

#6. Soup Ottawa Project Application

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Team Members (separated by comma): Samuel Hacker, Jeff Swim, Kevin Andrews

Project Title: Beyond Dawn (working title)

Describe your project (max. 200 words):

We are in the early stages of creating a short story cycle, to be accompanied by a musical score and recorded as an audio book. The project is inspired by Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind in the Willows" and is meant to bring attention to the threats to the reptile and amphibian life along the Ottawa River Valley. The 12 story arch is formatted like Grahame's book, but follows regional reptiles and amphibians who face the dangers of a degrading environment due to urban sprawl, pollution and reckless human interference. The project will be a hybrid of music, lyric and storytelling with a potential visual element as well. We have several ideas about distribution, such as a podcast type medium or a streaming audio track which could be accompanied by visuals, either of the actual animals or artwork, etc.

Tell us this project's story (max. 100 words):

Sam and myself (Jeff) are both admirers of Grahame's work and also of reptile and amphibian habitat. We are both currently in university studying literature and came up with the idea after spending a last summer hiking around green's creek, admiring the wildlife. I had attempted to create a buzz around the status of the snapping turtle (currently on the brink and yet still legal game) and was thinking of creative ways to bring attention to its main threats and ease the stigma associated with the reptile. Opening up the broader issue, we hope to raise awareness and possible money as well for a local group which is devoted to helping these creatures keep their homes.

Each project needs to be connected to this events' theme - "Giving Voice" (max. 100 words):

We are trying to give a voice to creatures not blessed with the power of speech. There are many marshes, bogs, creeks and streams not very far from parliament, which, if one were to take the time to explore, one would find many silent and wonderful animals. Anyone who has ever found a turtle or a salamander wonders what story it would tell. Based on the quality of their homes in many places in this region, that story would no doubt be a melancholy one. If we could inspire a gentle wonder in people, it may be a step in the right direction for preserving the vulnerable little creatures.

How will you use Soup Ottawa money for this particular project? (be specific - people will ask) (max. 100 words):

Any money we would receive would be used to enhance the quality of the presentation of our project. We are limited in terms of equipment and additional talent such as graphic design, media specialists, editors, voice actors etc. Also distribution is a concern. We would like to capture as wide an audience as possible. This would be a big expense and two of us are students with little time and even less money. We have discussed many different methods of distribution; such as subscription op a website, a special

"channel," a special application for e-readers, iphones and the like. None of us have much experience working with these technologies however and could not fund such a project ourselves.

What non-monetary needs does your project have (i.e. volunteers, tech support, etc.)? (max. 100 words):

We would need research help, contacts with local environmental and wildlife groups, help creating and managing a website. Likely there would be other positions to fill as the project grows.