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Culmination Spring 2023
Progress Report 2

By this time, I didn't really feel like I had a strong grasp of understanding on what to do next. I was about two months into the semester and for some reason felt as if I had two more weeks to go. I felt like I was running out of time but also wanted to be realistic about the standpoint of my project. All I knew for a fact was that I wanted to have two interviews done before spring break. After emailing the program coordinator of Dance Africa, I got some help figuring out who I would want to include in my interview and was able to go from there. I even got some help from my culmination professor. He got me in contact with a previous stage hand and I ended up scheduling an interview with someone who worked in the lighting department at Dance Africa almost thirty years ago. I thought it would be interesting to get someone's point of view who worked behind the scenes of the event.

Looking back at it now, I was able to accomplish that goal and get my interviews out of the way. Now I felt like I had the time to put my energy into something else relating to my project. In my opinion the hardest part was done. I felt as if the interviews were the hardest part. Aside from it tying into having to work on someone else's schedule, I had to make sure that I had enough footage and asked the right questions right then and there, especially in case I didn't get the chance to do it again. Luckily, the people that I interviewed so far were amazing, they said the right things and I was able to get the right footage to fit in. I thought it would advance the story from one point to another.

I was able to grasp the atmosphere of a real Dance Africa dance practice and it was amazing. Being able to witness and capture the flow of ideas and unity in their dances made it all the better. I was even able to have a great conversation with the program director about the traditions and togetherness that bring every person within proximity. I was also able to find out some of the history of the dance elders and the stories of growing up knowing that you have a whole community standing beside you for support! This in tale made the interview all the more authentic. I was able to get amazing dance footage of the dancers in their zone and letting the current take charge. I knew that after name dropping some of the great people that the program director encountered, that it would be good to get some photos for reference, so that meant another trip down to the BAM archives office.

I remember saying to myself how much easier it is to gather footage when you know what you're looking for. I made a mental list of all the things that I would need to add some good imagery to my project. From this point on I know that I had to time myself so I didn't let time slip away from me again. I didn't want to be this far into the

semester without having at least a half of my project done and out the way. I had a plan to follow and I'm glad I did because it got me on a clearer path. So, although I started off pretty slow at first, I was able to compensate for the lost time and do something that I'm starting to feel really proud of.