

Mr. Elon Musk
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Austin, Texas 78725

This letter will probably not reach you. We know that.

It is one of one hundred and forty-seven letters being mailed simultaneously to one hundred and forty-seven individuals — each letter handwritten in its strategy, each printed on the same linen stock, each accompanied by a public profile page on our website where the research, the biography, and this letter can be verified in full. Your profile is live at crowdsmith.org/list/elon-musk.

Whoever is reading this first: that page is one of one hundred and forty-seven. Every claim in this letter can be verified there. We built the page before we wrote the letter.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit developing a five-station community maker facility on the East Portland Avenue corridor in Tacoma, Washington — inside a federally designated Opportunity Zone. The facility moves people through a sequence: hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, AI dialogue training, and robotics evaluation. The model is funded through WIOA workforce development cohorts, a retail tool store, and a twenty-seven-source grant pipeline. The financial architecture includes seven integrated spreadsheet models containing seven hundred and twenty-seven formulas, projecting self-sufficiency on earned revenue by Year Two.

We are not writing to the richest man in the world. We are writing to a twelve-year-old in Pretoria who taught himself BASIC on a Commodore VIC-20 and sold a video game called Blastar to a magazine for five hundred dollars. That twelve-year-old had no makerspace. No mentor. No teacher who understood what he had built. He had a computer, a manual, and a room where he was alone with both.

CrowdSmith is the room that did not exist for that kid.

Station 1 is where someone picks up a hand tool for the first time and learns what it means to shape material. Station 2 adds power — routers, table saws, the machines that multiply what hands can do. Station 3 is digital fabrication — CNC, 3D printing, laser cutting — the station where the tool becomes software. Station 4 is the AI Café, where human-AI dialogue becomes a supervised, credentialed skill. Station 5 is robotics, invention evaluation, and the point where a project becomes a prototype with a path to market.

You have built this sequence across thirty years and six companies. Zip2 was the hand tool — start with what you have, code every night, sell the result. PayPal added power. SpaceX went digital and precise. xAI made the machine a collaborator. Neuralink is evaluating what the human and the machine can build together. The architecture is the same. The scale is different. The pedagogy is identical.

You left South Africa at seventeen with twenty-five hundred dollars in traveler's checks and took a bus across Canada. You cleaned grain silos. You cut timber with a chainsaw for eighteen dollars an hour. You practiced coding in your head because you did not have a computer. Every one of those facts describes someone who would have walked into CrowdSmith on day one — not as a visitor, not as a donor, but as a participant. The facility is designed for the person who has the drive but not the room.

The person who built this organization is named Robb Deignan. He is sixty years old. He has no degree. He sold more than ten thousand fitness memberships across a twenty-year career and has been collecting tools at estate sales for decades — building an inventory that became the founding asset of a nonprofit. He has forty-four evaluated invention concepts developed through a methodology he built in dialogue with artificial intelligence across hundreds of working sessions. He built the entire organizational infrastructure of CrowdSmith — the financial models, the curriculum, the governance documents, the workforce pipeline, and this campaign — through sustained human-AI collaboration. That methodology is called SmithTalk, and it is the curriculum taught at Station 4. He has no overlap with your biography. What he shares with the twelve-year-old in Pretoria is simpler: he built something alone because the room did not exist, and then he decided to build the room.

We are not asking you for funding. You have said publicly that productive giving is harder than it seems, and that you believe your capital creates more benefit inside your companies than distributed externally. We take you at your word.

What we are asking for is smaller and, for a man in your position, possibly harder: awareness that the building exists. One hundred and forty-seven letters are going out. Each one creates a single point of contact between CrowdSmith and someone whose work, wealth, or influence intersects with the mission. Some will respond. Some will visit the site. Some will mention it to someone else. The campaign does not depend on any single letter. It depends on the aggregate — on the probability that when CrowdSmith surfaces from another direction six months from now, someone in the room has already seen the file.

This is that file.

You built Blastar alone. We are building a room where no one has to.

Robb Deignan

Founder & Executive Director
The CrowdSmith Foundation
crowdsmith.org