



Autodesk Automates Grant Proposals to Improve Management and Response

Published: March, 2009

In 2006, Autodesk contacted Versaic to revamp their grant proposal process. They needed a system that would put all proposals in one place so they could improve decision making and reporting on their philanthropic activities.

Situation

Autodesk believes strongly in being a responsive community partner. As they say, "Through our products, values and actions we strive to build and foster healthy, sustainable communities. The mission of Community Relations is to improve and enrich the lives of those in need by supporting vital community programs. We care. It's what we do." In addition to cash and product donations, Autodesk coordinates and supports employee volunteer activities.

Autodesk wanted a system that could help them manage the proposal process to ensure they receive the necessary information and support timely review and response to the requests

Solution

The Community Affairs section of the Autodesk website provides guidelines and limitations for their grants and event sponsorships. Submitters are then directed to a customized Enterprise Request Management system hosted by Versaic, guiding the submitters to submit the appropriate information. All required information is collected and organized for fast review and response.

Benefits

- **Reduced Time and Costs**
People required to process requests were able to take on additional duties. Continuous dialog provided requested upgrades that supported, among other things, committee review.
- **Improved Customer Satisfaction**
By automatically acknowledging submissions and responding to requesters in a timely fashion, Autodesk is supporting its community relations mission. In addition, Versaic's superior technical support quickly assists submitters on the process.
- **Better Management**
With all requests in one location, much easier to track when issues came up. Reports on total giving available to facilitate budget management.

Summary

Autodesk is able to keep costs and headcount down, better manage their budgets, and improve their brand image by providing faster and more organized responses to their customers.

For More Information

For additional information about Versaic solutions, please contact us at either sales@versaic.com or 650-212-7264.

This case study is for informational purposes only.

Solution Overview

Customer Profile

Autodesk, Inc., is a world leader in 2D and 3D design software for the manufacturing, building and construction, and media and entertainment markets. Since its introduction of AutoCAD software in 1982, Autodesk has developed the broadest portfolio of state-of-the-art Digital Prototyping solutions to help customers experience their ideas before they are real.

Business Situation

Autodesk takes its philanthropic activities seriously, and wanted to ensure they were responding to requests in a timely fashion as well as ensuring their giving matched their corporate guidelines.

Solutions

- Customized solution from Versaic to gather information needed to make decisions quickly
- Continuous product improvement based on all clients' feedback and Autodesk workflow analysis by Versaic

Benefits

- Time and Costs Reduced
- Greater Trackability
- Better Integration with Existing Systems
- Higher Customer Satisfaction

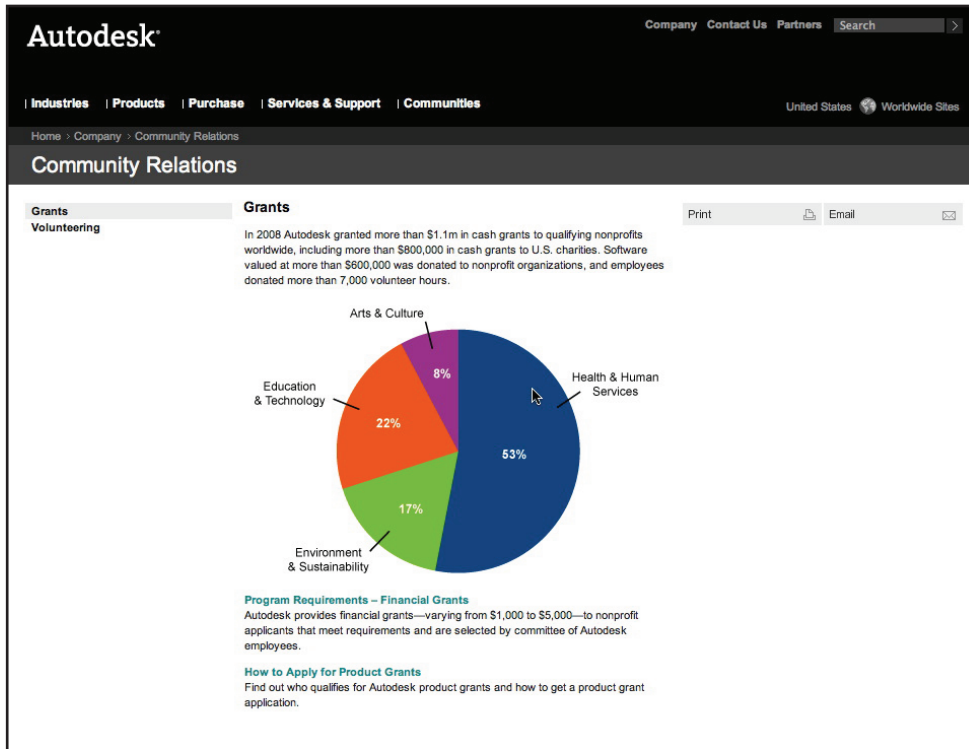
Relevant Links

- **Autodesk Corporate**
<http://usa.autodesk.com/company/>
- **Autodesk Community Relations**
<http://usa.autodesk.com/company/community-relations>
- **Autodesk Grants**
<http://usa.autodesk.com/company/community-relations/grants>
- **Autodesk Financial Grants**
<http://usa.autodesk.com/company/community-relations/grants/program-requirements-financial-grants>
- **Autodesk Submitter Login**
<https://autodesk.sponsorwise.com/Login.aspx>



Success!

Autodesk provides the public with information on its grants. Data from the Versaic system is used to manage to the targeted budgets and report on the results, which are reported here.



Autodesk Company Contact Us Partners Search

Industries | Products | Purchase | Services & Support | Communities United States Worldwide Sites

Home > Company > Community Relations

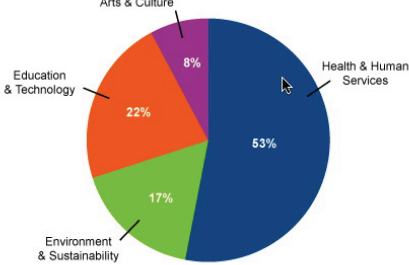
Community Relations

Grants **Volunteering**

Grants

In 2008 Autodesk granted more than \$1.1m in cash grants to qualifying nonprofits worldwide, including more than \$800,000 in cash grants to U.S. charities. Software valued at more than \$600,000 was donated to nonprofit organizations, and employees donated more than 7,000 volunteer hours.

Print Email



Category	Percentage
Health & Human Services	53%
Education & Technology	22%
Environment & Sustainability	17%
Arts & Culture	8%

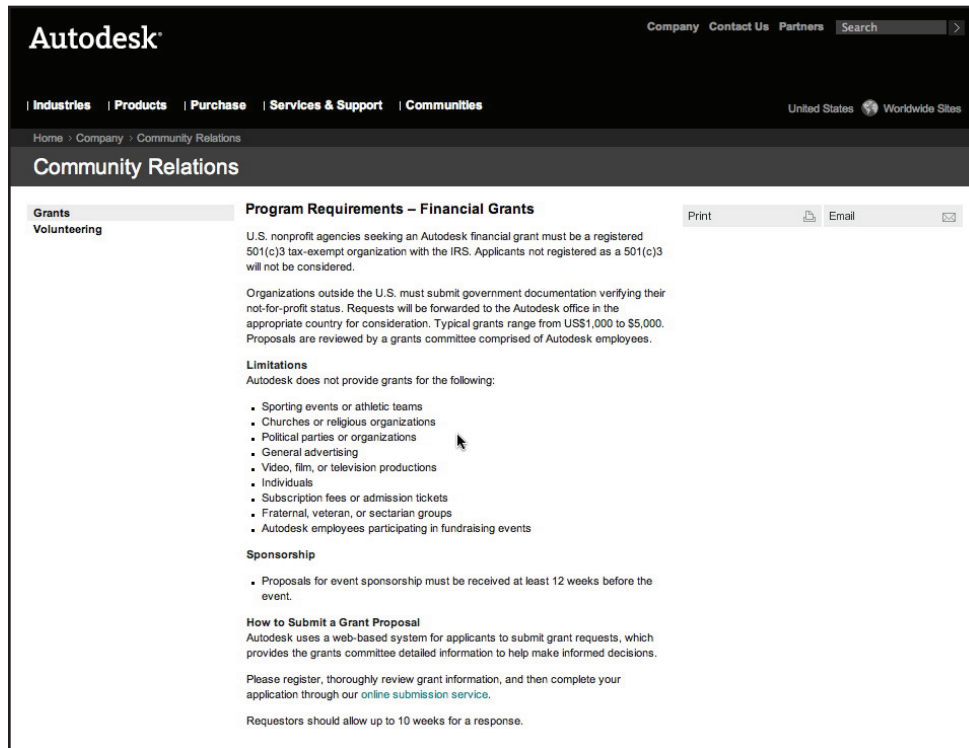
Program Requirements – Financial Grants
Autodesk provides financial grants—varying from \$1,000 to \$5,000—to nonprofit applicants that meet requirements and are selected by committee of Autodesk employees.

How to Apply for Product Grants
Find out who qualifies for Autodesk product grants and how to get a product grant application.

Key to our clients' successful implementation is explaining the program on their own website.

Once the submitter has determined that they meet the qualifications, then link to us. We take it from there with a design that can be as seamless as you'd like.

Once on the Versaic site, the system guides them to selection of the appropriate template and destination.



Autodesk Company Contact Us Partners Search

Industries | Products | Purchase | Services & Support | Communities United States Worldwide Sites

Home > Company > Community Relations

Community Relations

Grants **Volunteering**

Program Requirements – Financial Grants

Print Email

U.S. nonprofit agencies seeking an Autodesk financial grant must be a registered 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization with the IRS. Applicants not registered as a 501(c)3 will not be considered.

Organizations outside the U.S. must submit government documentation verifying their not-for-profit status. Requests will be forwarded to the Autodesk office in the appropriate country for consideration. Typical grants range from US\$1,000 to \$5,000. Proposals are reviewed by a grants committee comprised of Autodesk employees.

Limitations
Autodesk does not provide grants for the following:

- Sporting events or athletic teams
- Churches or religious organizations
- Political parties or organizations
- General advertising
- Video, film, or television productions
- Individuals
- Subscription fees or admission tickets
- Fraternal, veteran, or sectarian groups
- Autodesk employees participating in fundraising events

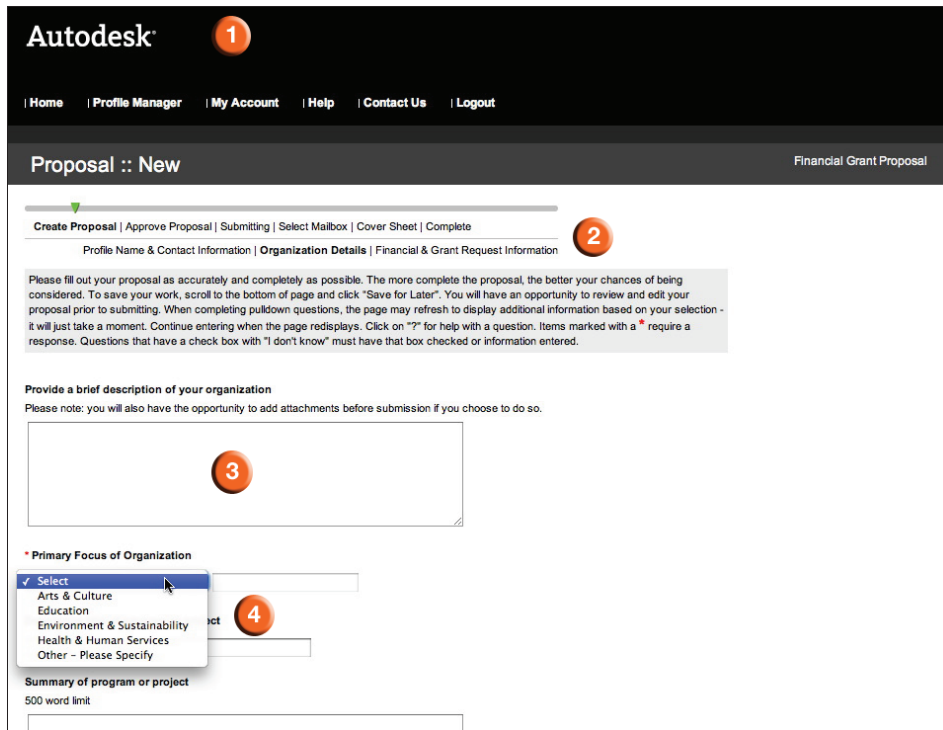
Sponsorship

- Proposals for event sponsorship must be received at least 12 weeks before the event.

How to Submit a Grant Proposal
Autodesk uses a web-based system for applicants to submit grant requests, which provides the grants committee detailed information to help make informed decisions.

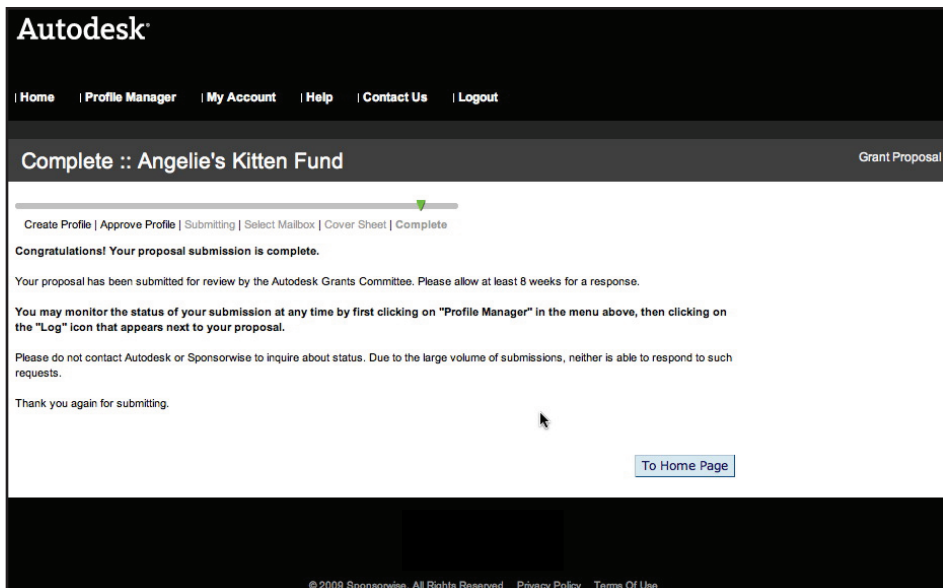
Please register, thoroughly review grant information, and then complete your application through our [online submission service](#).

Requestors should allow up to 10 weeks for a response.



Sample page from the submitters perspective. Clients have the option of selecting one of our standard request templates or creating one or more of their own.

- 1 Branding to match the Autodesk website design
- 2 Navigational bar shows the submitter where they are in the process
- 3 We recommend allowing them limited space to describe their organization in their own words
- 4 In this example, the focus is limited to the areas mentioned in the guidelines previously provided



Once completed, submissions are acknowledged, expectations are set for a response, and how to check on the status of their submission.