**Faculty Research Grant 2015**

**PI Name (and Co-PI’s): Scott Kolbo, Brian Chin**

**Original Title of the Proposal: Improvisation and the Moving Image: Redefining the Silent Movie**

The Final Project Report must briefly address the following in 1-2 pages:

1. Summarize the project goals and the activities that took place to meet those goals during the grant period. Note who was involved and if anyone was an SPU student.

* This grant resulted in a collaborative art/music project by Scott Kolbo and Brian Chin. In the summer and fall of 2015 Professors Chin and Kolbo worked together to develop themes and technical strategies for a collaborative live performance of music and art. Their collective brainstorming resulted in content related to the “Five Elements.” Dr. Chin and local composer, Ben Thomas, composed original works related to these themes and Kolbo completed a series of video pieces that were played alongside the musical compositions. These new creative works were designed to respond to each other and when the pieces were performed in front of a live audience an improvisational element was incorporated into both the music and visual art. The collaboration between these two SPU Faculty resulted in a suite of video projections and original musical compositions. The “Elements” project was publicly performed on May, 5th, 20th, and 21st.

1. What were the major findings? If there are no findings or completed work at this time, what did you learn from carrying out this project that could be applicable to future scholarly works?

* This grant allowed both of the Principal Investigators to create a new body of work that they would not have had the time or inclination to make on their own, and the products are much more interesting than what would have been arrived at separately.
* The performances were attended by several hundred people and the reception of the work was positive. We received mention in the regional art /music press, and a live stream of the project was featured on the local classical music platform <http://secondinversion.org>

1. How were or will the results be disseminated (publication, presentation, creative work, etc. – be as specific as possible)? Please add an addendum or link to completed projects or provide a time-line for future dissemination.

* The performances for these pieces took place at Highline College on May 5th, and again on May 20th at the Soma Towers in Bellevue and May 21st at the Velocity Dance Center in Seattle. The performances were documented by the [Universal Language 21st Century Music Project](http://www.universallanguageproject.com). This was the debut of both the music and video works, which will be available on-line as soon as the editing of the media is completed.

1. What future scholarly works will be related to this project?

* Both Kolbo and Chin intend to disseminate these works widely. The pieces will be entered into film festivals and gallery exhibitions, and Professor Chin intends to release the music compositions as an album.

1. Is there external funding that you would like to pursue with the [Office of Sponsored Programs](http://blog.spu.edu/csfd/external-grantssponsored-programs/)?

* Dr. Chin and Scott Kolbo intend to seek funding from SPU to perform the complete cycle of music and video projections for the SPU 125th Anniversary celebration. This will require securing funding to pay the other performers in the band and handle logistical details (venue rental, lighting and projection equipment, etc).

1. Did you run into any problems or difficulties in completing the project? How were these resolved?

* The project was extremely challenging and a growing experience for both participants, but there weren’t any real problems completing the project. All the parties involved were professional and extremely efficient – it was a delightful experience all the way around.

1. If you had student participation – how did participation in this project further their professional goals or vocational understanding?

* The “Common Tone Arts” organization that partnered with us to produce these performances utilized SPU students to help with video recording and sound design, so there were current and past SPU students involved in the production. They were able to see their professors at work in a professional setting and watch the creation or original works of art. This provided many opportunities for them to grow as artists and professionals.