

2Pac 30th Memorial Exhibition & Black August Cultural Archive

Formal Funding Proposal & Model C Fiscal Sponsorship Application Package

1. Executive Summary & Core Identity

Project Title: 2Pac 30th Memorial Exhibition & Black August Cultural Archive

Primary Disciplines: Digital Humanities, Multidisciplinary Arts, Cultural Preservation, and Media Studies

Curatorial Leadership: Donald “C-Note” Hooker & Jessica “Noonie” Noble

Fiscal Structure: Model C (Pre-Approved Grant Relationship)

Total Operating Budget: \$50,000

Charitable Mission Statement

The 2Pac 30th Memorial & Black August Cultural Archive exists to preserve, digitize, and freely disseminate the artistic, political, and cultural legacy of Tupac Shakur and the Black August liberation movement. Through museum-grade digital archiving, public educational programming, and contemporary cultural commentary co-curated by formerly incarcerated artist Donald “C-Note” Hooker and journalist Jessica “Noonie” Noble, the project provides open-access public scholarship examining the intersection of Hip-Hop culture, political art, civil rights, and carceral justice reform.

Project Summary (Abstract)

Commemorating the 30th memorial anniversary of Tupac Shakur and the tradition of Black August, this project is an interactive, open-access virtual exhibition and permanent digital archive. Co-curated by newly liberated prison artist Donald “C-Note” Hooker and cultural journalist Jessica “Noonie” Noble, the initiative unites primary historical documentation—spanning Shakur’s music, cinema, political philosophy, and legal struggles—with contemporary visual art, cultural journalism, and political commentary produced from within the American carceral system.

Rather than functioning as a commercial entertainment portal, the archive provides a museum-grade, ad-free educational sanctuary for researchers, students, and community members. It contextualizes Shakur's work within the broader lineage of the Black Panther Party, Black August, and systemic justice reform. Contributions and grant funds directly support high-resolution digital restoration, metadata indexing, secure cloud hosting, and the development of accessible, free educational study guides for secondary school and university curriculum use.

2. Detailed Project Narrative & Curatorial Vision

Project Scope

Hip-Hop stands as the most globally influential cultural movement of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, yet its primary historical materials and radical political foundations are frequently commodified, fragmented, or lost to proprietary commercial paywalls. The 2Pac 30th Memorial & Black August Cultural Archive addresses this gap by creating an institutional-grade, permanent digital repository.

The exhibition is structured into distinct, interactive virtual galleries:

2Pac's Politics & Lineage: Tracing Shakur's intellectual and familial foundation in the Black Panther Party, civil rights activism, and community self-determination programs.

Carceral Realities & Legal History: Comprehensive documentation of Shakur's court proceedings, systemic surveillance, and the ongoing judicial proceedings surrounding his murder, contextualized within broader criminal legal reform.

Creative Body of Work & Cultural Impact: Curated critical examinations of his musical catalog, cinema, and unreleased poetry, analyzing how his work moves culture across music, sports, and entertainment.

Contemporary Carceral Dialogue (The C-Note Collection): Original visual fine art, poetry, and curatorial framing by Donald "C-Note" Hooker, created across decades of incarceration and contextualizing Shakur's lived experiences against contemporary carceral abolition and rehabilitation.

Public Educational Benefit & Open Access

In strict alignment with 501(c)(3) charitable and educational standards, all core archive materials and virtual exhibition galleries will remain 100% free to the public with zero commercial advertisements, pop-ups, or paywalls. The project serves:

K-12 & Higher Education: Supplying verified historical context and primary source material for educators teaching African American studies, music history, and contemporary social movements.

Impacted Communities & Youth: Providing accessible virtual walkthroughs, artist talks, and creative expression modules centered on justice-involved artists.

Scholars & Archivists: Ensuring long-term digital preservation through high-resolution file rendering, metadata tagging, and standardized digital preservation protocols.

3. Curatorial Directorate & Key Personnel

Donald “C-Note” Hooker (Co-Curator & Lead Visual Artist): Renowned visual artist, poet, and playwright known as the King of Prison Hip-Hop. Walking free in the heart of Black August 2026 after 30 years of wrongful imprisonment, Hooker created hundreds of acclaimed paintings, painttoems, and performances under severe carceral constraint—exhibited from Alcatraz to Berlin. Having organized within the 2011 California statewide hunger strikes and waged his own historic hunger strike for parole justice, Hooker bridges direct carceral insight, revolutionary discipline, and historical preservation.

Jessica “Noonie” Noble (Co-Curator & Media Director): Editor-in-Chief of Sports and More Sports, cultural journalist, model, and media host. Noble brings dynamic storytelling rooted in the intersections of entertainment, music, athletic culture, and gaming. Her widely read cultural commentary and video journalism direct the archive's media production, cross-generational framing, and public engagement strategy.

Curatorial & Technical Production Team: Professional digital strategists, web architects, and cultural historians managing the digital hosting, secure server deployment, high-resolution scanning, and press dissemination.

4. Operating Budget & Financial Breakdown (12 Months)

Fiscal Model: Model C (Pre-Approved Grant Relationship)

Total Operating Budget: \$50,000

1. Direct Personnel & Curatorial Honoraria

Co-Curator Honorarium (Donald “C-Note” Hooker): Curatorial asset selection, visual arts narrative framing, historical commentary, and public educational webinars: \$6,000

Co-Curator Honorarium (Jessica “Noonie” Noble): Cultural narrative development, media production direction, oral history interviewing, and press outreach: \$6,000

Digital Archivist & Metadata Specialist: Historical asset cataloging, archival metadata indexing (Dublin Core standards), and legal record transcription (120 hrs @ \$45/hr): \$5,400

Project Director / Digital Producer: Overall production management, grant compliance reporting, timeline oversight, and institutional liaison (150 hrs @ \$40/hr): \$6,000

Educational Curriculum Writer: Drafting open-access downloadable study guides and discussion prompts for high school and college educators: \$2,500

Subtotal Direct Personnel: \$25,900

2. Digital Infrastructure & Cloud Hosting

High-Performance Cloud Web Hosting: Scalable, ad-free dedicated cloud server hosting to handle global traffic spikes without downtime (12 mos @ \$125/mo): \$1,500

Digital Asset Management (DAM) & Cloud Storage: Redundant cold cloud storage (AWS S3 / Wasabi) for lossless archival Master TIFF files and backup preservation: \$800

Domain, CDN, & Security Infrastructure: Enterprise SSL, DDoS protection, content delivery network (Cloudflare Pro), and domain registrations (12 mos @ \$65/mo): \$780

Virtual Gallery Engine & Accessibility: Licensing for 3D/virtual interactive exhibition software and WCAG 2.1 AA screen-reader compliance audit: \$2,200

Subtotal Digital Infrastructure: \$5,280

3. Archival Scanning, Digitization & Restoration

High-Resolution Fine Art Digitization: Museum-grade scanning of physical prison-era artworks and original manuscripts (40 pieces @ \$75/piece): \$3,000

Digital Restoration & Color Profiling: Digital repair of degradation, historical paper aging correction, and archival color calibration for web rendering (45 hrs @ \$50/hr): \$2,250

Primary Document Ingestion & Transcription: Scanning, OCR text recognition, and redaction verification of 2Pac court transcripts and historical civil rights documents: \$1,800

Subtotal Digitization & Restoration: \$7,050

4. Educational Programming & Community Outreach

Digital Press Kit & Media Wire Distribution: Targeted press release wire distribution to arts, civil rights, hip-hop, and academic publications: \$1,200

Virtual Curatorial Talks & Public Webinars: Video platform enterprise licensing, live captioning (CART services), and recording post-production (4 Events @ \$450/event): \$1,800

Curriculum Distribution & Youth Outreach: Targeted outreach to community arts centers, juvenile diversion programs, and ethnic studies departments: \$1,500

Subtotal Education & Outreach: \$4,500

5. Administration & Fiscal Sponsorship Fee

Fiscal Sponsor Administrative Fee: Standard Model C fee (8% of gross \$50,000 budget) for tax receipting, financial reporting, and fiduciary oversight: \$4,000

Accounting, Project Software & Bank Fees: Dedicated project bookkeeping, transaction fee buffers, and administrative filings: \$1,270

Project Contingency Reserve: Unforeseen bandwidth overages, software security patches, or archival supplies (~4% of total budget): \$2,000

Subtotal Administration & Fiduciary: \$7,270

Total Project Budget: \$50,000

5. Budget Narrative Notes (For Institutional & Grant Reviewers)

Direct Community Impact: Over 51% (\$25,900) of all funds directly compensate creative labor, prioritizing a formerly incarcerated artist, a dedicated cultural journalist, and specialized technical archivists.

Ad-Free Educational Sanctuary: Zero operational funds are diverted to commercial advertising or monetization plugins; 100% of technology funding guarantees an open-access, ad-free educational repository for the public.

Fiduciary Compliance: The 8% administrative line item covers full 501(c)(3) oversight, ensuring all grant allocations comply with federal and state charitable expenditure laws.