

Dear Mo McKnight Howe and Review Committee,

As artists who both find ourselves approaching architecture, public space and social history from two differing, yet complimenting, perspectives, we are extremely excited by the opportunity to put forth a collaborative proposal for a large visual art installation at Churchill Downs. It is our hope that this letter and accompanying materials will outline our enthusiasm for creating a large-scale, architecturally mapped video projection for the Churchill Downs Opening Night event, explain our research into specific histories of Churchill Downs and how they will be incorporated into the video content, as well as exhibit our ability to achieve collaborative, technical, and budgetary goals.

Susanna Crum is a Louisville native, and currently lives and works in the historic neighborhood of Smoketown, where she and a fellow artist have established a community-based printmaking studio, Calliope Arts. Susanna uses print media, photography, sculpture, interviews, sound, and video as tools to investigate and interpret the layers of history stored within public spaces. She first became interested in the histories of early Kentucky Derby jockeys when she learned about an annual neighborhood festival, Salute to Black Jockeys, established by local restaurant owner Shirley Mae Beard and celebrated for many years in Smoketown. Susanna was an Artist in Residence at The Kentucky Derby Museum in 2014 where she researched and created artwork about the times, places, and people of the first Kentucky Derbies and the layers of complex history embedded within them. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Art – Printmaking at Indiana University Southeast.

Tiffany Carbonneau is a video installation artist, whose work explores the impact of our surroundings by presenting familiar structures in an unfamiliar setting, allowing the viewer to experience subtle architectural influences in a significant way. Carbonneau is an Assistant Professor of Art - Digital Art and Interactive Media at Indiana University Southeast and is a 2011 Efroymsen Contemporary Arts fellow. Tiffany finds architectural elements that are unique to each exhibition site and highlights those elements with video footage that is painstakingly masked with special software. Through these architectural vestiges, Tiffany's work highlights the significance of our built environment within our modern and historic cultural framework.

Together, we propose to combine video, animation and projection mapping to explore the history of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby, with primary focus on celebrating the twelve African American jockeys who won the Kentucky Derby from 1875-1902. Hand-drawn and collaged imagery that details jockeys' victories with other symbols of the track, such as the exclusive Louisville Jockey Clubhouse and grandstands, will be combined with imagery and video that highlight more recent significant races and milestones. The multilayered video and animation will be mapped and projected onto a large architectural facade at Churchill Downs using a 10,000 lumen projector with a wide angle lens, which is capable of projecting very large images in environments with existing ambient light, while only needing to plug into a standard 110 outlet. Our initial idea is that a structural façade in the paddock would be an ideal and widely visible surface (see attached rendering) but we would like to meet with committee members and track representatives on site to collectively agree upon an ideal site for the projection.

This large scale video projection will combine Susanna's in-depth research, multimedia drawings and layered historical imagery depicting Churchill Downs and the African American Derby winners, with Tiffany's experience developing, installing and successfully exhibiting large architectural projections across the globe, and will allow this collaborative team to create a unique visual experience for the audience while also conveying the rich and important history of the track. We look forward to the opportunity to further discuss with the committee our proposal for the Churchill Downs Opening Night, as well as our enthusiasm for developing a work about this particular site. Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Carbonneau and Susanna Crum