

**SD COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
GRANT APPLICATION - - TITLE PAGE**

Applicant Organization Northern Hills Training Center

Address 624 Harvard Street, Spearfish, SD

Telephone 605-642-2785 Federal ID Number 46-0347103

Project Director Christopher Larson

Address/Telephone 10192 Silver Maple Cir., Highlands Ranch, CO, 80129

Email Address: chris@christopherlarson.photography

Type of Organization Non-Profit Tax Exempt? Yes

Under "Type of Organization" indicate all of the following that apply:
State, county, municipality, or other public institution; nonprofit or profit
private institution. If "nonprofit" and/or "tax exempt", proof of status
may be requested.

Title of Project The Hunt

Project Begins 09.26.2023 Project Ends 12.01.2023

Total Council Funds Requested \$10,000 Total Project Budget \$25,750

<u>Christopher Larson</u>	
Authorizing Official (please type name)	Signature

Filmmaker, 10192 Silver Maple Cir., Highlands Ranch, CO

Title and address, if different from Project Director listed above.

Abstract:

Producers Christopher Larson and Jordan Layton (the filmmakers) are working with Northern Hills Training Center to bring a documentary to life that will focus on Dominique, who was born with Downs Syndrome. The producers have a combined 15 years of experience in documentary, film and photography, while Northern Hills Training Center (NHTC) currently provides support to approximately 135 individuals across the Spearfish and Belle Fourche areas, so that these individuals can become active members of their community. While the documentary is solely that of the producers, NHTC is assisting in logistical as well as fund raising measures.

When looking at the goals of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities (SDCDD), GOAL 1 of the FFY22-26 State Plan Goals and Objectives is to increase awareness of resources to improve access to information and services. Fewer mediums and programs have a wider impact than film, and through this documentary the filmmakers seek to bring greater awareness to the resources that exist for individuals with disabilities – both locally, and hopefully to a wider national and international audience. By filming with Dominique, and exploring her life and all that she has accomplished with the support of her community, the documentary will provide a visual, striking example that it isn't one's disabilities that define them, rather their abilities.

The documentary will explore the life of Dominique - a 28-year-old female who was born with Downs Syndrome. But this does not keep her from striving for new goals and wanting to be a part of a community. With the support of her family and various community services, Dominique is an independent woman – be it hunting, working at Culver's, or singing her favorite songs. Her disability does not define her – her abilities do. The film will follow Dominique during the lead up to the big hunt. Will she be able to shoot her first buck, or not? Along the way the filmmakers hope to capture to build a truly holistic view of Dominique and her life. The final documentary will be between 15-25 minutes.

Using a team of two filmmakers, and then collaborating with Dominique and her family, NHTC, Culver's, and other community organizations, the team will film for 6-7 days the last week of September 2023. When filming is wrapped, the project will go into post-production, and it is the goal of the filmmakers to have the final film wrapped by middle of November. The film will then be sent to film festivals, like Sundance, the Berlinale, Raindance, IDFA, Doc NYC, among others, hoping to raise awareness internationally for Dominique and her story. Locally, working with NHTC, the filmmakers will screen the film as part of a fund-raising event in Fall 2024. Finally, with the support of the SDCDD, the film could be used at conferences and events across the state and nation. Finally, after this is accomplished and barring any further distribution deals, the film will be placed online for all to watch.

The filmmakers are seeking to raise \$25,550 in total but is requesting \$10,000 from the SDCDD. The filmmakers have currently raised \$5,000 from Culver's, \$1,000 from First Interstate Bank, and is working to secure funding from other locations local to South Dakota, as well as internationally.

Project Narrative

Statement of Need

The SDCDD has listed the need to raise awareness of resources to improve access to information and services as one of its main goals for FY22-26. Given this goal, there is clearly a need to help people be aware of the different opportunities that are available to individuals with developmental disabilities, primarily information and services. Objective 1 of this goal is to share resources and information through multiple media formats, thus realizing the importance of multi-media content, primarily photo and video.

These needs aren't unique to the SDCDD – all organizations need content to help raise awareness for their services and to provide information to the public. There are fewer places where this is more important than supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

While the project doesn't directly meet the need of people with developmental disabilities, it will shine a light on all that is possible for families with an individual with a developmental disability. The more engaged these families are with organizations such as NHTC, the better their family member with a disability can be a part of the community and find greater independence for themselves – be that finding meaningful employment, discovering hobbies and passions, participating in community events, just to name a few. This documentary will demonstrate this with Dominique.

In order to accomplish this, the filmmakers require assistance covering travel expenses, renting equipment that will enhance the production value of the documentary, and hiring people to help with production. Additionally, as the filmmakers are not working for NHTC on this project, they require funding to help cover their time both filming and editing the film.

This project is collaborating first and foremost with NHTC, who provided the main character of the film, is providing expertise on the subject matter, connections with other local organizations that will be required to be on-board for filming, and helping with fund raising. The filmmakers are also collaborating with Culver's (both the Spearfish location and the national team) for filming Dominique while she works. Culver's has offered their assistance as well in raising awareness for the film both during and after filming has completed. Additionally, organizations like Inclusion International has offered support when it comes time to release the film.

The greatest collaboration will of course be with Dominique and her parents. They are allowing us into their lives, to experience their life with Dominique and all that she has accomplished and continues to accomplish.

Goals, Objectives, and Action Plan

The primary goal of the film is to educate the audience on the abilities of individuals with disabilities, instead of rather focusing on their disabilities. To do so, the main objective is to have as many people see it as possible. This will be accomplished through:

- local screening(s) in Spearfish (estimated minimum 700 viewers)
- further outreach to organizations that support individuals with developmental disabilities and their families for further screening (currently ongoing)
- potential screenings with SDCDD at conferences and events (estimated minimum 1200 attendees)
- applying to film festivals (can reach thousands depending on the film festival)
- potentially securing a broadcasting deal with a local station to air the film

The filmmakers believe the educational value of the film will be very high and are working to bring in as many organizations as possible to help promote the film, and even screen it when the film is finished. As stated in the Grant Application Packet, after the film has had local screenings, premiered in film festivals, and concluded any broadcasting deal that may arise, it will remain publicly available for more than 5 years. It will also include captioning to help the hearing impaired also be able to view the film.

Organization & Staff Qualifications

The filmmakers resumes and awards can be found on their websites:

Christopher Larson: <https://www.christopherlarson.photography/home>

Jordan Layton: <https://www.jordanlayton.com/>

Evaluation & Consumer Satisfaction Information

The documentary will be completed in stages, with specific dates and deliverables. This will make the evaluation of the project and its progress easier.

- Pre-production and travel (ongoing since March, travel to Spearfish 26th of Sept)
- Filming will require 1 week (including location scouting and filming)
- Editing the documentary will require between 4-8 weeks
- Music composition and coloring will require 2-4 weeks

After each stage of the project, an evaluation of the completed stage, as well as the next stage can be completed.

NHTC is accepting donations for the project as well, to help increase the transparency of the project. At each stage of the above listed progress markers, the filmmakers will communicate with NHTC to access funding required, assuming that funding has been raised by the filmmakers. By working with NHTC, the filmmakers will ensure that the documentary addresses the Statement of Need – to provide a documentary that raises awareness of resources to improve access to information and services.

Performance Measures

Performance measures for a documentary are obviously fluid. After having reviewed the performance measures as stated below, it is clear that this documentary is a bit outside of what is traditionally proposed. But, that it isn't to say that the documentary won't have an impact. With the goal of educating people about the abilities of Dominique, instead of her disability, even educating one person would be a success. I know that is possible because that is the change that I have seen in myself while developing this project.

Growing up, individuals with disabilities were referred to as "special". This stigma has stayed with me over the years. That is, until I began developing this story. I began to see Dominique just like me – she has hopes and fears, hobbies and passions, and wants to be able to feel like she is a part of the community – not as someone "special", but just as Dominique.

That is the goal and hope of this documentary.

Budget

Description	Requested DD Council Funds	Allowable Match from Applicant	Allowable Match from Other Agencies	Total Contract Grand Budget	Un- allowable Match from Applicant & Other Agencies	Total Project Budget
Personnel						
Christopher Larson – Producer charged at day rate of \$650 for services for 7 days of filming, plus editing fee of \$1,750	\$2,000					\$6,300
Jordan Layton – Producer charged at day rate of \$650 for services	\$2,000					\$4,550
Composer (TBD) One time fee for documentary 15-25 minutes, including rights	\$750					\$1500
Colorist (TBD) One time fee for documentary 15-25 minutes in length	\$1,000					\$2000

Travel						
Flights – for Christopher Larson traveling from Germany, plus baggage and equipment						\$1,400
Hotel – 7 nights at Fairfield Inn in Spearfish for Jordan and Christopher at \$150 per night.	\$1,050		\$1,050 from the Fairfield Inn. They are donating 50% of room costs.			\$2,100
Rental Car/Gas						\$1,000
Per Diem at \$50 per day per person for food						\$750
Contractual						
None						
Operating Expenses						
Canon C300 Mk. III and cinema lenses rental for 9 days (one day arriving no filming and one day leaving no filming)	\$1,750					\$3,500
Equipment						

External hard drives for storage of video	\$400					\$400
Other						
Marketing expenses – hiring a PR agent to help push the film	\$1,050					\$1500
Film Festival Fees						\$750
Total	\$10,000					\$25,750

Budget Narrative

Personnel

The personnel costs are straightforward. We are using the funds for a one-time project. For the filmmakers, their time has been budgeted to a day rate, which is standard for the film industry. Christopher Larson will also be editing the film, and an allotment for that has also been considered. For the composer and colorist, their rates are based on the length of the project, and their rates are standard for a video project of this length.

Travel

Christopher currently splits his time between Berlin and Denver but would be flying to South Dakota to complete this project. Jordan would be coming from Utah with a rental car with equipment. Prices for airfare and car rental are based on current estimates, plus things like gas. Obviously, actual prices may vary. No other personnel will have to travel for this project. The hotel prices have been confirmed with Fairfield Inn in Spearfish, where they are donating 50% of the room costs for the stay there.

Contractual

None

Operating Expenses

To maximize the quality of the film, the filmmakers would rent cameras and lenses that are generally too expensive to purchase. The equipment would raise the production value of the documentary, maximizing its chances in film festivals and potential further distribution down the line.

Equipment

The filmmakers will make back-ups of all content filmed to protect against loss of data. This is the estimated cost for an estimated 20TB of external hard drives.

Other

To help the film succeed, the filmmakers would like to hire a PR agent. The PR agent would help with film festivals, press releases, and maximizing engagement for the film when screenings happen and the film is accepted into film festivals. To submit to film festivals, an average of \$30-\$75 per festival is to be expected, depending on the overall size of the festival. We are looking to apply to 10-15 film festivals.

Program Income

Currently, the filmmakers and NHTC have raised \$5,000 from Culver's and \$1,000 from First Interstate Bank, and the value of \$1050 for travel costs. They are currently working to raise other funds from organizations and corporate sponsors.

The money will be spent as follows:

- Before September 26th – travel costs (airline fare, rental car) and equipment rentals will be paid for.
- From September 26th – October 2nd - travel costs (gas, hotel, per diem), personnel costs for Jordan Layton and Christopher Larson.
- After October 2nd – Editing costs, composer costs, colorist costs, marketing and film festivals will be distributed at this time.

Appendix

South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities
2520 E Franklin Street Suite 4 Pierre,
South Dakota 57501 605.773.6369
1-800-265-9684
dhs.sd.gov/cdd.aspx

To whom it may concern:

The documentary "The Hunt" is designed to impact not only the Spearfish community, but both parents of a person with a disability and a person with a disability as well.

As parents of a daughter with Down's Syndrome, we have instilled in Dominique strong family and community relationships. Dominique was involved in high school and activities and was even crowned Prom queen her senior year. As she grew older, we realized how important it was for her to not only be involved in family work ethics, but also to be part of the work force in Spearfish.

Through Northern Hills Training Center, Dominique attended classes and further learned about job responsibilities and expectations. She was hired at a local fast food restaurant and worked there until Covid hit. After this, Dominique was hired by Culvers and has worked there the past 3 years. She is accepted there and is treated as "one of the gang."

Being part of the family and community, Dominique has incredible social skills. She loves to dance, sing, and hunt. Hence, the documentary began as it is a story that needs to be told.

Being featured in the documentary "The Hunt" is the beginning of letting the Spearfish community as well as the state of South Dakota know that Dominique-as well as others- are not defined by their disability, but rather their abilities! It is our hope that when this documentary is presented in film festivals, screened, and shown, that it will serve as a tribute to the wonderful opportunities that the state of South Dakota has to offer to a person with a disability and that anything is possible as long as the family and community structure are in place.

Sincerely,

Dominique, Dom, and Kim

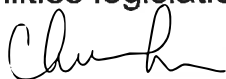
ASSURANCES

1. The applicant assures that grant funds made available under the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities will not be used to supplant state or local funds, but will be used to increase the amounts of such funds that would be made available for other similar activities.
2. The applicant assures that grant funds made available under the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities will be used to complement and augment rather than duplicate or replace services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families who are eligible for Federal assistance under other state programs.
3. The applicant assures that fund accounting, auditing, monitoring and such evaluation procedures as may be necessary to keep such records as the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities shall prescribe will be provided to assure fiscal control, proper management, and efficient disbursement of funds received through the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities.
4. A clear audit trail must be maintained for each source of funding. Receipts, expenditures and disbursements must be individually accounted for from each source of funds.
5. The applicant agrees to submit reports indicating activities undertaken, expenditures, match provided, program income and general progress of the project. Projects are required to submit a final report at the end of the grant funding period.
6. The applicant certifies that the program contained in its application meets all the requirements, that all the information is correct, that there has been appropriate coordination with affected agencies, and that the applicant will comply with all provisions of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities and all other applicable laws.
7. The applicant understands that although an effort will be made to continue the funding of projects of proven effectiveness or with a record of proven success, each project must stand on its own merit each year. No project will be guaranteed continued funding. NOTE: Projects/programs must re-apply annually for funding.
8. This agreement depends upon the continued availability of federal funds and expenditure authority from the Legislature for this purpose. This agreement will be terminated by the State if the Legislature fails to appropriate funds or

grant expenditure authority. Termination for this reason is not a default by the State nor does it give rise to a claim against the State.

9. The applicant also understands and agrees: 1) that funds received are to be expended only for the purpose and activities covered by the applicant's approved application and budget, and 2) that the grant may be terminated at any time by the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities if the applicant fails to comply with the provisions of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities, legislation or any of the certified assurances listed above and in the grant agreement.

CERTIFICATION - I certify that I have read and reviewed the above assurances and will comply with all provisions of the South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities legislation and all other applicable federal and state laws.



07.20.2023

Signature of Authorizing Official

Date

Christopher Larson, Filmmaker

Typed Name and Title

10192 Silver Maple Cir., Highlands Ranch, CO, 80129

Address

7206261759

Telephone Number



THE HUNT

Department of Development Disabilities Grant Application

ABSTRACT

OVERVIEW

The Hunt* explores the life of 28-year-old Dominique, a young female with Downs Syndromes, as she navigates being a part of a community and all that entails during the lead up to the big hunt.

DELIVERABLES

1 x 15-25 minute short documentary

CREW

Executive Producers

Christopher Larson
Kristi Larson

Director

Jordan Layton

DP & Camera

Christopher Larson

CHARACTER

Dominique is a 28-year-old female. She was born with Downs Syndrome, but this does not keep her from striving for new goals and wanting to be a part of a community. With support of her family, Dominique is an independent woman – be it hunting, working at Culver's, or singing her favorite songs. Her disability does not define her – her abilities do.

The film will follow Dominique during the lead up to the big hunt. Will she be able to shoot her first buck? The following are initial ideas of scenes that we would hope to capture to build a truly holistic view of Dominique and her life.

- Shooting range
- Swimming
- Downtown Friday
- Culver's
- Family life and story
- Social life with friends and groups
- The hunt itself





DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

When we grew up, students with disabilities were kept separate, had their own classes, and were often seen as "the others". There was a special bus, a special class, special teachers. What this led to was a belief that it was these peoples' disabilities that defined them. Instead of treating them the same as we would treat anyone else, people with disabilities are treated different.

But we believe that this stems from a lack of knowledge and experience, and it is our hope that with this film we can shed a light on the life of Dominique – someone who has passions, dreams, and wants to fit in and be a part of a community. By doing so, we hope to educate not only ourselves, but those who will watch the film.



Visual Style Ideas



TIMELINE

The principal filming would take place end of September and beginning of October 2023



GET TO KNOW YOU PERIOD

We would like to spend 3-4 days with Dominique before principal filming begins, just to get to know her and her family and get them comfortable with us before we bring cameras in.

FIVE DAY SHOOT

Principal filming would take place over 5 days. These days would be spent with Dominique – following her in an observational style. We would look to capture different aspects of her life – from her work at Culver's, to home life, to Downtown Friday, among other things, leading up to going on the hunt with Dominique. Additionally, interviews will be done with Dominique, her family, among others.



EDITING – OCT / NOV. 2023

Primary editing will be done during this period.



DELIVERY EST. DEC 2023

The documentary will be finished by November 2023.

TEAM



DP - Christopher Larson

Christopher Larson is a Director, Editor, and Producer who has completed several successful short films - such as award winning *The Fisherman's Net*, as well as other short documentaries *Social Fabric* and *The Inside*. His passion is telling human stories of society and dedication, while focusing on the daily life of his characters.



Director - Jordan Layton

As a photographer and director, Jordan has over a decade of experience in visual storytelling. Combining technical expertise with a keen eye for captivating narratives, he has exhibited works in museums such as the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. and in various galleries across the UK for the Royal Photographic Society. Born and raised in northern Alabama, he now lives in Utah with his wife, son, and golden retriever.



Executive Producer - Kris Larson

Kris received a masters degree in special education from CU Boulder. She has worked with people with disabilities for 47 years-40 years teaching special education in public schools and 7 years working as an Employment Specialist for a CSP (community support program) facility in Spearfish, SD. Her goal is to find jobs for people with developmental disabilities. She believes that it is important that people with disabilities are a part of a community, however that community may look.

SUPPORTED BY



Culver's





CONTACT
CHRIS@CHRISTOPHERLARSON.PHOTOGRAPHY