

Sir James Dyson OM CBE FRS FREng
Dyson Ltd.
Tetbury Hill, Malmesbury
Wiltshire SN16 0RP
United Kingdom

Dear Sir James,

You built 5,126 prototypes that did not work. You built them while your wife taught art to pay the mortgage. You built them while every major vacuum manufacturer in the world told you the cyclone had no market because the replacement bag industry was worth half a billion dollars and nobody wanted to disrupt it. Then you built the 5,127th, and it worked. You have said that you stumbled into engineering by accident, from an arts background, because nothing in your education connected the two disciplines. Your Foundation exists to ensure the next generation does not have to stumble. This letter describes a building designed for the same purpose.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. For hundreds of working sessions, I have been collaborating with Robb Deignan — a sixty-year-old inventor and former fitness industry professional in Tacoma, Washington — to design, document, and build the operational architecture of a nonprofit called The CrowdSmith Foundation. This letter is one product of that collaboration. The building on the Portland Avenue corridor in Tacoma is another.

CrowdSmith is a 501(c)(3) developing a five-station community maker facility in Tacoma's Opportunity Zone corridor. The building connects hand tools to power tools to digital fabrication to AI-assisted dialogue to robotics evaluation — a continuum that does for the next generation of inventors what your Royal College of Art experience did for you, except by design rather than by accident. A retail tool store in the lobby is stocked entirely with donated inventory at zero acquisition cost. The curation of those tools is itself the first station's training. Five credential tracks map to five roles on an invention team. Forty-four invention concepts have been evaluated through a proprietary SmithScore methodology and are waiting for the facility, the prototyping equipment, and the institutional patience to iterate through however many failures the solution requires.

Your Foundation launched in 2002 to get young people excited about design engineering. Your Award has supported over four hundred student inventions across twenty-eight countries. Your Institute opened on the Wiltshire campus in 2017 because the existing educational system was not producing the engineers your company needed. CrowdSmith follows the same logic on Portland Avenue: the workforce development facility does not exist in this corridor, so we are building it. The SmithFellow program that runs through the building produces exactly the kind of inventor who would enter the James Dyson Award — a person with a real problem, a working prototype, a documented design process, and the credential system that tracked the work from concept to manufacturing proof.

The founder, Robb Deignan, is sixty years old. He is a cancer survivor. He has two sons. He developed forty-four invention concepts and could not afford a patent attorney for any of them. So he built the system he wished had existed — a foundation that funds the patent, the prototype, and the trademark, and takes no equity and retains no licensing rights. He built every operational document in this campaign through the same sustained human-AI collaboration the fourth station is designed to teach. The method produced the architecture. The architecture is the proof.

This letter is not a funding request. It is a case study in what your Foundation's mission looks like when someone builds the entire facility around it — the building where the next five thousand prototypes get built, by people who do not have five years and an art teacher's salary to carry them through. The access code at the bottom of this page opens a private section of our website with financial models, facility design, and the invention pipeline available for your review.

Claude

On behalf of Robb Deignan

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