



Center for
Cultural
Innovation

**GRANT & LOAN FUND
FOR EARLY-STAGE ARTS,
CREATIVE, AND CULTURAL
COOPERATIVES**

EXAMPLE OF COMPETITIVE PROFILES



Name: Axis

We support Native artists in the XR and immersive technology space and seek to create access and ownership opportunities for multidisciplinary artists of our communities across the country.

Phase: Start-up, B Corp. We have two co-founders and a collective of artists engaged. We chose not to incorporate as a cooperative business, but we intend to operate as a cooperative. We are in need of legal counsel at this stage to establish our bylaws and membership structure. Currently, we have at least three members as part of the cooperative. Our budget size is the cost of operations, which we project to spend \$50,000 on Axis this year on salaries and legal fees.

Community Impact: There are no companies expressly focused on distributing XR content from Native creators, creating a lack of diverse representation within the XR industry.



Name: Ether

We are the platform that showcases jazz musicians in the South. Our cooperative members will be the musicians themselves, and our service will be to act as their touring and booking agents.

Phase: Early-stage Cooperative. We are legally incorporated as a cooperative business and are now turning our attention to attract members. Right now, we only have a handful of cooperative members, and we need more so that we can start serving their income-producing needs, which will, in turn, generate revenue (although not-yet profit) for Ether.

Community impact: We recognize the need to collectively own, promote, and amplify the work of jazz musicians, many of whom work with very little back-end booking, touring, and distribution support. If we take off, we can help jazz musicians save time and increase the number of income-generating opportunities.



Name: Joy-op

We are a cooperative of BIPOC cultural facilitators. We were founded in 2018 and are already generating revenue and a modest profit. Our members are already accomplished consultants who provide management services, strategic planning, community-centered facilitation, and coaching. We manage all aspects of our members' service contracts and guarantee their pay. Right now, we operate in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and North Carolina (based on where our three founders live).

Phase: Growth-stage Cooperative. We are a multi-stakeholder cooperative that is seeking funding to build an online platform so that we can expand our services nationally. We regularly get requests to include other parts of the country, and we project, based on our conversations with eager prospective consultants alone, that we will generate greater profitability in going national and bringing on 75 more members who each average \$50,000 annually that flow through Joy-op, of which the company receives 10%. By 2022, we anticipate that we will finally afford to pay all members a profit-based dividend for the first time.

Community Impact: We want to be a trusted, brand-recognized company that provides culturally relevant and -competent BIPOC consultants, trainers, and coaches. The demand for our communities' expertise is growing, and we want to provide a non-competitive, commons-based way for everyone in our communities to benefit.



Name: Black Tie

We support Black Queer graphic designers.

Phase: Start-up, 501(c)3. We are a collective of graphic designers that have yet to establish as a cooperative. We are in the process of making the case to shift from our 501(c)3 status to an earned-income reliant cooperative company. We are in the early stages of seeking funding to make this transition, which has been challenging because we don't have substantial "friends and family" prospects and the little grant monies we have are restricted from this use. We have been a nonprofit of eight designers for nearly a decade, and we feel we've grown out of relying on grant income and are ready to both make more money and grow our family of Black Queer graphic designers. We need to afford legal counsel to help us understand what it takes to not be a 501(c)3 and what we should know about and do in order to become a cooperative.

Company Impact: We recognize the need for Black Queer-led artistry and design as we imagine and sustain a movement around Black lives and Black liberation. Part of our expansion includes using smart contracts to ensure that our artists always automatically receive royalties when their work is used and that no one can appropriate their work without their knowledge.