1950’s. They have developed fogging and are not usable anymore. The dark room user group also owns two multi coated El Nikkor (50mm and 80mm) lenses from the 1980’s that are still fine for printing from smaller film formats but these lenses are unable to cover larger negatives. It is necessary to replace the SK 135mm lens to enlarge film taken by 4x5 inch view cameras. Additionally members have expressed their wish to obtain a print washer capable of washing multiple large format prints (16x20in). The current method is washing 1-2 prints using trays and running water (for 20min to hone hour). Not only is this very time consuming, but it wastes a lot of water as well. Purchasing a print washer would improve wash times and cut water consumption dramatically.

II. Total amount requested from the Moore-Hufstedler Funds ($).

The Dark Room User Group requests USD 859.90

III. Contact information, including names, campus mail stop, e-mail addresses, status (undergrad, grad, faculty, staff, postdoc, etc.) of:
   o Individual(s) submitting the proposal, include date and signature
Ilja Friedel, MC 256-80, ilja(at)cs.caltech.edu, graduate student

- Individual(s) responsible for submitting the follow-up report to the Moore-Hufstedler Advisory Committee

  Ilja Friedel

- To whom to make checks and where to send them
  - Alternatively, campus account in which funds should be deposited

    Club Account Number: XXX-XX-XXXX

IV. Project description:

The money requested is a capital expense and intended for the purchase of a 135mm enlarging lens (USD 359.95) and a 16x20 print washer (USD 499.95).

V. Club or organization information:

- Club/Organization purpose and URL

  The Dark Room User group operates a dark room in the SAC 39.
  http://www.its.caltech.edu/~drug/

- Membership Information:
  - age of the club:

    I have strong reasons believe that the club already existed in the 1960s, but the old log book only goes back to 1987.

  - number of active club members:

    It is very easy to join the club. That’s why probably more than 100 people on campus have obtained a key to the dark room and use it occasionally. The following 24 members have signed the log book during the past year and are hence considered active:


  - number of members paying membership dues:

    Members only have to deposit USD 10 for a key when joining the club. Members can choose to rent locker space for USD 5 per year
annual club membership dues: none/USD 5

number of undergrads/graduate/faculty/staff/postdocs/and non-Caltech “friends”

This data is not available from the membership forms. I’ve searched the the Caltech directory and most active members (definitely more than 75 percent) are students, the rest postdocs etc.

DETAILED BUDGET

I. A detailed, item-by-item breakdown (with timeline) of all costs related to your proposal (not just those you are requesting from the Moore-Hufstedler Funds).

- List specific items and specify whether they are known costs or estimates

  135mm EL Nikkor enlarging lens, exactly USD 359.95 (it would be nice to replace the existing Schneider Kreuznach lens with a modern SK lens, but the price is USD 90 higher than the Nikon lens)

  16x20 print washer, exactly USD 499.95 (for the cheapest)

  The club also plans to purchase floor mats and minor replacements like a hair dryer (for quick drying test prints), a new paper safe, easels, optical filters and an antistatic brush etc. from own funds.

- Include copies of all price quotes you have obtained.

  See attached printouts

- Tell us about the research you have conducted in determining your budget. Which vendors have you contacted? Have you obtained several price quotes? Explain.

  We have obtained multiple price quotes from the two largest photographic supplies websites (bhphotovideo.com, adorama.com)

II. Is the project being subsidized by other funding sources? For what other funding sources are you (considering) applying? What has been approved? List dollar amounts and be specific!

- Past funding: If this is not a new initiative, how has it been funded in the past? Include a detailed breakdown of funding sources and expenditures.

  It is a new initiative. Many of the items used by the club where donated from former members when they left Caltech. But this is not feasible with the high ticket items that are requested here.
III. Does your proposal entail ongoing costs such as maintenance, insurance, repairs, salaries, etc.?

No.

IV. The Moore-Hufstedler Funds do not provide for ongoing costs. If your proposal entails ongoing costs, tell us how you plan to cover them.

We do not apply for ongoing costs.

V. If your proposal is intended to remain at Caltech longer than those who initially are to implement it, explain how you plan to achieve continuity and ensure the project remains successful in the long term.

I hope the lens might last another 30-40 years and the paper washer 20-25. These two items are fairly expensive, but they amortize over time. Both items will remain in SAC 39 available for everybody’s use.

IMPLEMENTATION

I. How will you advertise your project?

We will continue to advertise the club using a newly updated website and appearance at club fairs. We have also created a mailing list (drug(at)cs.caltech.edu) for communication with club members.

II. Give a description of the major tasks associated with your proposal and the labor required to implement them. Consider the following: Do you have the manpower to realize this project? Will your project require the recruitment or hiring of additional help? If so, how will you recruit or hire additional help?

○ For capital expenditures consider the effort required to design, purchase, install, maintain, and operate equipment, etc.

It takes very little time (less than one hour) to purchase the items requested here and install them.

III. For capital expenditures, where will the equipment be stored and/or used? Has storage or usage space already been arranged?

The equipment will be stored inside of the dark room in SAC 39.

IV. What kind of experience do you have with projects of the nature you are proposing? Have you attempted anything on this scale in the past?

I have experience purchasing personal photographic equipment.
V. An important component of any proposal is its context - how it fits in with current offerings at Caltech. We need to know which groups/organizations/offices/entities on campus are relevant to your proposal. (For example, if your proposal is athletic in nature, you should answer “Caltech Athletics”.)

- You should discuss your proposal with all relevant entities on campus. Failure to do so can be reason alone for the Committee to recommend against funding your proposal.
- Include with your proposal written records of all such discussions.
- Explain how your proposal might offer an opportunity to collaborate or share resources with other entities on campus.

The dark room, as part of the SAC, helps members of the Caltech community to develop their artistic skills. I’m not aware of any groups/organizations outside the SAC which is open to Caltech students the same way as the SAC.

Ilja Friedel
Dark Room User Group (president)
Pasadena, 04/15/2004
Submit one paper copy of your proposal to:
The Moore and Hufstedler Funds
c/o Vice President Margo Marshak
M/C 100-31