**Project Title:**

Rickshaw Photobooth

**Project Summary: (75 words)**

Who doesn’t love a ride in a Rickshaw and who doesn’t love the antics of a photobooth? Explore the city with an unexpected experience in a Rickshaw Photobooth. Whether from the office to lunch, off to a meeting or just strolling through town, let the Rickshaw Photobooth be your guide. And remember, what happens on the Rickshaw, gets shared with the rest of the world! Rickshaw Photobooth brings the unexpected to your everyday.

The community of Topeka is at a tipping point with both the perception of itself and perception of cycling in the City. Numerous community improvement programs are underway, bringing a new sense of life and culture into the city. From a redeveloping downtown, to the Arts District of NOTO, to the newly completed Capital project, and the passing and phase 1 implementation of the Bikeways Master Plan, Topeka is vibrant with energy.

**Project Description: (500 words)**

The streets are our venue. The everyday is our special event. Rickshaw Photobooth will target the everyday experiences people have walking from place to place by providing a seat and lens for the unexpected while also providing a useful service. Far too often people get stuck in a routine without any significance from day to day. A ride from Rickshaw Photobooth changes your day, brings a smile to your face and gives you something to talk about. We believe this injection of unexpected creativity into ones day can be a catalyst for greater creative thinking in our community.

Rickshaw Photobooth will utilize a brightly colored pedal powered rickshaw that can seat one to three people. Rickshaw Photobooth will operate as a means of short distance transportation in Topeka, Kansas. While it serves a functional purpose of transporting people from point A to point B, the photobooth element encourages people to inject an unexpected creative whim into their day. What would typically be a mundane walk to a lunchtime spot or a jaunt over to the Statehouse for the latest in legislative action turns into a bright part of one's day with a ride in Rickshaw Photobooth. Seat yourself on the finely leather upholstered seat and a camera flips down to capture your smiles and improvs. Not dressed for photos; need a mustache or a monocle? Rickshaw Photobooth has the gear to distinguish yourself.

The photobooth controls will be powered by a Raspberry Pi micro computer. This computer will capture, process and output a series of images to multiple means of sharing. Our developers will develop the software on the open hardware for duplication in other cities, and open source the software once completed. We believe this project has potential to be used in applications across the globe, and strive to keep the computer hardware costs as meager as possible to keep the idea attainable for all.

Eventually, we see the potential to expand Rickshaw Photobooth’s business to special events. Potential event specific uses could be transportation from a parking lot to a venue; carrying newly weds; a neighborhood parade; a kids birthday party or a community festival. A restaurant could rent Rickshaw Photobooth for a valet parking pre-dining experience. Beyond Topeka, Rickshaw Photobooth could easily be developed into a complete package available for purchase and shipped worldwide. Working with our rickshaw supplier, ordering multiple base units could significantly lower the costs of the final package. With additional investment capital, we would develop a turn-key Rickshaw Photobooth.

(\*Dr. Suess, *And to Think That I Saw it on Mullberry Street, 1937)*

**Project Timeline: (100 words or bullet point list)**

* April 2014 - Preliminary rickshaw specifications
* June 2014 - Place rickshaw order
* Program development
* July 2014 - Branding & additional funding requests
* Rickshaw delivery and outfit photobooth setup
* Mid August 2014 - Debut Rickshaw Photobooth
* August 2014 - May 2015 - Goal for 350 + rides.
* May 2015 - Year review and final reporting for Rocket Grant
* Business assessment and future goals

**Project Mechanics: (100 words)**

So how does this actually work? Put an engineer, an architect, and two computer programmers who also happen to all ride bikes together and have a passion for community greatness. The computery brain behind Rickshaw Photobooth is a Raspberry Pi micro computer. Upon rickshaw passenger request, this computer will capture, process and output a series of images. Photos are instantly processed and uploaded to an online gallery and shared over social media. At the end of the ride users have the option to scan a QR code to download images to their mobile phones.

**Project Venue: (30 words)**

Rickshaw Photobooth evokes riders to ‘perform and imagine’ on the streets of Topeka Kansas.

**Team Bio: (500 words)**

Connected through a common bond of cycling the four of us feed off each other for ideas. Each brings a unique skill set to the team. Find us scheming over bikes and probably a beer.

The engineer: Andy Fry. By day Andy keeps utility's honest as a state regulator, but Andy has a true passion for utilizing bikes to their fullest and encouraging others to experiment as well. With a welder in the garage and an assortment of bike parts and containers, Andy is on a quest to build a versatile cargo bike. A Scorpio, Andy enjoys walks and rides across Kansas's prairies (closest things to a beach.)

The architect: Zach Snethen. By day Zach is a project manager at HTK Architects. He designs buildings and handles multi-million dollar projects. Sometimes, that amounts to a lot of paper pushing. In his \*free time\* Zach works tirelessly to make Topeka a better place to live and show his 3 year old son the city and how to build things with real tools.

The computer programmer: Kasey Clark is a Systems Analyst at Westar Energy working with Smart Grid technologies and Geospatial data analysis.  When he’s not working, he enjoys kicking it with his wife and daughter and endurance sports. When he sits still long enough, he likes to write software, brew beer and question authority.

The computer programmer and bike builder: Ben Alford is an Applications Developer at Mize, Houser, & Co. , where he specializes in large scale data migrations, document imaging and general accounting software.  When not shuffling bits and bytes,  he spends his time voiding product warranties, building and riding bicycles, and writing bad pop songs to annoy his wife and son.

**PHOTOS**

RPB 01: Inspiration: Front seat Rickshaws offer the best possible viewing experience.

(State Archives of Florida, *Florida Memory)*

RPB 02: Inspiration: Ben Alford’s wedding Rickshaw

RPB 03: Production front loading Rickshaw

(AT Instytut Poland, riksza.com)

RPB 04: Front loading Rickshaw Demo

(Steven Vance, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jamesbondsv/8547037348/>, Creative Commons)

RPB 05: Rickshaw Photobooth Sample Image

(Kyle Taylor, <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kyletaylor/394053842/>, Creative Commons)

RPB 06: Production front loading Rickshaw

(Hibrocrop)

RPB 07: Concept Graphic for Rickshaw Photobooth