

Kansas City food cart aims to offer s'more money for creative types

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Chocolate, marshmallows and graham crackers might be the ingredients Kansas City-area artists need to land money for their art. On Thursday, [Kurtis Fleksing](#) will debut his S'mores Cart, leveraging snack sales into micro-financing opportunities for artists and other creative types.

Fleksing has an art background and a passion for public art. He saw first-hand how few opportunities were available for people fresh out of art school and decided to start the S'mores Cart as a way to provide grants to artists.

His seed money came from winning a Rocket Grant, supported through the [Charlotte Street Foundation](#), a Kansas City-based organization that supports artists in the region, and the Spencer

Museum of Art in Lawrence.

Flecksing will sell what he calls the American Classic: basic Hershey's chocolate, a marshmallow and graham crackers. But he's also partnering with local businesses, getting chocolate from Christopher Elbow Artisanal Chocolates and graham crackers from Soho Bakery, to produce a higher-end s'more to raise more money.

Proceeds, which Flecksing estimates will range from \$2 to \$4 per s'more, eventually will finance the grants.

"I want to be taken seriously in the community," he said. "I want to attract younger, emerging talent."

Grants will start at \$500, targeting applicants from all creative industries. To choose recipients, Flecksing wants to create a board containing artistic and non-artistic members. The application process and board members have not yet been finalized.

"If this thing really flies, Kansas City will be known as where the s'mores cart was born," Flecksing said. "Once we fund projects and people see that we are truly trying to benefit public space, it will create pride and civic ownership."

A S'mores Cart promotional event is Thursday from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at 429 Walnut St. The free event includes music provided by a DJ, and food, drinks and s'mores will be served. Flecksing plans to get a Twitter account to inform customers of his location.

http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/blog/2012/06/kansas-city-food-cart-aims-to-offer.html?ana=e_du_pub&s=article_du&ed=2012-06-18