

## Instructions

You may wish to type your answers in a word processing program and then cut and paste the text into this space. Please save your work periodically by clicking "Save Draft" below. You can contact our administrators with technical questions at (800) 839-1754 or [requests@foundationsource.com](mailto:requests@foundationsource.com).

**\*First Name**

Karl

**\*Last Name**

Fogel

**\*Organization Name**

QuestionCopyright.org

**\*Email Address**

kfogel@questioncopyright.org

**\*Phone Number**

773-351-1729

**\* Do you have a nonprofit fiscal sponsor? (Note: The Fledgling Fund only makes grants to U.S. based nonprofit organizations)**

No

**\*Project Name**

Minute Memes: Re-Animating the Relationship Between Copyright and Censorship

**\*Project Goal - (In one sentence, tell us the overall goal of your film or project, e.g. what social impact do you hope it will have.)**

The Minute Memes project is a series of one-minute animated videos about copyright restrictions and artistic freedom, to be made by award-winning graphic artist and animator Nina Paley. The series seeks to reframe public discourse about copyright and control, by re-introducing questions about censorship and civil rights, and by offering a reality-based view of the economics of artistic activity.

**\*Project Summary - (In 300 words or less, describe your project and how it will advance your social impact goal(s).)**

The Minute Memes are a response to widely-available videos and other materials from the copyright industry, in which the message is that copyright is a natural and absolute property right that trumps freedom of expression and people's ability to share and reimagine the culture around them. The Minute Memes will counteract this through visual storytelling, backed by still-image and written supplementary materials, to show how artists and audiences can thrive in a more permissive, less monopolistic environment than the one envisioned by the current copyright system.

The Minute Memes will offer an aesthetically engaging and intellectually consistent framework for considering copyright's restrictive effects. Step by step, the series will build a new frame of reference to supplant received rhetoric about copyright – received rhetoric such as the notion of "balancing" the needs of creators and the public, which assumes that the two are in opposition; the idea that copying is a form of stealing; the idea that control over copies must be bound up with attribution; etc. It is very difficult to go from that frame of mind to one receptive to the notion that the freedom to share, and the freedom to create derivative works, might be civil rights. One must first accept that, for example, "editing a copy without the original author's permission" is not the same as "destroying someone's hard work".

We must enable the viewer to feel that formerly unquestioned assumptions deserve a fresh look. Only after crossing that emotional barrier will the viewer be willing to consider copyright in a new way. But crossing that kind of barrier requires rhetorical tools that go beyond plain expository argument. The Minute Memes will help build that mental permission structure, by making rigorous arguments through a combination of art and storytelling: compelling anecdotes, memorable images and music, high aesthetic standards and overall production quality.

**\*Type of Support Requested**

Other

**\*Amount Requested (\$0.00)**

30,000

**\*In 200 words or less, describe how you will use the amount requested from The Fledgling Fund. How will it contribute to the overall project?**

This application is for funding for three of the memes. The entire series is twelve memes long. Here we are seeking funding to complete the three we think are most in line with the Fledgling Foundation's mission. We have already received funding to produce the first three.

Animation production expenses include: animator's fee, office space, creation of broadcast-quality output masters, and standard production expenses (storyboarding, character development, test scenes, etc). Equipment expenses are primarily computers, and hard drives for transporting large digital video files.

**\*Project Leadership - (Indicate the key people on the project and include one sentence of qualifications for each.)**

Nina Paley, Artist in Residence at QuestionCopyright.org will produce the Minute Memes. Nina Paley is author of the film "Sita Sings the Blues", adjunct faculty at Parsons The New School For Design in New York City (teaching Visual Narrative) and 2006 Guggenheim Fellow.

Karl Fogel, Editor of QuestionCopyright.org will act as project manager for this project. Karl Fogel is an open source developer, author, and copyright reform activist. He writes and speaks regularly on copyright, open source, and the application of open source principles to areas outside software.

**\*Project Timeline - (In 100 words or less, describe the project's timeline and status. For example, if your film is not complete, let us know what phase you are in (e.g. development, production, early or late post production, outreach etc.) and when you expect to complete it.)**

Karl? I have no idea, this is you.

**\*Funding Status - (Please list the foundations, corporations, and other sources from which you have secured or are soliciting funding for this project and, to the best of your knowledge, the status of your proposal with each.)**

Andy Warhol Foundation, awarded \$30,000 to produce the 3 Minute Memes.  
Triple Canopy, application due in February.  
Robert Sterling Clark Foundation, application not yet submitted.

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**\*How did you learn about The Fledgling Fund?**

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**\*Status (For Office Use Only)**

D New Submission