

NYC- and SF-Based Consulting Firm Rewards Creativity with \$1,000 Finishing Grant

Macktez Announces Summer Stipend Applications Accepted Beginning June 20th.

Every year, the Macktez Summer Stipend inspires creative people to take a great idea and transform it into a finished product. From a waste-free floor lamp constructed from its own packing material, to a computer app that creates stunning data visualizations of worldwide news coverage, to a floating armada of miniature boats that enables visitors to safely explore and learn from one of New York's most polluted waterways, the Macktez Summer Stipend brings imaginative projects to the finish line.

Macktez, a New York City-based consulting firm, with offices in New York, San Francisco, and London, is accepting applications from June 20 through July 26, 2014. The application is located online: macktez.com/stipend.

Now in its tenth year, the Macktez Summer Stipend helps creative people — whether they are artists, cultural anthropologists or hobbyists — by providing the funding needed to realize their creative vision.

With a decisive focus on vision and goals, Macktez grew from a firm with six steady clients in 1996 to one that now serves more than 150 clients in cities around the globe. The Summer Stipend intends to help applicants focus on their vision and goals with a unique workbook-style application. The application is a step-by-step guide to help applicants refine their vision and avoid distractions to reach their goal.

"At Macktez we believe that taking small, steady steps toward one's goals is the surest way to achieve them," said Noah Landow, Macktez founder and president. "Clearing away distraction and focusing on the end result takes creative inspiration from simmering idea to sizzling invention."

Macktez Summer Stipend applications are considered based upon the following criteria: originality, relevance, and conviction. Finalists will be selected by an esteemed panel of judges that hail from a variety of creative fields. This year's panelists are: Caroline Bone, Christopher Allen, Iva Kravitz, Ida Benedetto, Bill Hill, Ryan Jacoby, Melissa Martin, and Luke Lanter.

Caroline Bone is a co-founder, Vice President and the head Operations at New York design firm, Bone and Black. She has been responsible for all Project Management and Operations at Bone & Black since its inception in 2010. Christopher Allen, a former Summer Stipend recipient himself, is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director at UnionDocs Center for Documentary Art in Brooklyn. Iva Kravitz is the owner of The Iva Agency, a Brooklyn-based marketing, strategic planning, and PR agency with a tight focus on architecture and related businesses, and an interest in working with environmentally and socially responsible clients. Ida Benedetto is a co-founder and Chief Instigator for Wanderlust Projects, where she works to create experiences for people in places they might never otherwise find themselves. Bill Hill was employee number 12 at David Kelley Design before merging to become IDEO. He co-founded MetaDesign's San Francisco office in 1992 and is now consulting and enjoying the gifts of being a dad to an 11-year old daughter. Ryan Jacoby is a Founding Partner at Machine and a Partner at Collaborative Fund where he helps companies to Think Big and Act Small. He pioneered the Business Design discipline at IDEO and was the first "graduate" of the Stanford d.school. Melissa Martin is an Interaction Designer and UX Strategist in San Francisco. Her experience spans a broad range of industries such as healthcare, arts and culture, energy management, education and enterprise software, and she currently serves as Interaction Design Lead at Method and on the Board of Directors for Global Lives Project. Luke Lanter is a Founding Partner and the Managing Director of Capture This, a digital capture and video production company based in downtown New York.

Macktez consults with businesses to help them stay on course on the road to productivity, while enabling them to steer clear of obstacles along the way. With long-term vision, thorough planning, finely tuned focus and steadfast support, Macktez identifies the right tools -- from cloud services to post-it notes -- to get things done. Macktez proudly offers clients a smart, skilled and committed team of specialists experienced in the art of problem solving. More info can be found on Twitter, Tumblr, and Facebook.