

Jiayi Young
Assistant Professor, Design, UC Davis
jdyoung@ucdavis.edu
916.243.8481

Proposal to Professor Xin Liu
ECS193 AB Class

Message in the Sky [Winter - Spring 2018]

Project Description:

This project is an online crowd-sourced participatory data visualization project that pools together the hopes and dreams of our time by allowing the public to share messages of aspiration in real time via a web interface. The project leverages new modes of activism and collective identities afforded by mobile devices and social media to empower individuals, networked together through distributed means of communication to help achieve a greater level of empathy and understanding across global communities. Over time, this project also will become a time capsule that not only maps the landscape of aspiration globally but also traces its evolution over time. Designed to include diverse voices, the objective of the project is to make visible the power of collective human aspiration across geographic locations without borders.

Below is what the current state of the web site looks like. It uses WebGL Earth API, Java Script and basic natural language analysis. It is capable of both text input and voice recording. I would love to continue furthering Message in the Sky with the help of you class. Building upon what the students did last year, I would like to see about developing an Android App for the project and use Processing and/or Processing.js to create the front end graphics. Processing is Java-based and Processing.js enables Processing sketches to be used on a web browser. Students who can program Java will find Processing very easy to learn. The WebGL Earth API is also very limited. I would like to possibly see if a different API would offer better visual and UX/UI possibilities. For example, NASA opened a new API called [SkyWatch](#), and [Google revamped Google Earth in March 2017](#), I wonder if there are possibilities there.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

