Congratulations on being nominated for the LocalWiki / Wiki Spot Board of Directors!

About Wiki Spot and LocalWiki

Wiki Spot is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization focused on empowering communities through the use of collaborative technologies. *Wiki Spot* is our official corporate name, though we are most known for our major project, *LocalWiki.*

As an organization, we have undertaken two major projects thus far:

- **LocalWiki**, the open-source, open-content effort to collect the world's local knowledge.
- **wikispot.org**, a hosted wiki platform for non-commercial groups, developed in 2007.

The wikispot.org project, from which our organization gets its name, is no longer under active development. We have been working to migrate all locally-specific projects on wikispot.org to the new LocalWiki platform. Currently, only a handful of major, active projects still exist on the wikispot.org platform.

Our major project, and the focus of our organization, is **LocalWiki**. In correspondence, public speaking, etc we have shifted to almost exclusively using *LocalWiki* to refer to the organization. It is likely that we will officially rename the organization at some point in the future.

Brief Organizational History

In 2004, Philip Neustrom and Mike Ivanov started the DavisWiki (http://daviswiki.org) as an experiential way to share and collaborate on knowledge about the town of Davis, California, USA. Today, the DavisWiki has grown to become the largest media source in the community, with one in six residents visiting daily.

After working on DavisWiki for about a year, an increasing number of communities wanted to replicate the project. Open-source code was provided to those communities, but a number of communities were unable to host or install the code themselves. Thus, *wikispot.org*, a hosted platform running the DavisWiki software, was created in 2007.

Along with the creation of the *wikispot.org* service came the informal creation of the *Wiki Spot* organization in the form of a a simple bank account and EIN number. In 2008, we formally incorporated the organization as a California Nonprofit Benefit Organization, with the intention of eventually becoming a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

In late 2009, we were contacted by an individual working with the Knight Foundation who encouraged us to apply for funding through their *News Challenge* program. With this on the table,

we applied for and obtained our 501(c)3 status in late December, 2009.

In June of 2010 we were awarded a *News Challenge* grant of $350,000 from the Knight Foundation to support the creation of the software powering the LocalWiki project.   The LocalWiki software platform (http://localwiki.org/software/) has been installed over 800 times in the past year.

Today, there are major LocalWiki projects in 9 countries, in 7 languages, and reaching over 380,000 individuals each month.

Next steps

Please read the provided Board of Directors job description. Afterward, let the individual who nominated you know if you are interested in serving on our Board and provide him or her with a brief biography (1 paragraph). If you are interested in serving, you will be nominated and voted on by our existing Board.