

THEN/HiER Development of a Multimedia initiative report by G. Scott MacLeod *In Griffintown* historical educational documentary.

Work time-line for website.

Domains :

For this educational web project I purchased two domains, www.ingriffintown.com and www.danslgriff.com from Go Daddy so that I may offer the educational website in both English and French to the public.

Web content :

The content I created for this educational site is two fold. The first part are my *production notes* which outline and describe my thesis project and the filmmaking process. The content is as follows; film synopsis, film treatment, film influences, research, film crew, photo elicitation process and interviews, editing, special effects, sound design, related weblinks, bibliography. The second part is a *learning guide* for teachers, with a series of questions to ask students before and after screening the film and a series of follow-up projects. Both sections are also available as downloadable PDF's on the DVD and website. And finally the Mercier life history documentary was embedded in the website so the public can view the film.

Proofed and Translation :

Once the content was finished I had copy editor Rob Lutes (who worked at the National Film Board of Canada) proof my content. Rob has a lot of experience with educational guides, so his recommendations were welcome. Once Rob was finished, Laure Péré then translated the final content for the French site.

Graphic Design :

When the copy was complete, I met with my graphic designers at TagTeam Studio and they created a layout for the webdesign, including photos that the Mercier family used to elicit their life histories in Griffintown.

Purchased template :

In keeping with the guide format I purchased a template (Wowbook) that functioned as a book. I enjoyed the simple functionality of this template and it had the features that I needed to present the project efficiently to the public on the web.

Web Hosting :

I created an account with EcoHosting to host the website.

Webdesign :

The graphic content was then assembled by Mike Routliffe from Thornapple Productions. Mike and I worked closely together assembling TagTeams design.

Excerpt from my thesis:

Creating an affordable educational research template that students and scholars could use for their own research posed a second challenge. Fortunately, for this element of my thesis project I received a small scholarship from the University of British Columbia's THEN/HiER Graduate Student Projects Program, which facilitated the web design element of this thesis project. This on-line feature provided an important and practical method of sharing the Merciers' oral histories and my research template with the greater community.

I met the third challenge of this project—dissemination of both the platform and the documentary content to the greater public—by establishing an affiliation with The Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University. This centre has an excellent facility for research and production as well as a web-based presence through which affiliates can share their research and process. Taking their workshops and becoming an affiliate helped me with my research, interviews and technical process. It also provided a forum that connected me to other graduate students and researchers in the oral history community.

Website

The THEN/HiER Graduate Student Projects Program from the University of British Columbia is a multimedia initiative to design and to help disseminate research findings to the broader public via the development of educational websites. The initiative helped make *Dans l'Griff-In Griffintown* available for public and institutional use. Creating an educational template outlining my research and

production process, and making the film available on line in English at www.ingriffintown.com and in French at www.danslgriff.com are the goal of my websites. These two sites display project data and the answer the initial thesis question, giving the public the opportunity to become more familiar with the Griffintown of yesterday in contrast to the Griffintown of today. This educational research template is now available to students and scholars interested in informing their own enquiries about public spaces, buildings and communities. I believe that arts-informed research projects on the web are important methods of discovering the narrative histories of people, buildings and community in an effort to develop a deeper interest in preserving and sharing industrial history, architecture and cultural landscapes of communities like Griffintown.

In closing I would like to thank the THEN/HiER Development of a Multimedia initiative and team for making this educational website possible.

*Addendum

I was the keynote speaker at the Emerging Scholars Symposium on Oral, Digital, and Public History at Concordia University, on March 25th, where presented my *Dans l'Griff-In Griffintown* research and website (funded by the THEN/HiER program). I have included the English and French program in this email.

Best regards,

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