

While the Internet and digital networks provide unprecedented opportunities to access the sum of the world's knowledge and culture, current copyright laws add burdensome complexity for artists who wish to distribute their creative works freely and widely.

The mission of the Free Culture Trust is to make it easy for artists to share cultural works, including works of art, film, music and literature. Organizations such as Creative Commons have created standardized licenses that facilitate sharing, resulting in greater preservation of cultural works. Many artists still face a variety of difficulties, however, that require more individualized services, such as assistance with what license to choose, how to apply the license properly and effectively, how to then make their work widely available and archived for future use, how to meet attribution and share-alike requirements, and how to update to new license versions over time. Because no organization has successfully offered these services at scale to artists, the number of contemporary high-quality works available on terms that enable free reuse remains low.

The Free Culture Trust will build a coalition of organizations to provide artists with the help they need. In collaboration with Creative Commons and others, the FCT will work with artists and other creators to manage the legal rights to cultural works so that the works are made available under [Free Culture licenses](#) or placed in the [public domain](#). The FCT will act as a long-term distribution steward for cultural works, reacting to changes in the legal landscape in order to ensure the works' continued availability for reuse and sharing. The FCT will form alliances with other organizations involved in the creation and dissemination of free cultural works, to facilitate availability to the widest audience possible and to foster respect for attribution requirements and share-alike redistribution terms.

The Free Culture Trust will:

- Educate:** Inform artists and their audiences about free culture and the benefits of making work available under free terms.
- Advocate:** Advocate for legal and policy changes that support the creation, dissemination, and sustainability of free cultural works.
- Guide:** Guide artists through the process of selecting free culture terms that best fit their intentions, and create a simple process by which the Free Culture Trust becomes the distribution steward for their works.
- Acquire:** Acquire rights to high-quality works not actively supported by other distribution methods.
- Register:** Create and maintain an online registry of free cultural works, so the public can easily discover such works and have confidence in their ability to reuse them.
- Share:** Coordinate with digital information and cultural repositories to ensure that free cultural works are widely available.
- Protect:** Ensure that artists' intentions with regard to attribution and share-alike license terms are respected, evaluating legal options as appropriate.
- Sustain:** Engage with commercial entities to align free culture to business strategies for mutually beneficial economic and social impact.

The Free Culture Trust has the support of the following organizations:

