

Metro
Planning and Development
2021 Community Placemaking grants
Deadline: 10/2/2020

PDX Hackerspace Futel

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\$ 9,500.00 Requested

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Application questions [top](#)

Some answers will not be presented because they are not part of the selected group of questions based on the answer to #2.

Application questions

1. Fiscal sponsor (if different than the lead organization)

If no fiscal sponsor, please write "N/A."

PDX Hackerspace

2. Would you like to submit written responses or insert a link to a video of your responses to the application questions? (Note: all applicants must complete the scope and budget section and are encouraged to upload additional documents, such as letters of support.)

The review panel wants to understand the substance of your proposal. Applications will not be judged on the quality of the writing or the production value of the video.

☒ Written responses

☐ Video responses

3. What is the critical and current community challenge or opportunity your proposal addresses?

Futel mixes artistic and practical goals through free public communication services that link locations to history and provide a mouthpiece for local voices. By combining participatory art and free telephony, Futel offers diverse audiences a connection across the barriers of gentrification and urban development.

Gentrification and other urban economic forces have displaced communities in Portland for decades. Some of these forces involve the targeted commodification of community-oriented privileges, such as transportation options and social spaces. We seek to strengthen one aspect of community-oriented public space by reintroducing an interactive public kiosk that was once common - the payphone booth.

4. Who will you be working with? List your partners (groups or people).

If none, write "N/A" in the box below. (You will not be able to successfully submit your application with the box left blank.)
Open Signal and seven other sites host installations in Portland, which are accessible to the public 24 hours a day.

Ten operators provide live interaction for all Futel installations.

Volunteers, participating as needed, work in installation and maintenance, editing and layout, design, software engineering and operations, and audio engineering.

TechSoup provides subsidized telecommunication services and equipment. TechSoup equips social enterprises with technology solutions and skills.

Personal Telco Project provides operational support and IT hardware. Personal Telco Project builds shared community networks and provides technology education.

PDX Hackerspace is the fiscal sponsor. PDX Hackerspace promotes and encourages technical, scientific, and artistic skills through individual projects, social collaboration, and education, with a location at 7608 N Interstate Avenue serving as a local community hub.

5. Describe what you would do with this grant.

If this is for operating support, share your mission and an overview of your ongoing work expected through June 2022. To be eligible, there should be clear alignment with the four Community Placemaking objectives.

Futel's mission is to provide public, participatory creative experiences as well as communication tools. Over five years of ongoing work, we have produced programs for our installations and kept these installations maintained and available to the public.

This grant will provide operating support. We will use this grant to grow and maintain our network of public installations and the participatory creative audio works served from our telephones.

We will deploy one or more new public installations in Portland and continue to maintain our existing public installations.

We will develop one or more interactive audio works, which will be accessible from our installations, and continue to maintain our audio showcases of previous works.

We will produce one or more episodes of our participatory audio project, the Wildcard Line, with contributions from users of our public installations.

All installations will also be usable as free telephones and will provide other features common to Futel installations, including voicemail, communication services, and interactive audio art.

We will also continue our public hand washing station and telephone sanitation program, which we initiated in April 2020 to adapt our installations to Covid-related challenges for interactive public art. Each installation will include a hand washing station which is usable by the public. Volunteers will disinfect our installations regularly.

6. Racial equity is core to the Community Placemaking program. Is there anything else you want to share about how your efforts are led by, include and/or benefit Black, Indigenous, people of color or other historically marginalized communities?

Our installations are radically accessible. Participants can walk up and use them from the sidewalk without money, an app, or any identifying information. By combining art and a well-understood public service, we provide a unique entry point for interaction and offer chances to join participatory creative experiences. With these two aspects we bring in participants and collaborators who would otherwise be hard to reach with public art alone.

Futel has hosted work by several artists. BIPOC-led work that Futel has facilitated includes pieces by Sharita Towne, Patricia Vazquez, and Machado Mijiga.

While we don't track our users, we do talk to a lot of houseless users, and houseless themes are often present in the contributions from Futel users to our interactive projects.

7. What kind of impact do you hope to have? How will your efforts help people feel more connected to each other?

We measure our impact by monitoring how often our installations are used. In 2019, we measured over 350 instances of users

selecting and experiencing various audio art offerings, over 100 instances of users contributing to participatory audio works, and over 50 instances of users engaging in live interactivity with Futel staff and other users.

8. Where will this happen? How will your efforts make people feel more connected to this place/these places?

Our eight existing Portland public installations are located at:

- SE Clinton Street just east of 13th Avenue, south side of the street
- SE Taylor Street east of 23rd Avenue, north side of the street
- NE Ainsworth Street just west of NE 8th Avenue-9th Avenue Alley, north side of the street
- NE 27th Avenue-28th Avenue Alley, north of Killingsworth Street, west side of the street
- SE Woodward Street east of 16th Avenue, north side of the street
- NE Killingsworth Street east of 13th Avenue, north side of the street
- NE 8th Avenue, south of Prescott Street, west side of the street
- NE MLK Boulevard south of Graham Street, east side of the street

We also have one phone for residents and staff of Right to Dream Too, and one at Upright Brewing.

Our goal is to provide installations in diverse and scattered locations in Portland. Our locations provide a way for people to meet and make their mark on a neighborhood through an asynchronous shared space, interacting within the same space at different times.

9. Is there anything else you want to share?

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

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 art and making calls. Oral history and storytelling have been a natural direction for our projects, but we are most effective when we can take these concepts in a new media direction, combining audio content with public participation. We have a proven track record of using grant funds to successfully implement this over several years, including with Hold The Phone, produced in collaboration with Open Signal and RACC.

10. Insert a link to your video with responses to the seven application questions that appear on page 8 of the application handbook (link at top of page).

-answer not presented because of the answer to #2-

Scope and budget [top](#)

Scope and budget

| # | Scope of activities and/or expenses | Metro grant money needed |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| A | Deployment of one or more new public installations, expanding the capabilities of the current network of installations. | 2,500 |
| B | Maintenance of existing installations. Repair and replace hardware, including kiosks, IT equipment, signage, etc. | 2,200 |
| C | Production of participatory audio works to be experienced via installations, the internet, and other media. Stipends for artists and implementors, audio recording equipment, and support. | 1,600 |
| D | Related productions, media, and outreach. Website development and maintenance, print publications including the yearly newsletter, and other media outreach. | 900 |
| E | IT and administration related operations. Internet connectivity, telecommunications, cloud computing, and website hosting services. Evaluation of solutions to effectively reach current and future artistic and social goals. Development, implementation, and operation of projects. | 2,300 |

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Total | 9,500 |
|--------------|--------------|

Other funds

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Amount | |
| Other funds already secured | 0 |
| Other funds still needed | 0 |
| Total | 0 0 |

Document uploads [top](#)

Documents Requested *

Letters of support by people or groups who want to see your project happen (limit 20MB per upload)

If applicable, a letter stating permission to use the property by the property owner or manager (limit 20MB 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 20MB per upload)

(Optional) Photos, maps or other materials that help us understand the project (limit 20MB per upload)

Required? Attached Documents *

[Letter of support](#)

[Letter of support](#)

[IRS Determination Letter](#)

[Map of current installations](#)

[Installation photo](#)

[Installation photo](#)

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Application ID: 263302

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