



# Metro

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Metro  
Planning and Development  
**2018 Community Placemaking grants**  
2/2/2018 deadline

## Umbrella Futel/Village Coalition Communication Pyramid

**USD\$ 24,750.00** Requested

Submitted: 2/2/2018 9:15:12 AM (Pacific)

### Project Contact

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### Umbrella

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## Application questions

### Tell us about your project

Your responses may be shorter than the \*max characters.

#### 1. Fiscal agent (if different than the lead organization)

*If no fiscal agent, please write "N/A."*

Umbrella

#### 2. What is the community challenge or opportunity this project addresses? (\*max. 1,000)

In the midst of shiny new apartment buildings, the flip side of Portland's economic growth can be seen in camps under freeways and at the edges of our urban infrastructure. Village Coalition (VC) has developed innovative solutions to houselessness in the form of tiny house villages, where residents can find transitional shelter and a supportive, self-governing community. But a house is more than a physical structure. While telephone service is an everyday utility most of us take for granted, it can be an important link in the chain of self-sufficiency for residents transitioning to permanent housing. Houseless people face additional challenges overcoming negative attitudes toward poverty. VC's Oral History Project aims to counter these perceptions through storytelling, collecting and celebrating the lived experience and history of the Village Building Movement. Futel's technology will enable the recording and distribution of resident-created podcasts.

#### 3. Describe your project. What will you do, and who will you work with? (\*max. 2,500)

Futel is an organization dedicated to the revitalization of the telephone as a public good. Our growing network combines salvaged phone booths with internet voice transmission, allowing for the custom programming of push-button menus and the integration of art projects such as poetry and interactive games. We have maintained a telephone at Right2Dream Too since 2015 and we have 4 free public payphones in Portland. Futel will provide free telephone and communication service, with specially programmed features for the VC community. At each village, a desk phone will be available for admin and residents and at two sites, an additional phone booth will be installed near the gate for use by the village and their neighbours. VC's Communication Pyramid will be launched this June at City Repair's Village Building Convergence, an annual placemaking celebration. This movable plywood structure will be decorated with murals and fitted with benches and recording equipment, designed for one or two people to record monologues and interviews. In 2018 it will travel to 3 villages, spending 2-3 weeks at each site and serving as the focal point for a storytelling event. The phones and pyramids will have a symbiotic relationship, with Futel telephony features in the pyramids to enable remote interviews and inspire contributions, and story

collaboration menus and features in the phones. In a series of workshops, Futel artists will train participants in the use of a small studio, facilitating further recording and editing and leading to the creation of several short podcast episodes. The culmination of our project will be a public Listening Party, showcasing the results. The podcasts will be accessible on Futel phones, Futel and VC websites, and future VC events.

VC is the ideal partner for Futel to expand our free telephone network and further our social service goals. VC has been a vital service for houseless populations in Portland through a model of self-governance. They have worked with city government, PSU and charitable organizations to provide transitional housing and services. Futel will integrate with this mission while bringing an artistic slant through creative projects and collaborations. We will be assisted by Personal Telco Project to solve internet access issues, Freewire for donated internet service and broadband networking solutions and Umbrella, a non-profit supporting projects focused on improving public spaces, who will sponsor our 501(c)3 status.

**4. Where will the project happen? Is there anything you want to share about this place/these places? (\*max 1,000)**

*IMPORTANT: Begin with an address, and use this format: 1234 NE Main Street, Your Town, Zip (This is for mapping purposes only; the address does not need to be the exact location. Enter multiple addresses if applicable.)*

Futel will interact with residents and neighbors of three VC sites: Dignity Village (9563-9611 NE Sunderland Ave), Right2Dream Too (900 N. Thunderbird Way) and Kenton Women's Village (2221 N. Argyle). Dignity was the first organized village, evolving in collaboration with the city from a mobile encampment to a fixed site. R2D2 started as a tent lot in Old Town, slowly gained the support of the neighborhood through a model of positive influence and crime reduction and is now a tiny house village near Moda Center. Kenton Women's Village is a transitory housing community for women and the most recent of the VC sites. VC's History Collective Communication Pyramid will travel between the three VC villages, inspiring interaction at storytelling events and remaining onsite for continued recording. Futel's podcasting gear will also be mobile, to be used in training workshops with participants at each village. A final Listening Party will bring together VC residents and their neighbors.

**5. How will communities of color be involved? Are there leadership roles for people of color? What about other historically marginalized communities? (\*max. 1,500)**

According to the City of Portland, people of color make up 28% of residents but 39% of the city's houseless population. The most recent Point-in-Time Count found an astonishing 48% increase in the number of unsheltered African-American adults in Portland. VC Villages reflect the diversity of the unhoused population as a whole, including ethnicity, gender identity and mental health status. Within the self-governing structure of the Villages, residents will take leadership roles in utilizing Futel's platform. VC's Leadership Council will develop ideas for new features, to be implemented by Futel programmers. These push-button menus could include functions such as indicating the type and severity of a crisis or contacting other villages to facilitate the collection and distribution of resources. The Oral History Collective has arisen from the desire of Village residents to share their stories, with a focus on the Village Building Movement. Participants in the Oral History Collective will shape the direction of the storytelling project, assisted by experienced Futel editors and audio artists. Futel's goal is to put the tools and resources into the hands of the Collective, assisting where needed. The communication infrastructure and training that Futel and its partners will provide is intended to act as a channel for houseless people, many of whom are people of color, to publicly demonstrate their competence, resilience, creativity, and character.

**6. How will the project make people feel more connected to each other and the place(s) where it will happen? (\*max 1,500)**

A fraught relationship can exist between houseless communities and surrounding neighborhoods or businesses. One of the most persistent barriers to securing more community support for emergency housing services are the attitudes of housed people regarding the backgrounds and competencies of people experiencing houselessness. Although VC villages have been positive examples of self-organized solutions, they have struggled to find suitable locations and a "right to survive". With this Futel project, we hope to be one small part of changing the way transitional shelter sites are viewed. We want to inform and inspire the internal sense of place within VC communities, by giving residents a basic utility, along with a platform for dialogue and storytelling. By improving the services that villages can provide, we give residents the tools they need for finding a way back to permanent residence. By helping VC residents and their neighbors tell their stories and by joining in the celebration of VC's personal and community histories, we aspire to create connections between the villages and their neighbors. We also plan to gain positive media attention for VC, bringing a fresh lens on the current Portland housing crisis, the work of the Village Building community and the humanity of VC residents.

**7. How do you think you'll be able to tell if the project had an impact? For instance, what would change? (\*max 1,000)**

One measure of this project will be use of the Futel network by residents, impacting their ability to reach friends and connect with potential employers. While Futel does not collect any personal information other than that supplied voluntarily by the users, we are able to collect data, allowing us to determine which locations and features are being utilized. We will be meeting with the VC Leadership Council to receive feedback on the phones and discuss the development of features. Another impact of the project will be measured in workshop participation and social interaction. Oral History events will bring people together to address issues of houselessness and raise public awareness of individual struggles. Recorded podcasts will

further spread the ideas and aspirations of the Village Building Movement, leading to outreach for VC residents, community involvement and better integration of VC sites with neighbors.

### 8. Is there anything else you want to share? (\*max 1,500)

*If not, write "N/A" in the box below. (You will not be able to successfully submit your application with the box left blank.)*

Not so long ago, the phone booth was a common feature of our social landscape. But as privately-owned smartphones have become ubiquitous, public payphones have disappeared, along with their functionality and the sense of a shared utility. For the most vulnerable in our community, a telephone can be a lifeline, providing access to services, job opportunities and contact with family and friends. Just as the Village Coalition is providing transitional assistance with temporary shelter, Futel will provide residents with a provisional contact, giving each person access to free calls, voicemail and a stable phone number using shared hardware. Futel believes in democratizing communication, applying a hacker spirit and a mix of old and new technology. Inspired by models of DIY publishing and distribution such as zines, file sharing, and ham radio, we want our network to be useful for both making calls and making art. Podcasting, oral history and storytelling are a natural direction for our projects. Our network already provides audio art with public interactions, including our podcast Wildcard Line, which features contributions from users of public Futel phones. Assisting VC's Oral History Collective and developing a podcast with residents will be an exciting continuation of this work

### 2018 target area

Major public investments that will help people get around safely and reliably are being planned for the Southwest Corridor. These include a new MAX line and walking, biking and safety projects. This work also includes a strategy to protect housing affordability and small businesses in the target area. Find more information by opening the Instructions at the top of the page.

### 9. How can your project help people in the Southwest Corridor be ready to play a role in how this area will grow and change in the coming years? (\*max 1,500)

*Write "N/A" in the box below if your project is not within or related to the target area. (You will not be able to successfully submit your application with the box left blank.)*

N/A

## Budget

Budget Table	Metro funds requested	Other funds or contributions	Total
Professional and artistic (creative) services	USD\$ 9,000.00	USD\$ 5,000.00	USD\$ 14,000.00
Equipment materials and supplies	USD\$ 8,000.00	USD\$ 2,000.00	USD\$ 10,000.00
Promotional costs and printing	USD\$ 1,000.00		USD\$ 1,000.00
Permitting and fees	USD\$ 500.00		USD\$ 500.00
Indirect or overhead costs**	USD\$ 0.00	USD\$ 2,000.00	USD\$ 2,000.00
Other (describe in budget narrative)	USD\$ 6,250.00		USD\$ 6,250.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>USD\$ 24,750.00</b>	<b>USD\$ 9,000.00</b>	<b>USD\$ 33,750.00</b>

### Budget Narrative

Item Total Notes

Oral History Events

Permits 500

Pyramid Transport 1400 \$200/trip x 7

Catering 1200 \$300 x 4

Event marketing 1000 \$250 x 4

Awning rental 600 \$150 x 4

Podcasting Gear

Zoom recorders 400 \$200 x 2

microphones bundles 520 \$130 x 4

headphones 300 \$50 x 6

amps 60 \$30 x 2

IdeaPads 540 \$270 x 2

monitor speaker 150

Cable and accessories 50 \$25 x 2

case 150

Futel Phone Network  
 Desk Phones 300 \$150 x 2  
 Phone Booths 1600 \$800 x 2  
 Installation 300 \$20/hr x 15  
 Network Maintenance 600 \$100/site x 6  
 Network Service 1050 \$175/site x 6

Admin & Stipends  
 VC Admin 3750  
 Workshop fees 1200 6 x \$200  
 VC Artist Fees 1800 6 x \$300  
 Futel Programing 2000 \$20/hr x 100  
 Design 500 \$20/hr x 25  
 Promotion 500  
 Futel Admin 1000 \$20/hr x 50  
 Audio Editing 800 \$20/hr x 40  
 Umbrella Fee 2500

Total 24770

## Milestones, timeline and funds needed

### Milestones, timeline and funds requested

#	Phase: List activities (drag the corner of the box below to make it bigger)	Timeline (drag the corner of the box below to make it bigger)	Metro funds needed
1.	project initiation Umbrella Fee 2500 VC Admin 3750 Permits 500	initiation of project	6,750
2.	pyramid outfitting Podcasting equipment 2150 Futel phone network 3850	initiation of project	6,000
3.	Village Building Convergence event Pyramid Transport 400	July 2018	400
4.	1st workshop and site event preparation Workshop fees 1200 VC Artist Fees 1800 Futel Programing 2000 Design 500 Promotion 500 Futel Admin 1000 Audio Editing 800	August 2018	7,800
5.	1st site event Pyramid Transport 200 Catering 300 Event marketing 250 Awning rental 150	late 2018 - mid 2019	900
6.	2nd site event Pyramid Transport 200 Catering 300 Event marketing 250 Awning rental 150	late 2018 - mid 2019	900
7.	3rd site event	late 2018 - mid 2019	900

	Pyramid Transport 200 Catering 300 Event marketing 250 Awning rental 150		
8.	2nd workshop (expenses covered by 1st workshop phase)	mid 2019	0
9.	Listening party Pyramid Transport 400 Catering 300 Event marketing 250 Awning rental 150	mid 2019	1,100
<b>Total</b>			<b>24,750</b>

## Document uploads

### Documents Requested \*

At least two letters of support by active partners (limit 4MB per upload)

If applicable, a letter stating permission to use the property by the property owner or manager (limit 4MB per upload)

Your/your fiscal sponsor's Organization 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter or a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status statement and Employer Identification Number. This is not required for schools or government agencies. (limit 4MB per upload)

(Optional) Photos, maps or other materials that help us understand the project (limit 4MB per upload)

### Required? Attached Documents \*



[City Repair letter of support](#)

[Village Coalition letter of support](#)

[501\(c\)\(3\) IRS determination letter](#)

[OPB article on Futel phones at VC site and sidewalk locations](#)

[intro proposal for prospective Futel sites](#)

\* ZoomGrants™ is not responsible for the content of uploaded documents.

Application ID: 104050

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