



## REGIONAL CONFERENCE GRANT PROGRAM, 2006

### **Program overview**

The Regional Conference Grant Program will provide grants of up to \$1500 US to approximately six to eight regional Ruby conferences over a period of a year. The grants are intended to assist principally with:

- travel fees for one or more speakers
- rental of meeting space and AV equipment
- event promotion

The grant is not intended, and cannot be used, to pay stipends to organizers.

## Definition of "regional conference"

A "regional conference", as opposed to a codefest or users group meeting, is defined for purposes of this grant as follows:

- The conference should be **at least one full day long** (morning, afternoon, evening activities).
- A regional conference involves **formal, timed presentations**. Each day of the event should include at least five presentations of about 45–60 minutes each.
- The rest of each day should also be taken up with organized activities. (If the conference is longer than one day, it can involve one or more half-days.)
- Conference organizers are encouraged to invite speakers, but there must also be **an open call for presentation proposals**. The ratio of invited speakers to speakers selected from proposals should be one-to-two or less. Exceptions can be made where a good faith effort to attract presentation proposals has not succeeded.
- The conference should be announced and **publicized at least six weeks in advance**.
- The conference does not have to have a narrow theme, but it does have to be **specifically Ruby-oriented** and not, for example, broadly about scripting languages or object-oriented programming.

## **Financial logistics**

Any profit made on the event will be subtracted from the amount of the grant. For example, if an event's total expenses come to \$900, and income from admission fees and other sources is \$600, then the grant will be in the amount of \$300 at most. In other words, the grant applies only to net event expenses.

### ***Advance financing***

Ruby Central will provide up to \$500 in advance financing, to facilitate conference planning. If net event expenses come to less than the advance amount, then the difference must be remitted to Ruby Central. If net event expenses come to more than the advance amount, then a second grant payment will be made to cover these further expenses, up to the total amount of the grant.

### ***Canceled events***

If the event does not take place, no grant money will be provided, and any funds provided in advance must be returned to Ruby Central. Although this potentially puts a burden of risk on the conference organizers, Ruby Central cannot assume liability for expenditures which do not actually result in, or arise from, a conference.

### ***Promotional materials***

All event promotional materials, including websites, printed programs, and advertisements, will state that the event "is made possible by a grant from Ruby Central, Inc."

## **Application procedures**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

To initiate an application, write to David Black at [dblack@rubypal.com](mailto:dblack@rubypal.com), and include the following information:

1. Approximate dates of the event
2. Theme or topic of the event
3. Affiliations or support (such as a local Ruby Users group)
4. Names and contact information for any co-organizers
5. Estimate of how large a grant you expect to need
6. Areas where you expect to use the grant

If the application seems viable, you'll be asked to supply some further details, and a decision will be made as soon as possible.

Ruby Central reserves the right to terminate the grant program at any point, however many or few grants have been awarded.

Decisions of Ruby Central as to grant awards are final.