

REALITY CLUB

# Start Up Residency Application Form

## Part I

**Name of Company, Business, or Collective:** Reality Club

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**Organization's Website:** alpert.online/realityclub (our new website will be realityclub.website)

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**Name of lead Artist/Organizer:** David Alpert

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**Mailing Address:** 536 Campbell St. Apt. 2, KC, MO 64106

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**Email Address:** dfalpert@gmail.com

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**Phone Number (Cell):** 816-510-9318

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**How old is your organization?** 11 months

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**What is your Organizational Business Structure? Are you a registered nonprofit? An LLC?** Reality Club is a sole proprietorship.

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**What is your relationship to the Historic Northeast Neighborhood? Do you or member of your group work or live in the area?** I currently live in Columbus Park and bank at Central Bank, across the street from the Brinshore Development. I have done my Passing Notes project at the Northeast Branch of the KC Library, and I often times climb, explore, and photograph along Cliff Drive.

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## Part II

### 1. Give a brief history of your organization (250 words max)

A year ago, I read theoretical physicist, Carlo Rovelli's *The Order of Time*, and *Reality is Not What it Seems*. Within these books, Rovelli discusses the background of time (actually spacetime) and his current theories on the matter. Once I finished reading, reality seemed like a fantasy to me. The past and future are indistinguishable except for entropy. How you experience time is different relative to how I experience time. I felt a need to talk to someone about these ideas, and one of my favorite forms of communication is art. So, I applied to Open House's Garage School. They accepted my proposal, and Reality Club was born. For the first event, I did a spacetime variety show. We played with gravity balls, looked into the past, and made light cones.

Since then, we have made music with meteorological indicators, watched a tale of love act as a metaphor for mass emigration in Hong Kong, grown potash alum crystals, drawn constellations in a fictional night sky, toured a collection of rare scientific books, had a website building party, and explored Round Grove Creek.

Our next events include our ongoing Book Tour series, an aeronautical mission, and a beaded quilt story exchange.

We always collaborate. Our past and current partners include, Open House, Future Total Group, Stray Cat Film Center, Potluck, Riso Hell, Linda Hall Library, Catalog of Creeks, Aeronautic Visual Art Program, Jillian Youngbird, Kansas City Public Library, Jannes Library, the Spencer Art Reference Library, JE Baker, and Jake Joslyn.

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## **2. Do you define yourself as artist-run or artist centric? (250 words max)**

Reality Club is both artist-run and artist centric. I am a practicing artist, and I am the sole operator of Reality Club.

All of Reality Club's programs are art focused collaborations. We support artists and artist organizations financially and curatorially. My curatorial philosophy is supportive, inclusive, and collaborative.

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## **3. What is your organization's mission?(250 words max)**

Reality Club works together with open minds and compassion to explore reality through the arts.

Our mission is intentionally expansive. In Bruce Mau's *Massive Change*, Carol Burns writes, "[Karl Popper] recognized that some processes are like clocks — engineered, linear — and some processes are like clouds (or gnats or birds) — less predictable, more open-ended."

I believe reality more often resembles a cloud than a clock. Here is one example. How do we define ourselves? Current estimates approximate that we have 37.2 trillion cells in our body not including an additional 37.2 trillion microbial cells. When I eat something, at what point does that food become me? When I put it in my mouth? When I swallow? Is my hair part of my body? Is it still part of me when I cut it?

When thinking about these questions, our definitions of something seemingly concrete, like our physical selves, becomes vague. Ideas and processes start to share space and time.

Reality Club works within this intriguing and infinitely complex reality. The best way to do that is to be a cloud.

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#### **4. How does your concept relate to the four organizing principles of Charlotte Street: Openness, Risk, Collaboration, and Excellence? (250 words max)**

Your website says “Impact through risk-taking, openness, collaboration, and excellence.” I think the word “impact” is very important in conjunction with your organizing principles. For Reality Club, I am trying to impact myself and others. I want to empower my community and encourage compassion. In order to best do that, I have to be open, take risks, collaborate, and strive for excellence.

Reality Club’s new website is one recent example where we embody all of your organizing principles. The current website is hosted on Squarespace. I design and manage all of the assets. Due to the limitations of Squarespace, the website is not very unique. This past April, I decided to make a change and began a collaboration with Jake Joslyn.

After three months of design and revision, we have settled on a process to create our new website. We will collaborate with artists to create every part of the website (buttons, menus, displays, rockets, etc.). We hosted a party to construct assets. We provided supplies, snacks, drinks, and music for the partygoers to physically build all of the assets. Jake and I will digitize these creations. Additionally, we will continually collaborate with artists to create new home screens and backgrounds. Website patrons will be able to select different combinations of these home screens and backgrounds. This is just one example of a wide variety of programming that directly relates to these principles.

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#### **5. What social / cultural benefit do you offer the community? How is your organization different among Kansas City’s cultural ecosystem? (250 words max)**

I feel like constraints, limitations, and rigidity have been increasingly at the forefront of our community. I see people placing concrete definitions on themselves, others, and their surroundings. I do not like the prevalence of “us and them”. I prefer “I and Thou” (Martin Buber’s philosophy).

Reality Club is “I and Thou”. It is a living organism. It moves, breathes, and changes through space and time. Reality Club exists in and is a part of our reality. It is fluid and defined by probability. Reality Club exists in a blur of networks and systems.

Reality Club is nomadic. It is not bound to one specific place or time. Our community does not have one schedule or location.

Reality Club is made up of relationships. To be a good partner in a relationship, I believe you have to share. You have to go to each other’s homes, spaces, and communities. You have to eat together. You have to listen to each other and communicate your needs and boundaries.

Reality Club is not like other organizations. We do not fit into traditional definitions or borders. We are not afraid of being vague. We promote compassion in a time of cruelty. We believe in the power of gentleness and vulnerability.

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## **6. How do you plan to use the venue (a microretail space on Independence Ave in the Historic Northeast)?**

We are planning on using the start-up space for a big new project, the North East Arcade.

Video games are extremely popular. According to the Pew Research Center, forty-three percent of adults say they often or sometimes play video games. The age group that plays the most video games is eighteen to twenty-nine which corresponds to the median age in Northeast KC, twenty-nine. Arcades create a way for people to play video games in a communal space.

Reality Club will collaborate with local artist, Jake Joslyn, to make the arcade. We will design and create our own arcade game. We will then collaborate with local artists to create several more games. The artists do not need to know how to create a game, but rather we will provide the coding to bring their concept to life. We will build all of the consoles and decorate the space accordingly. We want the space to look like and exist as an arcade whether it is open or closed. We will create an interactive window display. Over the course of the year, we will make a Northeast KC video game in collaboration with community residents. The arcade will be open and free to the public at least once a week in addition to special events.

In addition to the Arcade, we will use the space for community engagement and programming. We will have shows, talks, book groups, screenings, and a myriad of other events.

The North East Arcade will be a space for fun, interaction, and community.

# David Alpert

## biography

David Alpert is an artist and curator living and working in Kansas City. He likes interactions, connections, and exploring feelings. He believes in listening compassionately to yourself and others. Through a visual dialogue, he promotes and researches his interests and beliefs. He works with interactive installations that use many mediums including photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, mixed-media, online, and writing. To see his work, you can go to his website, [www.alpert.online](http://www.alpert.online).

# David Alpert

## curriculum vitae

536 Campbell St. Apt. 2  
Kansas City, MO 64106  
dfalpert@gmail.com  
816-510-9318  
alpert.online

### arts:

#### 2019

- *do you know how much i love you? this much, thismuch.org*, Online
- Reality Club, Film Screening, Stray Cat Film Center, Kansas City, MO
- Reality Club, Crystal Growing Party, Apartment, Kansas City, MO
- Reality Club, Expedition No. 1, Round Grove Creek, Kansas City, MO
- Reality Club, Website Building Party, Apartment, Kansas City, MO
- Reality Club, Book Tours, ongoing at multiple locations
- Alpert Brothers Film Series, Stray Cat Film Center, Kansas City, MO

#### 2018

- Reality Club, Interactive Arts Party, Apartment, Kansas City, MO
- *Reality Club*, Spacetime Variety Show, Open House, Kansas City, MO
- *Passing Notes*, Art in the Loop, Kansas City, MO
- *Notes for Artists*, Box Gallery, Kansas City, MO
- *i miss you, i feel \_\_\_\_\_*, Crit Night 33, Plug Projects, Kansas City, MO
- *square album no. 1*, Kemper Museum Shop, Kansas City, MO
- *do you know how much i love you? this much, thismuch.org*, Online

### volunteer:

#### *2016-Present*

*Vice President, 2019-Present*  
*Arts Council of Johnson County (ACJC)*

Governs the organization through regular board meetings and ongoing work to better serve their mission to promote arts throughout Johnson County.

#### *2016-2017*

*Arts in Prison*  
*Instructor*

Develops the curriculum for and teaches studio art classes to people who are currently incarcerated.

#### *2016-2018*

*Public Arts Commission, Johnson County, KS*  
*Commissioner*

Works with the commission to administer the County's 1% for the Arts program. Art commissions range from \$75M to \$500M.

### education:

#### *2008-2011*

*Occidental College*  
*B.A. Economics*

#### *2010-2011*

*Art Center College of Design*  
*Collage Studio*

#### *2018-Present*

*Engage Kansas City, Mid America Arts Alliance*

# Reality Club Projected Budget 2019

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$-</b>
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## Expense

Marketing	
Website	\$576.00
Instagram	\$-
Mail Chimp	\$-
Facebook	\$-
Graphic Design	\$-
Marketing Total	\$576.00
Programming	
Food and Drink	\$1,200.00
Materials	\$600.00
Documentation	\$200.00
Takeaways (posters, etc.)	\$900.00
Event Rental	\$310.00
Artist Fee	\$600.00
Total Programming	\$3,210.00
Insurance	
Liability	\$772.00
Total Insurance	\$772.00

<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$4,558.00</b>
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# Reality Club Images

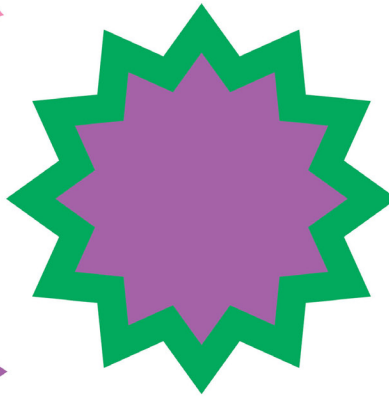
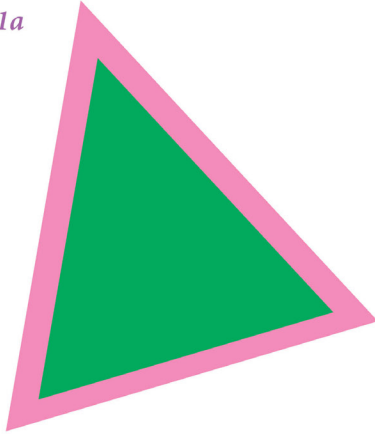


This was our first event on September 29th, 2018. We did a spacetime variety show as part of Open House's Garage School series. Here you can see me displaying how our eyes differentiate objects based on their refractive index, also known as the disappearing test tube trick.

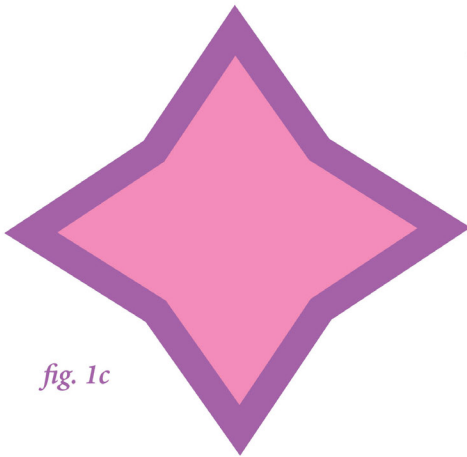


# Crystal Growing Party

*fig. 1a*



*fig. 1b*



*fig. 1c*

*figure 1.  
a, b, and c*

**Meeting No. 4**  
April 27, 2019

9:00 to midnight, Food and Drinks  
536 Campbell St. Apt 2. (ring bell to get in)

This is the poster we printed with Risohell for the Crystal Growing Party. We collaborated with Potluck (a Rocket Grant recipient) for this event.



This is one of the Crystal Growing Kits I made for the Crystal Growing Party. Everyone who came to the party could take this kit home. By simply adding water and mixing up the solution you can grow Potash Alum crystals. I use a custom stamp to make stickers for Reality Club.



Here are our artist collaborators, Future Total Group, for our Space space event. They are standing in front of their interactive work called cosmOS.



This is Future Total Group's cosmOS from our Space space event. Participants use an application on their phone to draw their own constellations. The constellations are then projected onto the inside of this domed tent for everyone to see.



This is everyone who came to our second Book Tour and our hosts Amelia (with the library) and Tara (with the archives). For this tour, we went to the Spencer Art Reference Library. They are holding up the official Reality Club flag.



This is a picture along Round Grove Creek on Expedition No. 1. We collaborated with Catalog of Creeks to help them document this local creek.



We were able to identify these wildflowers along Round Grove Creek during Expedition No. 1.





We are working with local artist, Jake Joslyn, to develop our new website. We hosted a Website Building Party where we provided a bunch of materials for people to help us make our website assets (buttons, menus, rockets, etc.).



# AERONAUTIC VISUAL ART PROGRAM PISSARRO IV

In September, we will be partnering with Benjaming Todd Wills and his Aeronautic Visual Art Program for Pissarro IV. This will be the fourth and final launch of the Pissarro Missions.