

Futel / Anderson, Karl

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The Oregon Community Foundation

2024 Creative Heights Letter of Inquiry

Futel / Karl Anderson

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Forms

2024 Creative Heights LOI

* indicates a required field

In lieu of answering the LOI project narrative questions in written format, you may submit your answers in video format (4 min max). You must answer the required questions (starred) and can still upload optional letters of support. Please do not submit heavily edited videos nor include work samples in your video, as the intent is to provide language accessibility for those who feel they could better express themselves via video. Do not submit both, or only the written answers will be reviewed.

1.

Have you read the Creative Heights program guidelines and FAQ's to assess whether your project is eligible or potentially competitive?

The information can be found at: <https://oregoncf.org/grants-and-scholarships/grants/creative-heights/>

Yes

2. Please provide a working title for your project

The Old Town Crier

3. Please provide a one-sentence summary of your project

Please be succinct - this description is used for quick reference by the selection committee and for our grantee award letters. Please reference our 2023 awards for examples: https://oregoncf.org/assets/PDFs-and-Docs/PDFs/News-Releases/2022-Creative-Heights-Grants-List_Oregon-Community-Foundation.pdf.

Futel and Street Roots will deploy and operate a public installation to deliver participatory creative spoken and audio works, connections to resources, human interaction, and free telephone service.

4. Primary Artistic Discipline

Please identify a primary artistic discipline or modality that grounds your project. This helps the review committee better envision/understand your project and how it will look and feel. We ask that you select "multidisciplinary" sparingly and only if your project is heavily grounded in more than one discipline.

You will have the opportunity elsewhere in this application to describe how more artistic disciplines or collaborators are included/incorporated beyond the primary discipline selected here. For example: if you are primarily a choreographer making a new dance in collaboration with a composer and incorporating video/projection elements - select Dance/Movement here, indicate other disciplines in the following questions and describe any additional elements in the subsequent narrative questions in this application.

Social Practice/Participatory Art

5.

Is the vision for your project primarily driven by an arts and culture nonprofit; or an independent artist, culture bearer, curator, producer or collective? (check one)

Projects may be proposed by independent artists and culture bearers, or by members of a nonprofit organization. Generally, we're asking who generated the creative impulse for the project and will be directing the use of funds.

Independent artist, culture bearer or collective

5.1.

Name of Lead Artist (e.g. artist, curator, producer, creative, culture bearer, collective/group)

If applying as a collective or group of artists, please include both the group name and the name of one artist who will be the primary contact for the project.

Futel, contact Karl Anderson

5.2. Email of Lead Artist

kra2021@protonmail.com

5.3. Phone number of Lead Artist

(503) 395-7468

5.4. Lead Artist Region of Residence

Please Select One Region <https://oregoncf.org/assets/Page-Images/Oregon-Map-OCF-Regions.jpg>

Portland Metro

5.5. Do you have a Lead Nonprofit partner identified?

All grants must be made to an Oregon-based 501(c)3 nonprofit registered with both the IRS and the Oregon Department of Justice. LOI's from independent artists or culture bearers may be submitted without a nonprofit partner or fiscal sponsor yet identified. A confirmed 501(c)3 partner and fiscal sponsorship agreement will be required if invited to submit a full proposal in April and the turnaround time will only be 3-4 weeks. We encourage you to secure at least a verbal agreement with a nonprofit partner now if possible. The Lead Nonprofit does not need to be a creative partner but must provide financial oversight and ensure the funds are spent entirely on the proposed project.

Yes, and the partnership is confirmed

5.6. If a Lead Nonprofit has been identified, please provide their name below

Personal Telco Project

5.7.

If a Lead Nonprofit has been identified, please describe the relationship between the Lead Artist and the Lead Nonprofit.

For example: are you a frequent collaborator, past guest artist, or is this a new relationship? Is the nonprofit a creative partner, promotional partner, or primarily serving as a fiscal agent to receive and distribute funds? We realize there are endless ways artists and nonprofits may partner on Creative Heights projects - there is no selection preference given to the type of relationship between the lead artist and nonprofit. The more clarity you can provide about the relationship will be helpful to our selection committee in understanding the nuances of your application. If you are relying on the nonprofit partner to provide key relationships or infrastructure for the project, we recommend confirming the partnership before applying.

Besides fiscal sponsorship, Personal Telco Project and Futel have a long relationship and similar missions of supporting accessible communication and bridging the digital divide. Personal Telco Project has provided hardware and expertise for Futel projects, and Russell Senior, president of Personal Telco Project, is a Futel volunteer. Personal Telco Project also collaborates with Street Roots on other projects.

6. Who are you?

Tell us about your background as an artist or organization and/or describe previous notable projects, recent accomplishments, or recognitions.

Futel runs an ongoing network of public art and service installations, with 14 in Portland and three in other cities. We also publish media in print, audio, and the web. We have collaborated with Street Roots, Open Signal, Right To Dream Too, the Village Coalition, and individual artists.

Street Roots publishes a weekly social justice newspaper sold by people experiencing homelessness and poverty to earn an income. The newspaper features writing by its vendors in every issue, and the vendor community is supported by a resource center, creative writing programs, and advocacy.

7. What is your idea for a Creative Heights project?

You might describe your vision, process, the creative impulse behind the project, names and roles of people involved, and/or your process for carrying out the work. These are all suggestions - feel free to describe the project however you envision it.

Futel and Street Roots will design, install, and run a new public installation featuring a new interactive audio program, "The Old Town Crier".

A Futel installation housed in a payphone will be installed on the front facade of the new Street Roots space at 219-223 W Burnside St, Old Town Portland. It will be accessible and operational from the public sidewalk at all hours for the duration of the two year project.

An interactive audio program featuring three works created by Street Roots vendors will be showcased by the installation. Street Roots will conduct outreach, workshops, and practical support for artists. Artist proposals will be selected by Street Roots vendors and faculty with emphasis on promoting the work of the artists, culture bearers, and witnesses for houseless people in Portland. Artists and contributors will be compensated for their work.

There are many possible formats for the created works. Previous projects have included interviews about neighborhood history, directories of poetry and spoken word, interactive music, participatory talk shows and audio zines, and live operators.

The installation will provide free phone calls, directories of services and opportunities, and other telephony features. The installation will also provide a guide to the facilities in the new

Street Roots space, including a library, recording studio, newsroom, laundry, and showers.

Futel engineers will build and maintain the installation and related IT services.

8. Who do you want to work with?

Tell us about any proposed collaborators and their artistic/creative background, or how they'll support the project. Collaborators may include artists, curators, organizations and other creatives and individuals.

The audio program of the project will be created by Street Roots vendors and selected by vendors and faculty in Street Roots creative writing programs. Street Roots faculty and staff involved with the project will include Katy Rossing, Poetry Instructor, and Allie Morgan, Lead Vendor Assistant.

9.

How is this project a stretch from previous work done by the lead artist or other creative collaborators involved? What creative risks will you and your collaborators take?

We are looking for elements of experimentation and artistic or curatorial evolution that keep an artist's/organization's work vibrant or relevant and may provide an artist/organization with the potential for learning and/or meaningful growth. That creative stretch can take many forms beyond bold artistic ideas, including size/scope of project, new development processes, unique collaborations and more. Generally, projects that primarily stretch administrative practices, or do not generate from a creative impulse will not be competitive.

This project will expand Futel's work and grow our practice in several ways. It will allow us to develop and build an installation with a new creative theme and focus. It will let us collaborate with new artists and forge connections with the Street Roots community of vendors, faculty, and advocates, who work towards similar goals but with different media. Finally, it will deploy the first Futel installation west of the Willamette River, at NW 3rd and Burnside. This site is ideal for a Futel installation and will enable future creative and operational growth, with excellent visibility, foot traffic, accessible pedestrian-friendly space, and of course Street Roots. The project will expand the work of Street Roots and its vendors with the opportunity to make and distribute their work in a new creative format very well suited for promoting their values of opportunity, sustainability, and mu

10.

What impact do you hope this work will have on the community and/or your artistic field?

The project will increase neighborhood equity for the community of people experiencing homelessness in Old Town Portland by enhancing a humanizing pedestrian space.

With their newspapers and installations, Street Roots and Futel have long-running programs that share goals. They provide tools for communication and expression, they help people share skills, opportunities, and resources, and they are designed to be accessible to unhoused people.

The work will produce creative and practical growth for the community of houseless people in Old Town Portland with new media skill development, experience, and collaboration. The project will publicize Street Roots' new location, promote outreach, and encourage usage of the new resources. It will benefit the neighborhood and its advocates with new tools for communication and expression.

11. Select a preliminary grant request range

Please select one grant range based on your best guess. We are not requesting project or organization budgets as part of the LOI. OCF reserves the right to request financial information from an organization before inviting a project to apply.

\$10,000- \$24,000

12. Letters of support

Please upload letters of support from key collaborators confirming their commitment to the proposed project, or executive leadership at the lead nonprofit. This is not required for the LOI, but it can help the review committee understand the level of commitment or involvement from your proposed partners. Please limit the number of submitted letters to partners/collaborators who are essential to the project and combine them into one document before uploading (no more than 3). If you are submitting multiple letters of support, please combine them into a single PDF file as the system will only allow one file.

[letters.pdf](#)