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COMPLETE

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**Q1** I am applying as an Organization  
Are You a Business or Organization?

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**Q2** Yes  
Does Your Project Take Place in the City of Hudson?

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**Q3**  
Business or Organization Contact Information

Name of Business or Organization	Free Columbia
Address 1	743 Columbia Street
Address 2	#2
City	Hudson
Zipcode	12534
Website	www.freecolumbia.org

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**Q4**  
Your Contact Information

First Name	Nathaniel
Last Name	Williams
Relationship to Business or Organization	Director/Producer, Puppetry Performance
Email	info@freecolumbia.org
Confirm Email	info@freecolumbia.org
Primary Phone Number	518 653 6160

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**Q5** We are applying for a short-term project (up to \$5,000)  
that can be executed in the immediate term  
Which type of project are you applying with?

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**Q6**

**Yes**

Does your project adhere to physical distancing and public health recommendations?

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**Q7**

Amount of Funding Requested?

5000

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**Q8**

**Woman Owned**

Please check which types of ownerships apply to your business. Check as many as apply.

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**Q9**

What year was your business or organization founded in?

2019

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**Q10**

**Yes**

Has your business or organization been open or operating since NY PAUSE and physical distancing went into effect?

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**Q11**

**Yes**

Are you committed to saving all your project receipts and providing a written account of expenditures, what the project involved, whether it was a success, and who it reached?

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**Q12**

Please describe your proposed project in detail. Include the project's goal, description, location, timeline and scope. If the project you're proposing has been successfully completed elsewhere, please provide details and examples.

The project is a series of outdoor puppetry performances of an original play in Hudson, and the area. I have devised the piece over the last year and the time has arrived to produce it. It is called "The Bird Hunters of Anthropocenia." It has been devised to take place outdoors at dusk in highly accessible areas such as public parks. It involves multiple forms of puppetry and a mid-sized troupe. Puppetry styles include: Large overhead puppets, mid-size rod puppets, 2-D stick puppets and shadow puppets. The troupe includes myself and Aldo Lavaggi, a local musician who has accompanied performance in Columbia County in the past, and, depending on funds available, 1-3 artists for this project. The project is slated to culminate in 8-10 outdoor performances in Hudson, and the surrounding area, during the last two weeks of August.

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**Q13**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional Materials

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**Q14**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional Materials

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**Q15**

Please list the names and titles of principal contributors to your project and any contractors to be involved.

I will be partnering with Lightforms Art Center, contracting with Aldo Lavaggi (the musician\_), Ellapointe studio for posters and media materials and 1-3 local performers.

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**Q16**

When is the launch date for your proposal or event and how long will it last? Are the dates flexible?

I plan to premier the show on August 13 or 14 and to have 8 - 10 outdoor performance by the end of August. While the play lasts about one hour, set up and take down takes another 3 hours. We often also have an opening act of music for about 30 minutes. The dates are relatively flexible, though I do plan to produce this during the last two weeks of August.

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**Q17**

Yes

Are you collaborating with any other local organization(s), community group(s), or business(es) on this project?

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**Q18**

If you answered "Yes" to question 17, please please list the collaborating organization(s), community group(s) or business(es) here.

I am partnering with Lightforms Art Center and exploring the possibility of performing the piece there. I am also exploring the possibility of other artists joining me for one day to have a festive day of stories with many acts. So far I have been in touch with Susannah White of Carapace Farm Puppetry Troupe. She is preparing a children's story to be performed at least two times at of these events.

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### Q19

What economic, creative, or community benefit will your project have on the City of Hudson. Do not be brief!

I believe that public art can create a sense of place, contentment and connection between people. Public festivities and area are unique and can help create a sense of community and awaken a real love of one's setting and context. I think events like this are so important for a sense of the quality of life and connection,. Wherever people are happy and want to invest their time, energy and resources, there you see the economy growing and thriving, Public festivities and art are central to a long term thriving economy, just as they are supported by it by granting programs like the one you are facilitating. This series of events of course cannot accomplish all of this but it can contribute to imaging Hudson like this for hundreds of people. These people may want to spend more time i the city than they would otherwise, to have a stroll, to have a meal, to visit a gallery or meet other people. But more importantly, they may want to participate in such events in the future, support them, or help create them. This play is original, and this type of puppetry is also not common. To have plays like this in the city of Hudson is unique in this regard. I also think it is a type of art that is thoroughly engaging for all ages and family friendly. As an adult, I simply love puppetry theater and I try to create shows that can be enjoyed by all ages. This kind of culture can be important for communities.

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### Q20

What communities are you trying to reach with this project? Does your project center or focus on a marginalized, veteran, women, LGBTQ+ and/or differently-abled community? Is the project child-centered? Senior citizen centered?

In the past I have tried to bring the stories and productions I have created to non-traditional performance spaces where they can be accessed easily by groups that otherwise might not be able to attend such a performance. This has involved performing at public parks, elderly homes, schools, communities for people with disabilities and correctional facilities. This project is being created in that same spirit though it looks like the majority of the performances will take place in public parks this year. As mentioned, it is being created for all ages. I think it will be particularly loved by families.

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### Q21

Does your project contribute to making the city more walkable? See definitions here.

I do believe it will help make the city more walkable. I plan on performing places that are in pedestrian areas and the very nature of the event is such that it makes being outside and moving about enjoyable. I hope that after the shows, people will naturally want to spend time outside togehter and moving up and down the streets together.

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### Q22

Does your project contribute to climate resiliency? See expanded definition here.

The play has the challenge of climate resiliency at its core. It is a tale of people who lose site of the effects of life on their planet due to their fascination with technology and how a minority group of bird hunters help to save them, and the planet, from destruction.

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### Q23

How does your project impact the City of Hudson's infrastructure and/or city planning? Does it utilize principles of tactical urbanism? (i.e. DIY, low-cost, temporary/pop-up; pretty easy to achieve; see definitions), or are you proposing a permanent change or structure? Expanded definition here.

I am not proposing a permanent change of structure. Everything we create will go up and come down in a day. We will be using public spaces as they were intended to be used.

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**Q24**

If your project involves the construction or assembling of a physical structure or series of structures, do you commit to maintaining it? For how long? What guarantee can you offer of its maintenance? If your project is impermanent, who will disassemble it and when? If maintenance requires further funding, how will you secure that funding and from where?

I will assemble and disassemble everything with the troupe before and after each show.

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**Q25**

How do you plan to promote, publicize and market your project?

Free Columbia has a mailing list of around 1500 people. We have social media accounts and we publicize events through local newspapers and websites (Columbia Paper, Register Star, IMBY ...). We also rely on good old fashioned posters and word of mouth.

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**Q26**

Is your project employing local talent or creating jobs? If so, how many do you anticipate?

I am employing at least two local artists (musician and one performer) and a graphic designer. Usually I would employ more but due to COVID-19 we were unable to pursue our spring crowd fundraiser as everything was uncertain, and funds were more needed in other places, obviously.

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**Q27**

Is your project ADA compliant, if applicable?

Our productions are highly accessible and ADA compliant.

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**Q28**

For long-term projects only, which of Hudson's projected tourist communities does your project appeal to: overnight visitors, daytrippers, local tourists, or intra-Hudson tourists (i.e. visitors from inside Hudson itself)?

NA

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**Q29**

Please describe how your proposal adheres to physically distancing and requirements for public health and safety for public health and safety.

As outdoor events, social distancing and masks should be sufficient to support public safety in August. We will make plans appropriate to the level of re-opening and safety suggestion of late August.

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### Q30

What is the anticipated budget for your project? Please upload a PDF of your expected budget with a detailed itemization of costs, any expected income and description of how grant funding will be used, including a breakdown of planning, execution, materials, expenses, and post-project activities, as appropriate. We have supplied a simple budget template here for guidance if helpful.

**Free Columbia budget.docx (12.6KB)**

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### Q31

Are you anticipating any outside or matching funds? Is the proposal contingent on additional funding? If yes, please elaborate.

No. We have received a \$3500 grant from Greene County Council on the Arts and Free Columbia has also earmarked startup funding for this project from cash reserves from a previous year. We intend to create a respectable production this August and your grant would be the last part of income we would require.

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### Q32

Have you managed or staged a project of this magnitude before? Please describe your experience and relevant skills in executing this program.

I have indeed managed many performances on this scale in our area before. Below is a list of relevant projects from the last 10 years. I first worked in puppetry theater in Europe in 2003. Upon returning to the USA in 2004 I have created many productions and performances. I have included some printed photos from past productions -- attached.

Summer 2018. "Children's theater production of 'Rip Van Winkle' with MALS program in Valatie at Ichabod Crane School

Summer 2016 "Momo the Time Titan,: Outdoor Theater Project, Columbia County

Summer 2014. "Excerpts from the Peacemaker," Outdoor Theater Project, Columbia County

Summer 2013. "The Ramapo Salamander," Outdoor Theater Project, Columbia County

Summer 2012. "Book of Thel," Live Cinema Performance, Hudson, NY

Spring 2012. "Rip Van Winkle," Outdoor Theater Project, Columbia County

Summer 2011 Theater Set Design and Creation for Kalidasa's "Sakuntala" Zürich, Switerland

Spring 2011. Tieck's "Booted Tom Cat," Puppet Theater Project, Hudson NY

Spring 2010. Sophocle's "Oedipus the King," Puppet Theater Project, Northeast US

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**Q33**

Have you factored in necessary permits, local, state and federal laws and/or permission needed to execute this project, if applicable? (For example, a permit to use a park or close a street, legal ability to stage public art or appropriate permissions for digital projects, etc.)

Yes

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**Q34**

What are the goals and metrics for this project? What does success look like?

I would like to share at least 8 ticket-free performance in and near Hudson. I would like for 500 - 1000 people to see the piece

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**Q35**

In your own words, why is this project important?

I hope that why the project is important has already come through in the previous answers. I have been moved by the power of art since I was young and I feel it offers important qualities for life. I do not consider it only a matter of person well-being, expression or private interest. I have tried to create art that was public, accessible and meaningful on a wide scale for years due to this conviction. I have long admired artists for what they bring to communities and cities around the world and I am also trying to contribute in my own way.

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**Q36**

What else should we know about you, your organization or business, and/or your proposal?

Free Columbia was incorporated in New York State and is a 501 c 3 charitable organization. While we were founded as an independent organization just last year, we existed as a program of the Hawthorne Valley Association for over a decade. Our work is dedicated to creating art and culture in a spirit of independence and accessibility.

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