Faculty Name:
Brian A. Smith

Faculty Email:
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Lab:
Computer-Enabled Abilities Laboratory

Project Title:
Community History through AR

Description:
This project, in partnership with Columbia’s Center for Smart Streetscapes, is to imagine how augmented reality (including phone-based AR) can help neighborhoods and communities record and relive historical moments to feel connected and proud of a shared community identity. As buildings get demolished and redeveloped, newer residents crave more information about what used to be around them (e.g., “I had no idea that here at this gas station used to be Sunnyside Gardens, the second-largest boxing arena behind Madison Square Garden, with decades of boxing history!”). The history could be curated, like a walking tour (Dublin, Ireland has a great one, and so does Boston’s Freedom Trail). It could also be user-generated, similar to Snap Map on Snapchat, where people record moments that persist at that location for others to discover and experience later.

There is a large opportunity for innovation here: What counts as a moment? How should creating a moment or a Story (similar to Instagram and Snapchat stories, but in situated AR) work? How can people become aware of these important stories as they walk around neighborhoods? Does it have to be via smartphones or is there a way of experiencing them using public display kiosks.

Location of Research:
Hybrid (both Remote and On Site)

# of hrs/week:
20

Department/Program:
Computer Science

Eligibility:
BS, First Year, BS, Second Year, BS, Third Year, BS, Fourth Year, MS

To apply, please contact:
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