

The Space/WIRED Creative Fellowship application form

Please send the completed application form and supporting documents to creativefellowship@thespace.org with **Creative Fellowship 2015** in the subject line. Good luck!

Name	Vinay Gupta (hexayurt project)											
Address Postcode Country	Flat 24, Connaught Mansions, Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8LE											
Email	hexayurt@gmail.com											
Age (please check)	118-24		25-34		35-44 X		45-54		55-64		65 + over	Prefer not to say
Phone number (country code)	(+44) 7500 895568											

Details of your current work / practice - max 100 words

I have portfolios of projects from cutting edge disaster relief and state failure management technology through to heavy involvement in cryptocurrencies. You'd recognize my work from Burning Man - 3000 people in my open source building, downloading designs, building, a new generation of vernacular architecture for the world we live in: viral vernacular. Born digital, internet distributed buildings. Coming soon to refugee camps globally. We nearly did Syria in with the UN in 2014.

My project done all of this without ever asking for or accepting grant funding: a 100% social capital based enterprise. We just don't ever touch money.

Biography - max 300 words

Born in the UK to one Scottish and one Indian parent, raised as a scientist. 14 years of heavy Hindu religious study culminating in the qualifications to teach as a guru, then after 9/11 I was sent by my people into the political world to do something about the blood shed. I had always maintained a career as a software engineer, being of a caste which maintains their material responsibilities alongside the spiritual quest. The quest to do something about the state of the world led me first to the Rocky Mountain Institute, where I helped out on Small is Profitable (The Economist's book of the year 2003) and Winning the Oil Endgame (widely credited with ending American political will to invade more oil states.)

From there I went to the Pentagon, where I re-infused the Department with Buckminster Fuller's vision for the future of humanity, building on top of the work done by Lovins et. al. and questioning the prevailing narratives about resource scarcity and resulting war. Instead, I pioneered a new story, one in which technological advances raced ahead faster than resource depletion. This mission was partially successful: the new ideas took deep root at the Center for Technology and National Security Policy, culminating in a regular series of appropriate technology and disaster relief demonstrations, where hexayurts surrounded by solar panels etc. were build in the garden in the middle of the Pentagon.

For my pains, I was deported and barred from re-entering the country. The work goes on without me. Now I live in London, and work as an event curator, resilience analyst and strategy consultant. The Hexayurt and all that go with it remain *free* in every sense of the word there is.

I am now the release coordinator for the Ethereum project, a new cryptocurrency platform.

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Please populate the table below with **five** examples of previous artistic work, these can be submitted as video, audio file or PDF documents. Video or audio file should be maximum of 3 minutes and hosted as private Vimeo, YouTube, Soundcloud or Dropbox entry. Clearly name the files: lastname_firstname_title_date

Title lastname_firstname_title_date	Date dd.mm.yy	Media YouTube, Vimeo, photo, audio file. Max 3 mins.	Link where applicable	Password where applicable
hexayurts at the pentagon	2008	youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=952aaQNAFQA	
the folding hexayurt	2008	youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1GjymP3MUc	
folding hexayurt demonstration	2011	youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O16bvw-vl9M	
burning man report	2013	youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aULv6aibQp4	
hexayurt assembly	2011	youtube	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxLCEsLCuvQ	

In the next section we would like an explanation of your proposed artistic project. This can be up to **1,000 words** and you may include supporting photographs, videos audio or other documentary material. **Please make sure they are labeled correctly (see beneath answer box).**

Ensure you answer the following questions in your application: why you believe your project will make significant impact on the cultural sector, what makes it innovative and therefore why you deserve to be one of The Space/WIRED Creative Fellows. **Max 1,000 words.**

(videos above are of hexayurts being built, and videos people have made of their replications of the core design: viral building)

By now you've figured out that I'm not an artist in the "professional guild" sense, in as much as my work is most readily understood as "political engineering" not in the sense of trying to engineer political outcomes, but the use of engineering to change the political landscape: to solve the problems which politics has changed to solve.

You cannot appreciate my work unless you are willing to consider that the realm of the fundable is only a small fraction of the realm of the possible: I have never taken grant from the NGO channels, or academic research, or anything else for the hexayurt project because money corrupts everything, when it is poured through bureaucratic channels: the entanglement and the red tape made the aid process very nearly worse than useless in Haiti, for example. That's not uncommon.

I had to find a way out, and I made one. I worked for free, because I wanted to, because I needed to, because it was the only thing in my heart.

The art is that I've changed the world's possibilities, just a little bit, by organizing people to dream together of a better world, and to work together and build together to create it, without using money as an organizing principle. A humanitarian project of huge scope organized without raising money. Every year, silicon valley goes camping in hexayurts - people with a combined financial accumulation of hundreds of millions of dollars sleep in these things, and likely do not dream of the refugees that I designed these shelters for. Every year, the Pentagon builds them, right in its heart, and my friends there dream of having me back to change their vision.

I do not anger, and I do not mind: they're building the path, just like those movie executives who needed car phones, back when it was six dollars a minute to make a call.

Here's how I intend to change the cultural sector: I intend to give it back its conscience, to stop it from being useless, as it is now. To get away from the rhetoric and critique, and to go back to the actual practical pragmatism of envisaging a better world, and then building it.

I exist because of stories: genre fiction by Bruce Sterling inspired me to give my life to appropriate technology, and Hindu religious mythology (take it literally and it'll kill you) gave me a backdrop in which I could find meaning in this world, this crazy, immoral chaos of a planet.

I'm bringing those stories, those visions, to life by *taking them seriously*. You want a better world, I'm going to deliver it. And I get up every morning, and I push that as far as I can, without worrying too much about whether I survive or not: Guinea Pig G, if you know Buckminster Fuller's Guinea Pig B.

Why is this "innovative" - nobody's built on top of Bucky's work, or indeed Gandhi's. That stuff got mothballed with the 1960s, nobody takes it seriously any more. The shed that can, as I call the hexayurt at times, is brand damn new. The production technology, decentralized manufacturing, is brand new. The design processes - open cooperation, large groups, long timescales - is brand damn new, or at least it was in 2005 when we released it to the internet and started begging for helpers.

Look at the video below, the one marked "a hexayurt in africa."

I do not know who that person is. I know nothing about them. They got the plans off the internet, or from somebody who got the plans off the internet, and they built a hexayurt from those plans: a viral building. I do not know why they did it, but I can guess maybe they have plans to build more if they like it.

And maybe more will follow that.

If you want an art project that will change the world, I'm your man. You are not going to see anything else with this kind of potential to change human lives using technology, to address our real human issues with the internet: we teach people how to build, **and they do.**

That African man is your proof.

So here's my project: we build a small refugee village. Everything: hexayurts, solar power, water filters, all the kit. Beds, desks, chairs. We document everything, and publish the plans online. We'll partner with lots of technology-specific charities like Potters for Peace (water filters) or Appropedia (documentation - check these guys out.)

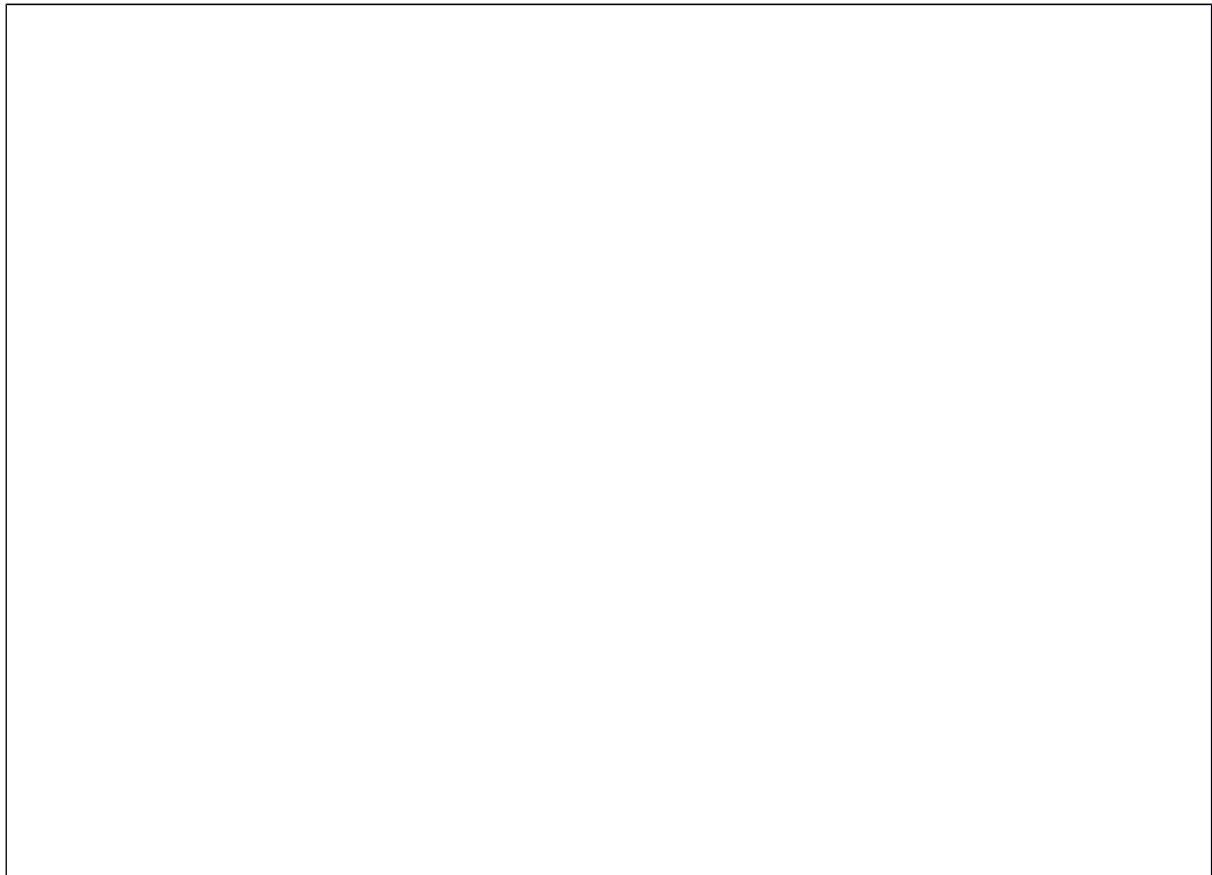
We'll have to do this somewhere with a decent supply chain so we can get things in and out. Maybe in Morocco or Spain, maybe in a gallery in London. Maybe we'll live in the refugee camp for a while, or - better still - put it on AirBnB and allow people to visit.

You're going to have to trust me for a minute: I don't have the details. I know the technology inside out: you can wake me up at 3AM with a phone call and tell me "GO!" and I'll build you a temporary city for a quarter of a million people with stuff you can buy from B&Q and off Amazon, and it will be the best refugee living experience on earth. But if you want to know where I'd site a test project with a budget of £30K, including documentation, the short answer is: I don't know. We'll find options, places like CAT in Wales might offer their land, but land is a tricky issue.

Build. Document. Inhabit. Accelerate the viral spread of the little shed that can.

Want to help?

Videos etc. all on youtube, some from community documentation - they are not private and can be shared at will.



Supporting material - five examples

Title lastname_firstname_title_date	Date dd.mm.yy	Media YouTube, Vimeo, photo, audio file. Max 3 min.	Link where applicable	Password where applicable
hexayurt homepage	2005 to current	page	http://hexayurt.com/	transparent
a thousand viral buildings	2002 to current	page	https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=hexayurt&source=lnms&tbm=isch	transparent
time to stop pretending	2010	video of performance	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkQCy-UrLYw&t=3m56s	transparent
a hexayurt in africa	2014	video	http://files.howtolivewiki.com/somalia_or_sudan.mp4	transparent
truth and beauty	2015	videos of curated event series	http://files.howtolivewiki.com/TRUTHANDBEAUTY/	transparent

Before sending your application, please make sure this form is saved as a PDF and titled: lastname_firstname_creativefellows2015.

*Applications must be received by **midnight GMT, Sunday 1 March 2015**. Successful applicants will be informed by end of April 2015. The decision of The Space and our judges is final, we apologize but neither The Space or WIRED can enter into correspondence with unsuccessful candidates.*