

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

+18886927878

Provide the email
address for the
secondary point of
contact

support@fracturedatlas.org

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 programming, 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 programming, 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 (e.g. Executive
Director) Artist

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	
					Comments
Income					
		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	

[illegible]

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 perform as half of the improv comedy duo Foolhardy & provides onstage musical accompaniment for the Shakespearean 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.