

Letter of Intent: CC Lab

Through my experience instructing at Bootcamp, TA-ing, and tutoring, I've started to accrue teaching experience that I'd like to continue to build on and put into practice at Parsons as a CC Lab instructor. My thesis here has been specifically concerned with how programming is taught to artists, and how the needle can be pushed on teaching creative coders more advanced concepts beyond just drawing with code and drawing with systems.

Working with the other CC Lab instructors, I'd like to help the first year students understand not just which tools are available for programming, but the different paradigms that they can be used with; the nuances between Functional Programming and Object-Oriented Programming, the different definitions of "fast" in the context of serial and parallel/concurrent systems, or the shape of data being passed between them that forms the protocols which makes communication among those systems possible.

As it is, teaching openFrameworks, JavaScript, and Arduino is still vary appropriate to teach, but other corners of those tools can be addressed. JavaScript and the C++ which comprises openFrameworks can act as effective foils in the paradigms of Functional and Object-Oriented styles of code, highlighting how both approaches solve the problem of encapsulating and composing data. And Arduino, as a platform for physical computing, can be an effective vehicle for literalizing the differences between serial, concurrent, and parallel programs.

The intended aim of CC Lab isn't so much teaching the mere syntax of a few languages, but helping students understand the broad space of expression that programming opens up, and the multivaried ways in which those systems are put to work. Give the opportunity to instruct, I'd like to help move CC Lab forward to the next generation of MFA D+T students.

Best,

Andrew Cotter