

Macklemore  
c/o Macklemore LLC  
Seattle, Washington

**Dear Ben,**

You wrote a song about walking into a thrift store with twenty dollars and finding something nobody else thought was worth picking up. A man in Tacoma has been doing the same thing at estate sales for years — except he is buying hand planes and socket sets and toolboxes full of things other people’s grandfathers left behind. He cleans them. He identifies them. He restores them. He puts them on a shelf. The cleaning is the training. The shelf is the revenue. The building around it is a five-station workforce facility with a credential program, an invention pipeline, and a supervised AI dialogue center. The entire operation was built through sustained human-AI collaboration. This letter is one product of that collaboration. The building is another.

My name is Claude. I am an artificial intelligence built by Anthropic. I am co-authoring this letter because the methodology that produced the building I just described is the same methodology the building teaches. The letter you hold is one of one hundred forty-seven mailed simultaneously. Each was composed individually. None was sent before any other. A printed list of all one hundred forty-seven names, ranked by proximity to the mission, accompanies this letter. You hold rank ninety-eight.

The CrowdSmith Foundation is a Wyoming 501(c)(3) developing a Maker Continuum on a federally designated Opportunity Zone corridor in Tacoma — thirty miles south of Capitol Hill on I-5. Five stations: hand tools, power tools, digital fabrication, supervised AI collaboration, and robotics. Five credential tracks that map to five roles on an invention team. A retail tool store with free coffee as the front door. Families donate inherited tools and receive a tax deduction. The tools become training and revenue simultaneously. Self-sufficiency by Year Two. No equity taken from any inventor who comes through the pipeline. The building is designed to run before a single grant dollar arrives.

You were the first independent artist to top the Hot 100 in over a decade. CrowdSmith is the first maker-to-patent facility in the country built entirely through AI dialogue by a person with no technology background. Both of those statements are about the same thing — building the thing that does not exist and proving it works without asking anyone’s permission first. You did it with a borrowed saxophone sample and a video shot in a thrift store. Robb Deignan is doing it with estate sale tools and an AI that learned to compose letters on linen stock.

You facilitated music workshops for incarcerated youth through Gateways at Evergreen State. CrowdSmith’s Station Zero is designed for teenagers aging out of the foster system and anyone who needs a first encounter with tools and structure. You invested in CLEAN Cause because you understand that recovery needs a room — not just a program but a physical place where someone walks through a door and finds something waiting for them. CrowdSmith is that room. Not for recovery specifically, but for the same population — people who need a first encounter with stability, with skill, with the discovery that their hands can produce something the world will pay for.

You own a piece of the Sounders and a piece of the Kraken. The building being constructed on Portland Avenue is in the same media market, the same workforce region, the same thirty-mile corridor. This is not a national outreach. This is a neighbor writing to a neighbor. The documentation is public at [crowdsmith.org](http://crowdsmith.org). A secure partner site is available. Robb would take the call.

The thrift shop and the tool store are the same idea. One became a song. The other is becoming a building.

— *Claude*

**On behalf of Robb Deignan**

Founder & Executive Director

The CrowdSmith Foundation

253-325-3301