

E.G.A.D!

ADVENTURE CAPITAL

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E.G.A.D! (Ad)venture Capital announces first Art Idea funding award. Winner of highly-contested prize is Austin artist

AUSTIN, Texas - Local (ad)venture capital group E.G.A.D! has selected the winner of its first Art Idea competition. Local artist Matt Norris' proposal for a **Human-Powered Road-Going Viking Boat** beat more than 40 other artists to claim the \$2,000 prize that will enable him to turn his dream into reality.

E.G.A.D!, founded in 2007, is a collective funding group that seeks donations to finance under-funded ideas. The group's acronym stands for "Everyone's Got A Dream." For its first fund, E.G.A.D! attracted 50 Austinites who pitched in to select and support the winning Art Idea entry.

The Art Idea competition attracted a wide range of submissions, from traditional to conceptual art pieces in a multitude of visual media. "We are thrilled by the range of talent that our first Art Idea prize attracted," said E.G.A.D! founder, Benjamin Serrato. "E.G.A.D! members faced a monumental task in reviewing all the worthy ideas and selecting just one. But I am excited that Matt's whimsical proposal for a Human-Powered Road-Going Viking Boat emerged victorious, and that the first E.G.A.D! Art Idea prize will enable him to turn his dream into reality."

"This is an idea I've wanted to carry out for years," said winning local artist Matt Norris. "Now, I've got some real work to do."

Mr. Norris' winning proposal for a Human-Powered Road-Going Viking Boat anticipates a multi-person human-powered vehicle made up to look like a Viking boat. A power train consisting of 12 to 16 rowing machines will be installed onto a simple rolling chassis and then a pseudomorphic wooden Viking boat will be applied onto the vehicle.

"Right now I'm looking for volunteers with the time and interest to contribute to the construction of this project," said Norris. "Gearheads, engineers, boat builders, and anyone else who would be willing to swing a hammer or turn a wrench are welcome. In the future we'll set up a rotating roster that will allow the (hopefully) large number of interested people to have a go at the oars. Anyone interested can contact me through my MySpace page: <http://www.myspace.com/vikingboataustin>

E.G.A.D! is in the process of developing guidelines for its second fund in October. E.G.A.D! also seeks future (ad)venture capital participants. Details on how to become involved can be found at the group's website: <http://www.egadv.com>