



TRIER INTERNATIONAL PROJECT GRANTS

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION OF “THE NUTCRACKER”



RESULT REPORT

As a collaborative hybrid project between the Communication Design, Computer Science and Fashion Design programs at Trier University of Applied Sciences and the Visual Merchandising Arts program at Conestoga University, a concept for an interactive exhibition on the theme of “The Nutcracker” was designed and implemented at “The Museum” in downtown Kitchener, Ontario.

The project was funded by the DAAD, Erasmus+ and the Downtown Kitchener Business Improvement Association (BIA). The project is part of a partnership that began with the opening of Conestoga College's Kitchener - Downtown campus in 2020. Over the years, students have created window displays for local businesses and exhibitions.

To take this year's work to a new level, Conestoga College teamed up with professors and students from Trier University of Applied Sciences as part of a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) program - an international network for virtual exchange, collaborative teaching and knowledge sharing.

After several months of virtual development work, the German team traveled to the Waterloo region to install the interactive exhibition together. The students worked together in international teams, first virtually and then on site. Each group of students brought one of four scenes from “The Nutcracker” to life.

Prof. Christopher Ledwig described how helpful it was for him and his students to be present in person alongside the COIL sessions to help set up the exhibitions. “Before, it was actually very theoretical. We didn't really know what the context was, what the space looked like, the place and everything. It is a very valuable experience to see digital and face-to-face collaboration in direct in direct comparison,” Ledwig said. The exhibition was open to the public from December 7, 2024 until mid-January.

The team of Trier University of Applied Sciences accompanied Conestoga College faculty and students on a field trip to New York City to visit the production companies behind the city's famous Christmas display windows. There, they saw all the steps from the first concept sketches of the window displays through to their realization, which they were then able to view in the finished Manhattan shop windows.

TITLE
Development of an interactive exhibition on the subject of „The Nutcracker“ at „The Museum“, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

DEPARTMENT
Communication Design
Computer Science
Fashion Design

PARTNERS AT HOME AND ABROAD
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