LOI TO THE GKV FOUNDATION

Project description: *11-2730714* addresses the digital divide through our Teen Digital Media Innovators program, providing leadership and job development opportunities in digital literacy through media arts. In 2022, we will launch our interactive media game lab, the first of its kind in NYC serving as a hub for free art and technology.

Longer term individual/ societal impact: The lab will support the creative futures of 300 young media makers from under-resourced backgrounds, within the context of moving image art and history. They will create their own media and games, be mentored by experts, showcase their work, and become part of a talent pipeline in the media arts. Participants will include members of our teen council, teen interns, teen filmmakers and game designers. The lab will function as a resource and headquarters to peer-teach and collaborate on media initiatives such as our teen film festival, game design challenges and jams, media workshops curated by teens and for teens, and an annual social innovation tech challenge judged by experts.

Scalability: If the initial stage of the project is successful, we will expand to be able to accommodate a wider range of age groups, including families, young children, and senior citizens. Teen leaders of TDMI will help to conduct the workshops, while continuing to lead events and train others to use the latest technology.

Year One Results: 75% of participants will improve their digital literacy skills and expand their opportunities to experiment with creative technologies for the benefit of their careers and academic development. This will be accomplished through: (a) 251 hours of job development in media and new technologies for 12 teens ages 15-18 with an industry-standard badging system to demonstrate achievement and (b) free use of technical equipment for those with demonstrated need.

Grant Size: $50,000

Required Statement (not part of 300 words): We assert that *11-2730714*, the applicant, meets GKV Foundation's Minimum Requirements as stated in the GKV website.