

Title

Flight Lessons Musical

03/07/2024

by Deborah Crooks in 2024 Cultural Arts and Arts Programming RFP

id. 45827587

1105 Lincoln Ave
ALAMEDA, California
94501
CA
United States
415-497-3712
deborahrcrooks@gmail.com

Original Submission

03/07/2024

Score n/a

Enter the name of your public art proposal Flight Lessons Musical

Are you a nonprofit organization or government agency? Yes

Please provide the name of the nonprofit organization or public entity submitting this proposal Fractured Atlas, Inc

Please provide the name of primary point of contact Deborah Crooks

Provide the daytime phone number for the primary point of contact +14154973712

Provide the email address for the primary point of contact deborahRcrooks@gmail.com

Please provide the name of secondary point of contact Nicky Martinez

Provide the daytime phone number of the secondary point of contact

Provide the email address for the secondary point of contact

Please provide the address for the organization or public entity submitting this proposal

P.O. Box 55
Harsdale
New York
10530
US
41.02092
-73.79947

Which level of grant are you requesting?

\$5,000 or \$10,000

Where will the proposed cultural arts or arts programming be held?

Central Alameda
East End (other than Park Street area)
Webster Street Area

Please describe the organization's interest in the project, initial vision for the work, and relevant experience or background (Letter of Interest).

I appreciate the opportunity to present my proposal for public performance(s) as part of the City of Alameda's next round of Cultural Arts and Arts Programming. As a local writer and songwriter, I hold in high esteem the City's support of publicly accessible arts programming.

I've been writing, recording and performing my original music for more than two decades. My work is place-based and rooted in practice, concerned with relationship, natural and personal history, healing and meaning. In the more than 12 years I've lived in Alameda, I've participated and/or helped instigate a variety of musical performances including hosting the High St. Station Open Mic, performing pre-show for an Altarena Theater production, participating in the grassroots Pandemic Porch Concert Series during the 2020 COVID shutdown, and performing at a variety of local venues as well as at Waterfront Park with Bay Station Band in conjunction with both the city of Alameda and Whippoorwill Arts.

I began writing "Flight Lessons," an original folk opera based on a story about the Peregrine Falcons who nest on the Fruitvale Bridge, in early 2020, while I was a songwriter-in-residence at Chalk Hill Arts Residency. In early 2023, I began performing the show at Bay Area theaters and private residences; in the fall of the same year, I received fiscal sponsorship from Fractured Atlas to further my goal of developing it into a work of musical theater. I'm seeking a city art grant to produce and perform "Flight Lessons" at an Alameda City Park and/or public shore for the community near the actual location where the events of the show takes place.

I believe that the breadth of my performance experience combined with my body of recorded work exemplifies my ability to successfully carry out a successful public performance of "Flight Lessons" under the auspices of the City of Alameda's Art Programming Awards.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,
Deborah Crooks

Please provide a summary of the overall program being proposed (Concept of Proposed Program).

"Flight Lessons" is currently a two-act, 16-song musical featuring six actor-musicians. The action centers on an urban wildlife biologist ("Hank") who monitors a breeding pair of Peregrine Falcons ("Haya" and her mate "Hiko") who nest on the Fruitvale bridge between Oakland and Alameda, and how their lives intersect with each other and those of other human inhabitants of the neighborhood. Its current running time is one hour and six minutes (01:06) (by year's end the show will run 1:20). I'm continuing to perform this version of "Flight Lessons" at local theaters.

I seek to offer one to two (1-2) public performances of 'Flight Lessons' musical at an Alameda City Park and/or Public Shore — suggested locations are Jean Sweeney Open Space Park, Bridgeside Shopping Center Public Shore or The Webster St. Healing Garden — during Fall or 2024 or Spring 2025 (pending the award date). If possible, these performances would coincide with other environmentally-related programming such as Earth Day (4/22) or International Migratory Bird Day (second Saturday in May) related events. Performance(s) will be offered free to the public with reservations (via a service such as Eventbrite) advised.

Please provide a description of each of the components of the overall program, major component activities, timelines and the roles of key personnel, as well as involvement of any other partner organizations (Program Description and Work Plan).

1. "Flight Lessons," written, directed and performed by Deborah Crooks, features seven performer/musicians, as well as a sound person and a front-of-house person. "Flight Lessons" is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Fractured Atlas will receive grants for the charitable purposes of "Flight Lessons," provide oversight to ensure that grant funds are used in accordance with grant agreements, and provide reports as required by the grantor. Contributions for the charitable purposes of "Flight Lessons" must be made payable to Fractured Atlas and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
 - a. Major Timelines*
 - i. March-June 2024: Review/Revise current script in response to latest performances, completing the narrative arc for two characters, incorporating 2-3 new songs and lengthen the show to 1:20-1:25.
 - ii. January -September 2024: Raise an additional \$1000+ in cash and in-kind donations.
 2. "Flight Lessons" Alameda Public performance(s)
 - a. Major Timelines
 - i. June-July 2024: Finalize performance dates/venue and musical cast. Review set design/scenery needs
 - ii. July-September 2024: Advertise and market the show
 - iii. August-September 2024: Rehearse cast (3x); Hire live sound engineer and front-of-house person, 2-3 additional volunteers.
 - iv. September 7-8: Performance

If a date is set in spring 2025 instead, perhaps, most major timelines will be between January-April 2025

Please provide a statement of the program's goals and indication of the steps to be taken to achieve those goals. Response should provide an indication of how progress toward goals would be evaluated or monitored (Goals).

My goal with 'Flight Lessons' is to continue to perform the show for diverse audiences of all ages as I develop it into a full-length work of musical theater. The show has been performed four times to date and I've sent the script out for consideration by both theater festivals and workshops as well as other granting organizations. I have an working script which can be reviewed at any time and am happy to submit the final script for this performance proposal six weeks from show date. At the same time, I am actively accepting private donations via my fiscal sponsor and can provide updates on my progress by request. I am also in conversation with a local performance theater regarding the possibility of incubating the show there by setting up a regular performance schedule.

My overall intention in writing "Flight Lessons" is to express the wonder and magic I know of the natural environment and its inhabitants, generate public awareness about local, urban wildlife and inspire a sense of respect and need for its conservation. Due to my academic background in environmental studies and raptor conservation along with my decades as a performing songwriter, I am able to tell a story about urban wildlife in a new way. Combining my passions for ornithology and the arts allows me to tell a multi-layered story that allows for the perspective of both humans and wildlife.

Please provide the proposed program budget. Submission can include a combination of narrative and table(s) that convey how fund dollars would be dedicated to the various components of the proposed program and its administration. Response should also indicate whether/how any other funding sources would be leveraged to implement the program (2 page maximum).

[**Flight_Lessons_Alameda_Public_Performances_-_Project_Budget_.pdf**](#)

Please provide a schedule for your proposal. Submission should include the proposed date(s) that the cultural arts or arts programming will be held along with key milestones leading up to the specified date(s). The submission should also include a proposed program for the the cultural arts or arts programming (e.g. schedule of event(s)).

[**Flight_Lessons_-_D_Crooks_-_Proposed_Program_Schedule_.pdf**](#)

Please provide a description of the proposer's organization, including its history, track record for providing art and cultural programing, and ability to carry out the work proposed (Organizational Capacity).

Deborah Crooks is a writer and performing songwriter writer and songwriter whose work is informed by her years studying natural history (starting at UC Santa Cruz), writing at The Naropa Institute, and voice and yoga in India. She's released several collections of original music, including 2019's The Department of the West; cofounded the band Bay Station and its "Love the Bay" Music & Sailing video series; edited a neighborhood pandemic-project 'zine and written for numerous publications including No Depression, Common Ground and "The Thinking Girl's Guide to Enlightenment." During her time living in Alameda, she's participated and/or helped instigate a variety of musical performances over the past 12 years, including hosting the High St. Station Open Mic, performing pre-show for an Altarena Theater production, participating in the grassroots Pandemic Porch Concert Series during the 2020 COVID shutdown, and playing at local venues as well as at Waterfront Park with Bay Station Band in conjunction with the city of Alameda and Whippoorwill Arts.
www.deborahcrooks.com Flight Lessons Musical is a sponsored project of Fractured Atlas, a non-profit arts service organization. Fractured Atlas will receive grants for the charitable purposes of Flight Lessons, provide oversight to ensure that grant funds are used in accordance with grant agreements, and provide reports as required by the grantor. Contributions for the charitable purposes of Flight Lessons must be made payable to Fractured Atlas and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.
<https://fundraising.fracturedatlas.org/flight-lessons-musical>

Please upload videos, images or other materials relevant to the proposer's organization, including its history, track record for providing art and cultural programing, and ability to carry out the work proposed.

[**Deborah_Crooks_Arts_Resume.pdf**](#)

[**Alameda_Post_Deborah_Crooks'_Flight_Lessons_at_The_Lost_Church_this_Friday.pdf**](#)

[**1._Synurbic.mp3**](#)

[**D.Crooks_Flight_Lessons_Powerpoint_Presentation.pdf**](#)

[**Deborah_Crooks_Flight_Lessons_Interview_on_KRCBs_Midday_Music.pdf**](#)

Please also provide an organizational chart showing personnel (2 page maximum).

[**Flight_Lessons_Organizational_Chart.pdf**](#)

By checking this box, checked you are attesting to the following: I, as the primary contact of the organization or public entity, solemnly swear that I have reviewed and completed this application in its entirety and fully understand its contents. The answers given to each and every question, any information or any and all documentation furnished for processing the grant application, or otherwise contained herein are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief under the penalty of perjury.

Signature of primary contact of organization or public entity Deborah Crooks

Title of signatory Artist
(e.g. Executive
Director)

Proposed Program Schedule: Flight Lessons Musical

Milestones	Timeline	Program Activities
Complete script revisions	March-June 2024	Incorporate 2-3 new songs to lengthen show to 1:20-1:25.
Raise an additional \$1000+ in cash and in-kind donations	January -September 2024	Contact potential sponsors and individual donors
Finalize performance dates/venue musical cast. Review set design/scenery needs	June-July 2024	Consult with City Parks & Rec, performers. Hire set designer
Advertising & Marketing	July-September 2024	Design and order postcards; place ad in Alameda Post; send out press release.
Rehearsals	August-September 2024	
Contract Staff	August-September 2024	Live sound engineer, stagehand, fos
Recruit volunteers	August-September 2024	
Performance	September 7-8: Performance	

*If a date is set in spring 2025 instead of September 2024, major timelines will be between January-April 2025

Project Budget: Deborah Crooks				
2024-25 Flight Lessons Musical Public Performance				
		Two performances	One performance	
Income				Comments
Individual Donations		\$1000.00	\$1000.00	I am actively accepting private donations.
Alameda Cultural Arts Fund Request		10,000	5,000	
Grants				Tbd -I'm applying for other grants as well.
	Total Project Income	\$ 11,000	\$ 6,000	
Expenses				
Materials				
Scenery		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Costumes		\$ 200	\$ 200	
Rehearsal Studio Rental		\$ 180	\$ 180	
	Sub-total materials	\$ 1,380	\$ 1,380	
Artist Fees				
Performance: Actor/Musicians		\$ 2,800	\$ 1,400	7 musician/singer/actors
Rehearsals: All		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
Dancers				3 dancers pending oother funding
	Sub-total artists	\$ 3,800	\$ 2,400	
Designer Fees				
Scenery		\$ 750	\$ 750	
Other		\$ -		
	Sub-total designers	\$ 750	\$ 750	
Technical artist fees				
Sound person		\$ 700	\$ 350	
Additional Crew		\$ 400	\$ 200	Stagehand, fos
	Sub-total tech artists	\$ 1,100	\$ 550	
	Liability Insurance	\$ 300	\$ 150	Estimate
	Park Fees	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	

Deborah Crooks - Flight Lessons Musical

CURRENT CAST (MARCH 2024)

DEBORAH CROOKS -Writer/Musician/Singer - is a songwriter and writer who performs and records under her own name and with the band Bay Station. Her most recent solo release is *The Department of The West* (2019) www.deborahcrooks.com

KENDRICK FREEMAN - Percussionist - is a Bay Area drummer, percussionist, and teacher. He has background in both drum set and hand drums, having studied with American artists and musicians from Ghana, Congo, and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on the music of Haiti.

KWAME COPELAND - Musician/Performer - is a songwriter and musician who has recorded and performed solo and in SF Bay Area bands for many years. Currently, he performs in Alameda's Bay Station Band and is the co-creator of the music & sailing video series Love the Bay.

MATT LANGLOIS - Musician - is a long time indie rock/pop singer songwriter from San Francisco who creates and records music on several fronts as well as music composition for contemporary dance company CALI&CO DANCE.

MICK SHAFFER - Actor/Musician - is a Bay Area performing singer/songwriter who has released three full-length albums. An improv comedian/actor, he also performs as half of the improv comedy duo Foolhardy & provides onstage musical accompaniment for the Shakespearian improv duo Gamesome Frolic.

TANIA JOHNSON - Actor/Singer/Musician - Tania has worked throughout the SF Bay Area in a wide variety of venues and capacities, including as an actor, musician or music director for youth and professional theatre. Currently, Tania teaches remote voice lessons for Southern Utah University, and is an Artist In Residence at Ruth Asawa School of the Arts.

TBD:

MUSICIAN/ACTOR (to play Hank)
SET DESIGNER
LIVE SOUND ENGINEER
FRONT OF HOUSE

FISCAL SPONSOR: FRACTURED ATLAS

BOARD INFORMATION: <https://www.fracturedatlas.org/who-we-are>

Fractured Atlas is a non-profit arts service organization based in New York. Fractured Atlas will receive grants for the charitable purposes of Flight Lessons, provide oversight to ensure that grant funds are used in accordance with grant agreements, and provide reports as required by the grantor.