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Metro
Planning & Development
Planning and Development
2024 Community Placemaking grants
Deadline: 10/10/2023

Futel, a PDX Hackerspace project The Old Town Crier

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\$ 11,260.00 Requested

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none entered

Futel, a PDX Hackerspace project

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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 #3.

Application questions

1. Applicants are eligible for this grant if they fall into one of the following categories. Which are you?

Businesses and individuals without a nonprofit partner are not eligible.

- ☐ Nonprofit organization with tax exempt status
- ☒ Community group or individual(s) partnering with a tax exempt nonprofit fiscal sponsor
- ☐ Public agency or institution

2. Fiscal sponsor (if applicable)

If no fiscal sponsor, please write N/A.

PDX HACKERSPACE

3. Will you submit written responses or insert a link to a video answering the questions in this section of the application? (All applicants must complete the scope and budget section and are encouraged to upload additional documents, such as letters of support.)

- ☒ Written responses
- ☐ Video responses

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

Our installation and project "The Old Town Crier" will facilitate expression and communication, and will provide essential practical communication tools with extremely low barriers to accessibility.

Futel and Street Roots will develop and deploy a public interactive installation and integrated creative project, designed and implemented by and for residents of Portland's Old Town and Chinatown neighborhoods.

We seek to strengthen one aspect of community-oriented public space by repurposing an interactive kiosk that was once common - the public telephone. By combining participatory creative projects and free vital communication services, we will mix artistic and practical goals.

5. 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.)

Street Roots vendors will provide artistic and practical direction and content. Street Roots vendor assistants will provide administration and artistic support. Street Roots will host the installation and provide outreach, publicity, and distribution support.

Futel will provide administration, implementation, and operations support, and develop artistic and practical communications solutions integrated with the installation. Futel will also provide outreach, publicity, and distribution support.

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

PDX Hackerspace is the fiscal sponsor, and also facilitates general technical support through its community resources. PDX Hackerspace promotes and encourages technical, scientific, and creative skills through individual projects, social collaboration, and education, with a community hub in North Portland.

6. Describe what you would do with this grant.

(Applicants asking for operating support for your nonprofit, use this space to describe your mission and work expected through June 2025. To be eligible, there should be clear alignment with the four Community Placemaking objectives.)

Futel and Street Roots will install one new public installation which will showcase a new interactive audio program, "The Old Town Crier".

The visible part of the installation will consist of a payphone and payphone enclosure on the exterior wall of the new Street Roots office building in Old Town Portland. The installation will be operational and accessible to anyone from the public sidewalk at all hours for the duration of the project.

The audio program will consist of three projects, each produced by a Street Roots vendor. Artists will be chosen by a call for proposals administered by Street Roots vendor assistants, with preference given to topics vital to the Old Town and Chinatown neighborhoods. Projects might include oral history, poetry and music, or ongoing spoken word with contributions from users of the installation, or may include other formats designed by the artists and adapted by Futel.

Content developed for this project will also be distributed through other media, including the Street Roots newspaper and website, and the Futel website and publications.

Implementation of the call for proposals will begin in March 2024. The installation will be deployed, and artists will be selected and begin work, by July 2024. Artists work will be showcased by the installation through June 2025. The installation and showcased work will remain on site and operational after the end of the program.

The installation will be able to interact with 11 currently operational installations in the Futel network in Portland, as well as the telephone network. "The Old Town Crier" content and interactive program, as well as features determined by Street Roots vendors and vendor assistants, will be unique to this installation.

7. 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?

This project is led by and benefits houseless residents of the Old Town and Chinatown neighborhoods, a marginalized community which also over-represents of several other 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 opportunities to join participatory creative experiences. Previous projects by both Futel and Street Roots have brought in participants and collaborators who would otherwise be hard to reach with public art alone.

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

The project's greatest impact will be in sharing an accessible artistic and communication tool with the residents of the Old Town and Chinatown neighborhoods. It will amplify and showcase the creative voices of the neighborhoods, and it will also provide valuable tools for resiliency with free telephone calls and guides for telephone-based services.

The project will benefit the ongoing artistic and practical mission of Street Roots by enabling another creative and economic avenue for Street Roots vendors. It will also benefit Futel's ongoing artistic mission by letting us implement a focused artistic project facilitated by a public installation.

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

The installation will be sited at the exterior wall of the Street Roots office at 219-233 West Burnside, and will be accessible to the public from the sidewalk. This installation will be positioned to serve the residents of the Old Town and Chinatown neighborhoods. Street Roots is an established advocacy organization for these neighborhoods, as well a source of employment and creative opportunities, which draws on the lived experience of its vendors and board to guide its policies.

10. Is there anything else you want to say?

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

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 in unexpected ways. We have a proven track record of using grant funds to successfully implement projects over several years, both solo projects and in collaboration with Open Signal, the Village Coalition, the Social Justice Action Center, and other organizations.

Futel installations are tools like microphones and video cameras. They don't have a single, predetermined function. They are the infrastructure for interaction and communication. This partnership, and this grant supporting it, will give us another opportunity to use these tools in the support of people in the Old Town and Chinatown neighborhoods.

11. Insert a link to your video with your responses to the seven questions that begin on page 9 of the application handbook (link below). Your video must be accessible through December 31, 2023.

-answer not presented because of the answer to #3-

Scope and budget [top](#)

Scope and budget

#	Scope of activities and/or expenses	Metro grant money needed
A	Mar-Jul 2024 Build and install telephone, enclosure, and supporting infrastructure \$1250 hardware and materials purchases, \$1200 labor and expenses Design, promote, implement CFP \$1500 artist fees, \$500 administrative fees, \$200 promotion Train, equip, support artists \$250 equipment purchases and rentals \$200 audio editor, production labor	5,100
B	Mar 2024-Jun 2025 Design, implement, operate IT platform, including adaptation of artistic works \$2750 labor \$1750 equipment rentals Adminstration expenses \$900 expenses and labor	5,400
C	Jul 2024 - Jun 2025	760

Host installation and supporting infrastructure
\$120 internet, electricity, and other resources
\$240 site maintenance and upkeep

Promote, distribute artistic work
\$400

D	0
Total	11,260

Other funds

	Amount
Additional money you already have for your proposal	2,130
Additional money beyond the Metro grant you will still need for your proposal	0
Total	2,130 0

Document uploads [top](#)

Documents Requested *

(Encouraged) Upload or link to statements of support
- letters and/or videos (limit 20MB per upload)

(Optional) Upload or link to photos, maps or other
materials that help us understand your proposal (limit
20MB per upload)

Required? Attached Documents *

[Street Roots letter of support](#)

[Futel installation map Jan 2023](#)

[Futel 2023 year in review from Party Line 8](#)

[Futel installation](#)

[Futel installation](#)

[Futel installation](#)

[Futel installation](#)

[Acknowledgement page from Party Line 8](#)

[Karl Anderson CV](#)

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

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