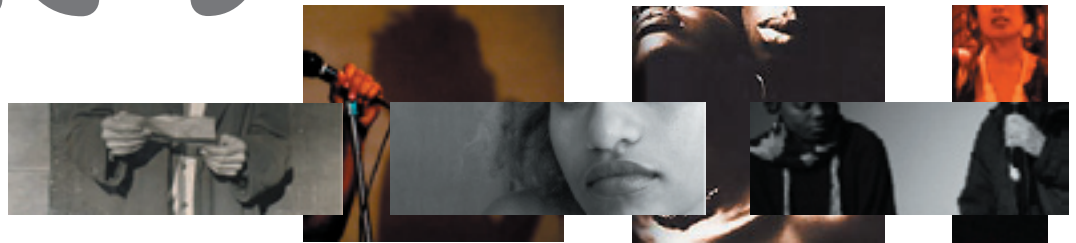


Voices

Version Originale/ Voice Over



"Every community has a memory of itself.
Not a history, nor an archive, nor an authoritative record...
A living memory, an awareness of a collective identity woven of a thousand stories."

- from the Center for Digital Storytelling, Berkeley, CA

The *Voices* project will facilitate video workshops in which youth will work with local artists and storytellers to make digital recordings of their work and stories. The footage will then become part of an on-line database where students and other artists from around the world can interact with it, linking selected clips to new or existing discussion threads and adding multiple language subtitles.

As a larger and larger spectrum of cultures gain access to the web through initiatives such as the \$100 laptop by OLPC (check out www.laptop.org), the educational reach of children globally expands tremendously. Though largely positive, such humanitarian efforts at global access to technology run the risk of interrupting current practices of education and culture sharing within communities. *Voices* addresses the potential loss of traditional cultural knowledge and practices as Internet-based learning introduces children to an exciting world of new information from outside sources in mainly non-native languages. Through the *Voices* project, youth will be able to create digital records of their own cultures, sharing their visions and their voices with other youth around the world.

Over the next year a preliminary set of material will be collected for the site through location based workshops while the project and the software are in development. The first will be a day workshop in Toronto on June 17th. Students will work with facilitators in the morning to prepare for their meetings with the artists. In the afternoon, artists will arrive and be paired with 2-3 students to plan and film their video segments. Artists who attend the workshop will be invited to take part in a feedback session, discussing the larger picture of the project's context, and its relevance to their work.

The project will continue with material being gathered in different locations over the summer months including Johannesburg, South Africa and Paris, France where again local artists will connect with students to record material as we work towards the official launch of the interactive *Voices* site early next year.