

FCC 2027 TBID Grant Application

Organization Name:

WYRD Productions LLC

Street Address:

1820 W Lincoln Street Suite 3

City:

Bozeman

State/Province:

MT

First Name:

Carl

Last name:

Anderson

Position/Role in Event:

Director of Operations

Email:

wyrdmontana@gmail.com

Phone Number:

406-351-1621

Which TBID are you applying to:

Bozeman TBID

Event Title:

First Contact Con 2027

Proposed Date of Event:

April 9th-11th, 2027

Event Location:

Best Western Plus GranTree Inn

Amount of Funding Requested:

\$20,000

Total Budget:

\$128,750.00

Summary of Event:

On April 5th, 2063, a Vulcan survey ship will land in Bozeman, Montana to make first contact with Zefram Cochrane, inventor of the first human-designed warp-capable spacecraft. In the fictional history of the Star Trek media franchise, this moment is immortalized in history textbooks as Earth's first instance of communication with the broader galactic community of sentient life. On this imagined anniversary of First Contact, April 5th, WYRD Productions and Studio Wheelhouse are hosting First Contact Con as a celebration of cultures real and imagined. This science fiction convention will bring together fans of science fiction media, artists and creators in the genre, and real-life STEM experts for a wide-ranging event with technology demonstrations, discussions of art and media, and a fun time for hundreds of attendees in Bozeman, MT.

Grant Request Purpose:

This funding is being requested to cover venue rental and early marketing costs. We have negotiated a venue rental agreement ready to execute with Best Western Plus GranTree Inn, and a full suite of branded marketing materials produced by Studio Wheelhouse, a Bozeman area Chamber member business. Funds from this grant will be used to finalize the venue rental agreement and cover marketing activity aimed at sponsors and attendees.

Lodging Facility Impact:

We anticipate at least 70% of attendees will come from outside the Bozeman area and stay overnight in hotels between April 9th-11th, totaling approximately 300 individuals staying for at least 2 evenings. Of the out-of-town attendees, we expect a 50/50 split of Montanans from outside of the Bozeman area along with fandom convention regulars from throughout the United States. The FC organizing team is already working with nearby hotels to elevate the attendee experience.

Organization Overview:

WYRD Productions is a Bozeman-based event production company led by Carl Anderson. Carl is a Montana-born and raised community organizer and producer with deep roots in the Gallatin Valley. Throughout the past few years, WYRD has created multiple successful events featuring live entertainment, local arts vendors, and prosocial themes. We promote art, music, and self-expression in all forms. Our medium is people. WYRD is excited to produce FCC 2027 in conjunction with multiple local partner businesses and organizations.

Studio Wheelhouse provides an affordable and welcoming space for makers of all kinds to create art and gather together. We teach classes in various artforms, create space for our community to make art together and host art-focused events and workshops. We believe that everyone is an artist and everything is in your wheelhouse.

Available Resources:

Funding for FCC 2027 is budgeted to come from a combination of attendee ticket and merchandise sales, sponsorships, grant support, vendor fees, and significant in-kind contributions of time and expertise from our community. We are actively pursuing business sponsorships for the event and have attached related materials for distribution to the Chamber member business.

Our vision for this grant is securing venue and marketing expenses. Any shortfall in budgeted revenue can be accommodated with scaled-back programming, and a minimal yet satisfactory version of the event can be produced with currently available resources combined with the grant funds requested.

We anticipate reaching a reliably self-sustaining level of revenue within 2 years or sooner.

Projected Budget Timeline & Requirements:Revenue

Ticket Sales \$26,785.70
Sponsorships \$50,000.00
Grant Funding \$40,000.00
Merchandise Sales and Vendor Fees \$25,000.00
In-kind Contributions \$5,000.00

Revenue TOTAL

\$146,785.70

Expenses

Event Staffing \$10,000.00
Workers Compensation Insurance \$2,000.00
Venue Space and Equipment Rental \$15,000.00
Event Liability Insurance \$1,000.00
Merchandise Production \$12,750.00
Marketing & Advertising \$10,000.00
Printing & Postage \$2,000.00
Professional Services \$25,000.00
Travel Expenses \$10,000.00
Special Guest Honoraria \$20,000.00
Special Guest Lodging \$10,000.00
Information Technology \$1,000.00
Equipment Rental \$5,000.00
Business/Activity Permits \$1,000.00
Event Supplies \$4,000.00
Expense TOTAL \$128,750.00
Net Income (Loss) \$18,035.70

Additional Comments:

Please see the attached sponsorship packet. It is the intent of the organizers to recognize the Tourism Business Improvement District as a sponsor commensurate with the level of funding awarded, with the accompanying sponsor benefits.

Event Challenges:

This is a second-year event building on significant community interest. Our primary challenge will be ensuring that the passionate science fiction fans in attendance have a satisfying experience.

How many volunteers are required?:

30

Has this event been in the Gallatin Valley before?:

Yes

Has this event been in Montana before?:

Yes

Could this event cancel on the same day due to inclement weather?:

No, this is an indoor event not subject to inclement weather.

Could this event cancel a month or less before its intended date for any reason?:

We have redundancy in our organizing team, scaled potential programming output to match funding, and an incredibly solid relationship with our event venue. At this point in time, we do not foresee any situation that would result in a full cancellation, and can pivot to meet any change in circumstances that arise between now and the event date.

What, if any, entities will proceed from this event?:

Proceeds from First Contact Con will be used to pay event expenses and otherwise retained for next year's convention.

Why will proceeds be donated?:

Proceeds will not be donated to an outside entity.

Grant Application Terms and Conditions:

Yes

Additional FCC 2026 Breakdown

Pre-Event Budget	
Sponsorship	\$5,000
TBID Grant	\$3,750
Total	\$8,750
Event Revenue	
Ticket & Merch	\$3,426
Vendor Fees	\$560
Total	\$3,986
Expenses	
Venue	\$2,500
Stage Lighting	\$2,800
Graphic Design	\$1,750
Consultant Fee	\$1,750
Fairy Sisters (Kids Area)	\$500
Supplies	\$4,739
Total	\$14,039
IN	\$12,736
OUT	\$14,039
Difference	-1,303

Additional Comments:

We felt it pertinent to provide some context and examples of how First Contact has brought in various members and businesses within the Gallatin Valley and throughout Montana. Here is a list of local businesses and individual creators involved in FCC 2026:

- Third Mountain Martials Arts (Belgrade)

- Rooks Gaming (Bozeman)
- 4 local tabletop game creators (Bozeman)
- Magic and Mayhem (Manhattan)
- Geek Emporium (Butte)
- Matter of the Imagination (Bozeman)
- Bricks and Minifigs (Bozeman)
- Kathy Tyers, Author (Four Corners)
 - Author of the Firebird series – Firebird, Fusion Fire, Crown of Fire, Wind and Shadow, and Daystar – of the stand-alone science fiction novels Shivering World, Crystal Witness, and One Mind’s Eye – and the Star Wars universe novels Truce at Bakura and New Jedi Order: Balance Point.
- Mach1 Mosaics (Belgrade)
- Gallatin Furs (Bozeman)
- Mando Mercs Cosplay (Members from throughout Montana)
- Hi-Fleece Woolen Apothecary (Bozeman)
- JesterCat Binding Company (Bozeman)
- Hyperspace Props (Idaho Falls, ID)
- Matter of the Imagination (Bozeman-based)
 - An MSU-born magazine featuring Sci-Fi and Fantasy authors and artists from throughout Montana.
- Fairy Sisters LLC (Clarkston)
- Montana State University - Holography Lab (Bozeman)
- Montana State University - Professor Charles Kankelborg, Department of Physics
- Queers in Space (Bozeman)
- Local Musicians (Bozeman)
- Local Illustrators (Bozeman and Manhattan)
 - Including Robert Rath, MSU design teacher and illustrator for “Goosebumps”
- Mayor Joey Morrison (Bozeman)
- American Computer and Robotics Museum, Dr. Jake Chipps (Bozeman)