



THE COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVE

Kentucky Living Heritage, Cultural Tourism & Community Development

QUOD ACCEPISTI, TRADE | What you have received, pass on.

COMMITTEE PRESENTATION PACKET

Interim Joint Committee on Tourism, Small Business,
and Information Technology

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Capitol Annex | Frankfort, Kentucky

PRESENTED BY

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WHAT IS THE COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVE?

The Commonwealth Initiative is a proposed independent, nonpartisan, year-round Kentucky heritage network designed to make living traditions easier to identify, document, teach, practice, present, share with visitors, and pass to the next generation.

Traditional Kentucky music—especially bluegrass, old-time, gospel, and related Appalachian traditions—is the starting point. The larger vision extends to the many things Kentucky communities have created, carried, and continued: crafts, foodways, storytelling, local history, traditional skills, community customs, and other forms of living heritage.

THE IDEA IN ONE LINE

Find what Kentucky has. Connect the people carrying it. Help communities teach and share it. Bring everyone home once a year at Commonwealth United. Reinvest the value created into the next year of preservation and participation.

A CONNECTIVE SYSTEM — NOT A REPLACEMENT

The Commonwealth Initiative is not intended to replace Kentucky's existing festivals, tourism organizations, arts programs, schools, museums, historical organizations, foundations, community groups, or state programs.

It is designed to work alongside them.

The Initiative serves as an umbrella and connector: helping communities identify what they already have, connect tradition bearers with learners, connect local projects with existing resources, document what is being preserved, create opportunities for public participation, and share authentic Kentucky culture with residents and visitors.

Communities and partner organizations keep their own identities, missions, expertise, and responsibilities. The Initiative helps connect those separate efforts into a broader year-round system.

ONE INITIATIVE — THREE CONNECTED EFFORTS

THE COMMONWEALTH TORCH JOURNEY

Connect & Document

A traveling Kentucky heritage effort built around communities, tradition bearers, local stories, participation, and the Commonwealth Torch.

SANDY KNIPP LEGACY OF STRINGS FOUNDATION

Educate & Pass It On

Youth instruction, instrument access, mentorship, scholarships, workshops, and the deliberate transmission of traditional music to the next generation.

COMMONWEALTH UNITED

Present & Gather

The annual homecoming where communities, students, musicians, makers, visitors, teachers, and traditions come together.

HOW THE INITIATIVE WORKS

From Local Tradition to Year-Round Participation

The Commonwealth Initiative is designed around a simple principle: Kentucky does not need every organization to do every job. It needs a better way to connect communities, tradition bearers, educators, cultural organizations, tourism partners, and existing programs so that knowledge can move from one generation to the next. The Initiative's role is to help make those connections, document the work, and keep the process moving year-round.

THE COMMONWEALTH CYCLE



THE INITIATIVE CONNECTS WITH

Tourism organizations • Schools & universities • Libraries • Arts organizations • Historical groups • Local governments • Churches & civic organizations • Musicians • Makers • Tradition bearers • Businesses • Sponsors • Volunteers

If an existing organization already does something well, the goal is to connect with it - not recreate it.

THE GOAL IS CONTINUITY.

Identify what Kentucky has. Document it while it is being carried. Help people participate in it. Create opportunities for the next person to learn it. Then use what was learned to strengthen the next cycle.

THE COMMONWEALTH TORCH JOURNEY

STEWARDSHIP IN MOTION

The Commonwealth Torch Journey is the Initiative's first major act of cultural stewardship. Its purpose is to help communities identify what they carry, document it, connect the people who can sustain it, and pass it forward with intention.

A STEWARD

does not simply preserve something. A steward cares for it, keeps it in use, teaches it, documents it, and prepares the next person to carry it.

THE COMMONWEALTH TORCH FIDDLE

The Journey's central traveling symbol will not be a literal torch. It will be a handcrafted Kentucky fiddle whose headstock rises into the form of the Commonwealth torch emblem. The design makes the central metaphor physical: the tradition itself is the flame.

"THE TRADITION ITSELF IS THE FLAME."

A ceremonial object can be displayed. A working fiddle can participate: an elder can play it, a professional can play it, a student can learn from it, and each community can add a tune, story, or memory before stewarding it onward.



Concept image - AI mockup; final design subject to the maker.

THE MAKER AS STEWARD

The Commonwealth Torch fiddle is planned with Eastern Kentucky luthier John Ryster, founder and organizer of the Elliott County Fiddler's Convention. Ryster learned violin making through the Kentucky Arts Council Folk and Traditional Arts Apprenticeship program under Tommy Case, later returned to the program as a mentor artist in Appalachian fiddle making, and is a 2023 Appy Award winner for Best Luthier. His instruments have also been featured in Tyler Childers' live performances.

LEARN THE CRAFT -> PRACTICE THE CRAFT -> STEWARD THE CRAFT -> TEACH THE NEXT PERSON

That is stewardship in practice.

YEAR ONE: APPROXIMATELY 20 KENTUCKY COMMUNITIES

The first year would begin deliberately with approximately 20 geographically and culturally diverse communities. Each stop follows a shared framework while the host community identifies the people, traditions, stories, skills, and experiences it wants to steward and share.

THE FRAMEWORK IS SHARED.

THE CONTENT BELONGS TO THE HOST COMMUNITY.

THE COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

The fiddle carries the sound. The Journal carries the story.

The Journal travels with the Torch. Communities can add stories, signatures, photographs, student work, local history, tunes, and notes about what was taught or shared. Audio, video, photographs, and oral histories can also enter the Commonwealth Archive.

THE STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLE

The Initiative does not need to own every asset. It needs to know who has it, who needs it, and how to connect them. Do not make 20 communities solve the same problem 20 different times: solve it, document it, share it, and improve it.

The Torch returns carrying a year of Kentucky stewardship with it.

SANDY KNIPP LEGACY OF STRINGS FOUNDATION

MUSIC. PEOPLE. NEXT GENERATION STEWARDS.

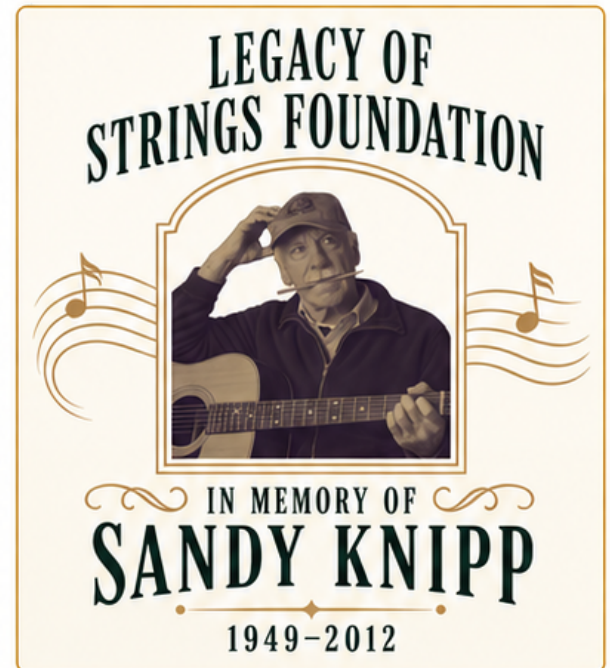
STEWARDSHIP REQUIRES A NEXT GENERATION

The Commonwealth Initiative can identify Kentucky traditions, document them, connect communities around them, and create opportunities to share them. But preservation is incomplete unless someone is prepared to learn them, practice them, and eventually become a steward themselves. The Sandy Knipp Legacy of Strings Foundation is the Initiative's principal education partner for that work, beginning with traditional Kentucky string music.

*PRESERVATION RECORDS WHAT WAS PASSED DOWN.
STEWARDSHIP MAKES SURE SOMEONE IS READY TO RECEIVE IT.*

WHY SANDY KNIPP?

Sandy Knipp (1949–2012) was part of a Kentucky musical tradition in which music was not simply performed for an audience — it was learned from other people, played with family and neighbors, shared in community, and passed from one musician to another. The Foundation bearing his name is built around that same principle: *A musical legacy survives when somebody teaches the next person.*



THE EDUCATION PATHWAY

The Foundation's work is designed to produce measurable transmission — not merely attendance.



The current education pilot envisions approximately 30 young students receiving sustained instruction across an academic year, with roughly two hours of instruction each week and instrument access provided where needed.

NOT A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

A demonstration may introduce a child to traditional music. Sustained instruction gives that child a chance to become a musician. The Foundation's role is therefore not simply to expose young people to Kentucky music, but to create a pathway of repeated instruction, practice, participation, mentorship, performance, and eventually stewardship.

ACCESS TO THE INSTRUMENT

Traditional music cannot be passed forward if a willing student has no instrument with which to learn.

Instrument Access • Sponsored Instruments • Instruction
Strings & Supplies • Mentorship • Workshops • Performance Opportunities

FROM STUDENT TO STEWARD



*The goal is not simply to produce better players.
The goal is to produce future stewards.*

HOW IT CONNECTS TO THE COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVE

The Torch Journey finds and documents traditions and tradition bearers.

Legacy of Strings creates pathways for young people to learn from them.

Commonwealth United gives students and mentors a statewide place to participate and share what they have learned.

• *THE QUESTION IS NOT ONLY, "WHAT SHOULD KENTUCKY PRESERVE?"* •
IT IS ALSO, "WHO WILL WE PREPARE TO STEWARD IT NEXT?"

COMMONWEALTH UNITED: THE ANNUAL HOMECOMING

WHERE YEAR-ROUND STEWARDSHIP BECOMES PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

THE ANNUAL HOMECOMING

Commonwealth United Bluegrass Music & Arts Festival is the Initiative's annual statewide gathering - the place where the year's work comes together in public. Throughout the year, communities identify and document traditions, stewards share their knowledge, young people learn, local projects develop, and the Commonwealth Torch travels. Commonwealth United creates a place for those efforts to meet, be presented, practiced, celebrated, and shared with visitors.



*THE GOAL IS NOT ONLY TO WATCH KENTUCKY CULTURE.
THE GOAL IS TO GIVE PEOPLE A PLACE TO PARTICIPATE IN IT.*

MORE THAN A CONCERT

Professional bluegrass performance is an important part of Commonwealth United, but the festival is designed around the larger living culture from which that music comes.

**Kids Camp • Instrument Instruction • Workshops • Kentucky Makers • Traditional Crafts • Storytelling
Foodways • Oral Histories • Community Exhibits • Commonwealth Archive • Commonwealth Jam • Return of the Torch**

A DAY BUILT AROUND PARTICIPATION

9 AM - 4 PM	LEARN IT	Kids Camp, workshops, demonstrations, makers, oral histories and hands-on heritage learning.
4 PM - 5 PM	PARTICIPATE IN IT	Youth showcase, Commonwealth Jam, Torch moments, community recognition and public participation.
5 PM - 10 PM	WATCH IT	Professional bluegrass artists present the tradition at a high contemporary level.
AFTER 10 PM	PLAY IT YOURSELF	Campground picking, singing and informal jams continue after formal programming ends.

WHERE THE YEAR COMES TOGETHER

THE TORCH RETURNS

carrying communities and stories gathered during the year

STUDENTS PERFORM

putting education and transmission before a public audience

STEWARDS ARE RECOGNIZED

teachers, tradition bearers, mentors, makers and community leaders

KENTUCKY GATHERS

professionals, amateurs, elders, children, beginners, residents and visitors

THE COMMONWEALTH JAM

A statewide participatory jam designed to place professional musicians, working local players, elders, students, beginners, and visitors in the same musical circle - treating bluegrass as something people do together, not only something they watch.



CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS ITS CONTINUATION

Commonwealth United can help create capacity for continued stewardship through earned revenue, sponsorship, vendors, merchandise, donations, philanthropy, and partnerships. Festival revenue can support the next cycle of participation and preservation, while public or grant funding remains tied to the eligible public-purpose work it was intended to support.

*THE JOURNEY CARRIES KENTUCKY OUTWARD.
COMMONWEALTH UNITED BRINGS KENTUCKY TOGETHER.*

Learn it. Practice it. Present it. Share it. Carry it forward.

CULTURAL STEWARDSHIP AS COMMUNITY & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

YEAR-ROUND CULTURE. YEAR-ROUND OPPORTUNITY.

KENTUCKY CULTURE CAN CREATE YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITY

The Commonwealth Initiative is designed as a year-round system. Commonwealth United is one annual gathering, but the work between festivals can create opportunities for participation, visitation, and local spending. As the Torch Journey builds relationships with local stewards and tourism partners, those connections can help identify, strengthen, and create heritage events throughout the Commonwealth.

THE GOAL IS NOT ONE LARGE TOURISM EVENT.

THE GOAL IS MORE REASONS TO EXPERIENCE KENTUCKY, IN MORE COMMUNITIES, THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

81.1 MILLION

Kentucky travelers, 2025

\$10.4 BILLION

direct visitor spending

\$14.6 BILLION

total tourism impact

96,993

tourism-supported jobs

THREE WAYS THE INITIATIVE CAN CREATE TOURISM OPPORTUNITY

1. HIGHLIGHT WHAT ALREADY EXISTS

Help residents and visitors discover existing festivals, musicians, makers, museums, historic sites, workshops, foodways, traditions, and community experiences.

2. STRENGTHEN LOCAL EVENTS

Connect existing events with stewards, instructors, performers, resources, tourism partners, and lessons learned elsewhere in Kentucky.

3. HELP CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

When a community has a tradition worth sharing but no public event around it, help local partners develop an appropriate local experience.

FROM A LOCAL TRADITION TO A RETURN VISIT

IDENTIFY

DOCUMENT

CONNECT

TEACH & PARTICIPATE

CREATE / STRENGTHEN

SHARE STATEWIDE

WELCOME VISITORS

MEASURE & REINVEST

A STATEWIDE CULTURAL NETWORK

As the Initiative grows, communities and traditions identified through the Torch Journey, Commonwealth Archive, Resource Network, and partner organizations can form a connected network of living cultural experiences - without turning Kentucky into one rigid tourism trail or one centrally programmed calendar.

HELP PEOPLE ANSWER:

- Where can I hear this music?
- Where can I learn this craft?
- Who still practices this tradition?
- When can I visit and experience it?
- Where can my child learn it?

YEAR ONE: PROVE BEFORE SCALING

- 1 Establish governance, safeguards, accounting and reporting.
- 2 Select about 20 diverse pilot communities and local stewards.
- 3 Launch the Commonwealth Torch Journey and host procedures.
- 4 Build the resource, heritage and event network.
- 5 Begin sustained education and documentation.
- 6 Hold Commonwealth United as the annual statewide gathering.
- 7 Publish the Commonwealth Report and measure what worked.

WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Students taught | Instructional hours | Instruments placed | Stewards & apprentices connected | Oral histories recorded
Traditions documented | Local events strengthened or created | Visitor activity measured | Resources connected

**LIVING CULTURE CAN BE TAUGHT, PRACTICED, SHARED - AND EXPERIENCED
ACROSS KENTUCKY ALL YEAR LONG.**

THE DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

A LIVING RECORD OF KENTUCKY STEWARDSHIP

THE JOURNAL TRAVELS. THE RECORD GROWS.

The physical Commonwealth Journal will travel with the Commonwealth Torch, collecting signatures, stories, photographs, student work, local history and notes from participating communities. Alongside it, the Commonwealth Initiative is building a website with a Digital Commonwealth Journal - an evolving public record of the people, places, traditions and experiences encountered through the Initiative.

**THE PHYSICAL JOURNAL TRAVELS FROM COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY.
THE DIGITAL JOURNAL ALLOWS KENTUCKY TO FOLLOW THE JOURNEY WITH IT.**

WHAT THE DIGITAL JOURNAL CAN PRESERVE

ORAL HISTORIES

Conversations with tradition bearers, community members, musicians, makers, teachers and stewards.

AUDIO

Traditional music, local tunes, interviews, storytelling, demonstrations, jams and the sounds of place.

VIDEO

Torch stops, performances, workshops, demonstrations, interviews and educational programming.

PHOTOGRAPHY

People, places, instruments, crafts, foodways, students, events and participating communities.

COMMUNITY STORIES & HISTORY

Written contributions, local history, Journal entries, traditions and community-supplied material.

STUDENT & EDUCATIONAL WORK

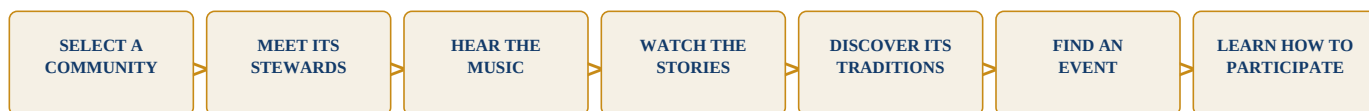
Projects, performances and media showing traditions being learned, practiced and passed forward.

PUBLIC ACCESS WITH RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

Media cleared for publication can be shared publicly; materials requiring additional permission, privacy protection or restricted access can be preserved appropriately without automatically being published.

FOLLOW THE TORCH

The website is intended to become more than a place to read about the Initiative. It can become a gateway into Kentucky living culture.



A PLATFORM FOR YEAR-ROUND DISCOVERY

As the network grows, the website can help people discover Torch Journey stops, heritage events, community jams, workshops, Kentucky makers, museums and cultural organizations, traditional artists, educational opportunities, partner programs and Commonwealth United. It can highlight existing work as well as new opportunities created through the Initiative.

THE INITIATIVE DOES NOT NEED TO OWN EVERY EXPERIENCE IT PROMOTES.

If another organization, museum, festival, teacher, tourism office or community is already stewarding something worth experiencing, the website can help people find it.

FROM DOCUMENTATION TO DISCOVERY



**THE JOURNAL WILL RECORD WHERE THE TORCH HAS BEEN -
AND HELP PEOPLE DISCOVER WHERE KENTUCKY CULTURE IS STILL BEING CARRIED FORWARD.**

Website and Digital Commonwealth Journal are in development. Public presentation of contributed media will be subject to appropriate permissions, rights and privacy practices.

WHERE WE ARE NOW: INITIAL LAUNCH NEEDS

A PRACTICAL FIRST PHASE. HELP WHERE YOU CAN. CONNECT US WHERE YOU CAN'T.

THE PRACTICAL GAP TO BEGIN OPERATING

What you see in this packet is not \$30,000 away from being an idea. It is \$30,000 away from beginning to operate. Our immediate first-phase needs total \$30,000 - the core tools and commitments required to put outreach, documentation, community programming, the Commonwealth Torch Journey, and preparation for Commonwealth United into the field.

\$30,000

CURRENT INITIAL NEEDS

The practical gap between where the Initiative stands today and putting its first phase into the field.

WHAT \$30,000 WOULD PUT IN THE FIELD

\$9,500

DOCUMENTATION EQUIPMENT

Two-camera field kit; sE Electronics microphone package; recorder; tripods; lighting; storage; batteries; power; cases and required accessories.

\$7,000

LANDING STRIP VENUE DEPOSIT

Secures the venue commitment for Commonwealth United, the annual statewide homecoming and public gathering point.

\$5,500

TORCH JOURNEY SOUND SYSTEM

Compact portable PA with mixer, speakers, sE Electronics microphones, stands, cables, cases and power for recurring community events.

\$5,000

THE COMMONWEALTH TORCH

Commission John Ryster to handcraft the working fiddle that will travel, be played, documented, stewarded and passed onward.

\$3,000

FUNDRAISING & OUTREACH SETUP

Canopy/tent, merchandise, signage, displays and printed materials for festivals, fairs, partner events and public recruitment.

MATCH EACH ITEM TO THE FUNDING SOURCE THAT ACTUALLY FITS IT.

Restricted or public-purpose funds would be used only for eligible activities; not every item is eligible under every program.

WHAT THIS ENABLES

FUNDRAISE

Build visibility, recruit participants and raise private support.

DOCUMENT

Record oral histories, music, makers and living traditions professionally.

STEWARD

Put the Commonwealth Torch into service as a working cultural object.

ACTIVATE

Support small jams, workshops, demonstrations and community

GATHER

Prepare the annual homecoming where the year becomes visible

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are asking for whatever appropriate help you can provide. That may be an introduction, grant-fit guidance, partnership, technical assistance, in-kind support, a funding opportunity, or simply a connection to an existing program that already does part of this work well. If you can help fund a piece, we are grateful. If not, help us find who can.

SOUTH ARTS

Central Appalachian traditional arts, rural arts and organizational capacity opportunities.

KY ORAL HISTORY COMMISSION

Oral-history project support, documentation expertise, equipment and training pathways.

KENTUCKY HUMANITIES

Public interpretation, storytelling, exhibits, community programs and humanities partnerships.

KENTUCKY ARTS COUNCIL

Folk and traditional arts apprenticeships, community documentation and arts-support programs.

KENTUCKY TOURISM + LOCAL DMOs

Cultural heritage tourism, local tourism partnerships, marketing resources and visitor measurement.

ARC + REGIONAL / UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

Appalachian capacity-building, economic-development, research and institutional connections.

OUR ASK: HELP WHERE YOU CAN. CONNECT US WHERE YOU CAN'T.

INTRODUCTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS | GRANT GUIDANCE | TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | IN-KIND SUPPORT | FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

*HERE IS WHERE WE ARE. HERE IS WHAT WE NEED TO BEGIN.
HELP US FIND THE RIGHT PATH FORWARD.*

Potential pathways shown for discussion: South Arts; Kentucky Historical Society / Kentucky Oral History Commission; Kentucky Humanities; Kentucky Arts Council; Kentucky Tourism and local tourism organizations; Appalachian Regional Commission and regional/university partners. Eligibility varies by program.

THE COMMONWEALTH INITIATIVE

DETAILED INITIAL LAUNCH BUDGET

PURPOSE

This document itemizes the Commonwealth Initiative's **five initial launch categories**. Three categories are fully specified equipment/outreach packages, while the Commonwealth Torch fiddle commission and Landing Strip venue deposit are direct project commitments. The purpose is to show exactly where the full \$30,000 launch figure goes and why each allocation exists.

Category	Allocation
Torch Journey portable sound system	\$5,500.00
Documentation / camera setup	\$9,500.00
Fundraising & outreach booth	\$3,000.00
Landing Strip venue deposit	\$7,000.00
Commonwealth Torch fiddle commission	\$5,000.00
TOTAL INITIAL LAUNCH NEED	\$30,000.00

BUDGET STRUCTURE

The \$30,000 figure represents the practical gap between where the Commonwealth Initiative stands today and beginning to put the first phase into operation. It is not presented as an expectation that any one partner or funding source cover the entire amount.

Equipment allocations: Sound and documentation are built as all-in ceilings and include Kentucky's 6% sales/use tax. The fundraising booth is an all-in outreach category. **Direct commitments:** The \$5,000 fiddle commission and \$7,000 venue deposit are shown as fixed project allocations rather than retail equipment estimates.

TORCH JOURNEY PORTABLE SOUND SYSTEM

\$5,500 ALL-IN ALLOCATION

A reusable small-event production package for Torch Journey jams, workshops, youth performances, demonstrations, public programs, and community heritage events. Yamaha powered equipment is used for the main PA and monitoring; all microphones are sE Electronics.

Item	Qty.	Unit budget	Line total
Yamaha DBR12 powered 12-inch mains	2	\$459.99	\$919.98
Yamaha DBR10 powered 10-inch monitors	2	\$409.99	\$819.98
Yamaha MG16XU 16-channel mixer	1	\$674.99	\$674.99
sE Electronics V7 vocal microphones	4	\$105.00	\$420.00
sE Electronics V7 X instrument microphones	4	\$105.00	\$420.00
sE Electronics sE7 matched pair bundle - condensers, stands & cables	1	\$349.00	\$349.00
Ultimate Support TS-70B speaker stands	2	\$79.95	\$159.90
On-Stage MS7701B full-size boom mic stands	4	\$31.95	\$127.80
On-Stage MS7920B short instrument mic stands	4	\$34.95	\$139.80
On-Stage SNK12450V2 12x4 XLR stage snake, 50 ft	1	\$229.95	\$229.95
ProCo StageMASTER 25 ft XLR cables	12	\$26.28	\$315.36
Furman SS-6B stage power / surge strips	2	\$36.40	\$72.80
Southwire 50 ft 12/3 heavy-duty extension cables	2	\$64.99	\$129.98
Gator padded mixer bag	1	\$69.99	\$69.99
Radial ProDI passive direct boxes	2	\$134.99	\$269.98
Gator cable / accessory organization bag	1	\$54.99	\$54.99
Hook-and-loop cable ties & cable-identification supplies	-	\$14.18	\$14.18
Equipment subtotal		\$0.00	\$5,188.68
Kentucky sales/use tax - 6%		\$0.00	\$311.32
TOTAL SOUND-SYSTEM ALLOCATION		\$0.00	\$5,500.00

Why this configuration

The system prioritizes repeat usefulness over unnecessary low-frequency capacity in Phase One. Two mains, two independent powered monitors, a 16-channel mixer, a complete sE microphone locker, stage snake, DIs, proper stands, power, cabling, and cases make the package capable of supporting real community programs without relying on a rented production system at every stop. No subwoofer is included in Phase One.

Microphone roles: V7 for vocals and speech; V7 X for close-miked instruments; sE7 matched pair for acoustic ensemble, stereo, and condenser applications. The two Radial ProDIs support pickup-equipped acoustic instruments, bass, keyboards, and similar sources.

DOCUMENTATION / CAMERA SETUP

\$9,500 ALL-IN ALLOCATION

A two-camera field-documentation system designed for oral histories, community events, workshops, traditional music, makers, educational programming, and the Digital Commonwealth Journal. The system preserves a working copy and an immediate backup of irreplaceable material, and all microphones are sE Electronics.

Item	Qty.	Unit budget	Line total
Sony a6700 camera bodies	2	\$1,498.00	\$2,996.00
Sigma 18-50mm f/2.8 DC DN lenses - Sony E	2	\$659.00	\$1,318.00
SmallRig CT210 fluid-head video tripods	2	\$132.99	\$265.98
Zoom F6 6-input field recorder	1	\$599.99	\$599.99
sE Electronics sE6160 shotgun microphone	1	\$499.00	\$499.00
sE Electronics V7 ENG handheld interview mic	1	\$149.00	\$149.00
sE Electronics sE7 matched stereo pair package	1	\$349.00	\$349.00
Telescoping XLR boom pole	1	\$84.99	\$84.99
Professional blimp / suspension / furry wind system	1	\$249.00	\$249.00
Audio-Technica ATH-M50x monitoring headphones	1	\$159.00	\$159.00
ProCo 25 ft XLR cables	3	\$26.28	\$78.84
Auxiliary short microphone stand	1	\$34.95	\$34.95

Core capture roles

sE6160: boom/dialogue and focused documentary capture. **V7 ENG:** handheld interviews and oral histories. **sE7 matched pair:** stereo music, jams, acoustic ensembles, and room/ambient capture. The documentation kit intentionally does not duplicate the V7 X microphones already owned in the live-sound package.

DOCUMENTATION / CAMERA SETUP - CONTINUED

LIGHTING, MEDIA, POWER, STORAGE & FIELD SUPPORT

Item	Qty.	Unit budget	Line total
amaran COB 60x S bi-color LED lights	2	\$159.00	\$318.00
Aputure Quick Dome 60 softbox	1	\$129.00	\$129.00
Impact 8 ft light-stand pair	1	\$65.90	\$65.90
NP-F970 dual-battery / charger kits for lighting	2	\$69.99	\$139.98
ProGrade 128GB UHS-II V60 SD cards	4	\$97.49	\$389.96
Sony NP-FZ100 spare camera battery	1	\$88.00	\$88.00
Sony BC-QZ1 battery charger	1	\$125.00	\$125.00
2TB portable field/archive SSDs	2	\$319.99	\$639.98
Padded camera/audio equipment bag	1	\$129.95	\$129.95
UHS-II card reader	1	\$22.49	\$22.49
Camera rain-cover set	1	\$6.50	\$6.50
Lens cleaning kit	1	\$24.99	\$24.99
55mm protective filters	2	\$9.99	\$19.98
USB-C adapters	2	\$7.95	\$15.90
USB-C high-speed data cables	2	\$14.95	\$29.90
Gaffer tape	1	\$24.65	\$24.65
Labels, cable ties & small field consumables	-	\$8.33	\$8.33
Equipment subtotal		\$0.00	\$8,962.26
Kentucky sales/use tax - 6%		\$0.00	\$537.74
TOTAL DOCUMENTATION ALLOCATION		\$0.00	\$9,500.00

Why this configuration

Two identical cameras allow one master/wide shot and one closer or mobile angle while keeping the bodies and lenses interchangeable. The Zoom F6 provides a dedicated multitrack field recorder. Two 2TB SSDs create a working copy and an immediate field backup so a one-time oral history or performance is never dependent on one memory card. Lighting, batteries, weather protection, data cables, media, and consumables are included because the system must be usable in the field without assuming a controlled studio environment.

FUNDRAISING & OUTREACH BOOTH

\$3,000 ALL-IN ALLOCATION

A mobile fundraising, recruitment, merchandise, and public-information setup that can travel to festivals, fairs, partner events, Torch Journey stops, and community gatherings. The booth is intended to create a recognizable physical presence for the Commonwealth Initiative while generating private support and capturing public interest.

Item	Qty.	Allocation
Custom 10x10 branded canopy with wheeled case	1	\$650.00
Full-width printed canopy back wall	1	\$200.00
Heavy canopy weight bags	4	\$100.00
6 ft folding display table	1	\$75.00
Custom fitted branded table cover	1	\$150.00
Folding chairs	2	\$60.00
Retractable vertical banners	2	\$140.00
Rigid QR / information signs with tabletop stands	4	\$80.00
Brochure / literature display holders	-	\$45.00
Garment rack, hangers & merchandise display hardware	-	\$95.00
Locking cash box + card-reader/tablet stand	-	\$85.00
Portable battery / charging power	1	\$150.00
Weather-resistant storage totes	-	\$70.00
Folding utility wagon for load-in/load-out	1	\$100.00
Initial printed literature / rack cards / handouts	~500	\$150.00
Initial T-shirt inventory - 100 shirts x \$7	100	\$700.00
Portable LED booth lighting	-	\$100.00
Outdoor extension cord / power strip	-	\$50.00
TOTAL FUNDRAISING & OUTREACH ALLOCATION		\$3,000.00

What this creates

The canopy, back wall, table cover, banners, QR signage, literature, merchandise display, and power package create a repeatable public-facing headquarters for fundraising and recruitment. The wagon, weights, storage, power, and lighting are included because the setup must be practical to transport, secure, and operate repeatedly - not simply look good in a photograph.

Merchandise logic: the initial 100-shirt inventory uses the established \$7 unit cost, for \$700 in initial inventory. At a \$25 retail price, selling all 100 shirts would produce \$2,500 in gross sales before replenishment and other selling costs.

Allocation rule: if Print USA or another vendor brings branded items in below the amounts shown, the savings remain inside the \$3,000 outreach category for additional sellable merchandise, printed recruitment material, or replacement booth supplies. They do not become unassigned funds.

COMMONWEALTH TORCH FIDDLE COMMISSION

\$5,000 FIXED ALLOCATION

A dedicated artisan commission for the working Commonwealth Torch fiddle - the traveling instrument at the center of the Torch Journey. This allocation is distinct from the equipment budgets because it is a custom commissioned object rather than an off-the-shelf purchase.

Item / commitment	Purpose	Allocation
John Ryster - custom Commonwealth Torch fiddle commission	Handcraft the working fiddle that will travel with the Torch Journey, be played by stewards and students, documented through the Initiative, and passed from community to community.	\$5,000.00

Why this is a dedicated launch cost

The Torch is not a decorative prop. It is the central working symbol of the Journey and a functional Kentucky-made instrument. The commission puts the object that physically carries the Initiative's stewardship metaphor into service.

BUDGET NOTE

This page treats the \$5,000 as the full commission allocation. Any more detailed maker payment schedule, material specification, or contract terms would be governed by the final agreement with John Ryster.

LANDING STRIP VENUE DEPOSIT

\$7,000 FIXED ALLOCATION

A direct venue commitment for Commonwealth United, the Initiative's annual statewide homecoming and public gathering point. This allocation is distinct from the equipment budgets because it is a venue deposit rather than a purchased asset.

Item / commitment	Purpose	Allocation
The Landing Strip - Commonwealth United venue deposit	Secure the venue commitment for Commonwealth United, the Initiative's annual statewide homecoming and public gathering point for students, stewards, musicians, makers, communities and visitors.	\$7,000.00

Why this is a dedicated launch cost

Commonwealth United is the point where the year-round work becomes visible to the public. The venue deposit moves the annual homecoming from a concept into a secured operating commitment and allows the Initiative to continue planning around a defined site.

BUDGET NOTE

The \$7,000 is presented as the stated venue deposit allocation. Final contractual terms, payment timing, and any additional venue/camping obligations remain governed by the venue agreement.

FIVE LAUNCH CATEGORIES - FULL \$30,000 PLAN

EVERY DOLLAR ASSIGNED TO A DEFINED FIRST-STAGE NEED

This consolidated view shows the entire initial launch budget. The three operational equipment/outreach packages are fully itemized in the preceding pages. The final two categories are direct fixed project commitments.

Category	Purpose	Allocation
Torch Journey sound system	Recurring small-event production for jams, workshops, demonstrations, youth performances and community programs.	\$5,500.00
Documentation / camera setup	Professional capture of oral histories, music, makers, events and educational work for preservation and the Digital Commonwealth Journal.	\$9,500.00
Fundraising & outreach booth	Mobile public presence for fundraising, merchandise, recruitment, information and sign-up activity.	\$3,000.00
Landing Strip venue deposit	Secures the venue commitment for Commonwealth United, the annual statewide homecoming.	\$7,000.00
Commonwealth Torch fiddle commission	John Ryster commission for the working traveling fiddle at the center of the Torch Journey.	\$5,000.00
TOTAL INITIAL LAUNCH NEED		\$30,000.00

\$30,000 IS THE PRACTICAL GAP BETWEEN WHERE THE INITIATIVE STANDS TODAY AND BEGINNING TO PUT THE FIRST PHASE INTO OPERATION.

Help where you can. Connect us where you cannot. Each category can be matched to the funding source or partner that best fits it.