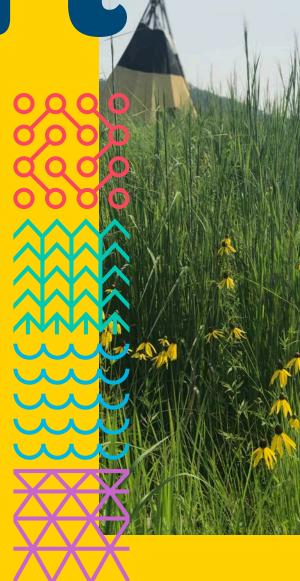




# Annual Report







In 2021, the Sun Foundation celebrated our 48th anniversary. Since 1973, we've touched the lives of over 6 million members of our community through art and environmental science programs and publications.

We are pleased to report that the Sun Foundation was able to safely present its programs in person and virtually during the challenges of the pandemic, and continue to serve its community in new ways and carry out its mission.

With the innovative practices and support of our board of directors, volunteers, staff, program coordinators, presenting artists and scientists, videographers, virtual platform designers and the promotional impact of our brand agency, Concentric Design, we celebrate the positive results of this year.



ounded by Robert and Joan Root Ericksen in 1973, the Sun Foundation of Washburn, Illinois is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization dedicated to investing in educational opportunities for children and the general public by:

- Providing innovative environmental sciences and arts programs
- Engaging audiences and students with outstanding artists, engineers, architects, and scientists
- Promoting in-depth knowledge, creativity, first-hand learning, and stewardship

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Sun Foundation works to strengthen and advance the arts and environmental sciences in rural and urban communities by providing quality and innovative programs, services, publications, research, regranting financial support and cooperative efforts for the general public, under served groups, schools, Illinois artists, and local arts organizations.

Sun Foundation programs are funded by public contributions and awarded grants.

# **SERVING THE UNDERSERVED SINCE 1973**

Though the generous support of our donors the Sun Foundation was able to provide 135 financial need scholarships for student to attend the summer Art and Science in the Woods program.

With the awarded grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency and matching funds the Sun Foundation's Community Art Access Program we were able to provide funding for underserved communities in four rural counties.

#### **2021 STAFF**

# Robert C. Ericksen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Joan Root Ericksen

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

# Dominique Kreie

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

# **Brett Root Ericksen**

NATURALIST- PROGRAM DIRECTOR, HABITAT & FACILITY MANAGER

#### Karlen Sandall

BOOKEEPER

# **2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS**

Sally Jo Eastman PRESIDENT

Jonathan Wright VICE PRESIDENT

Walter Wilkins SECRETARY
Lorraine Schwass TREASURER

# **2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Charles (Trip) Barton, PE, GISP Wilson Gilkerson
Dr. Brad Cotton Douglas Holmes
Kevin D. Day Kira Santiago
Zachary Fiddes Walter R. Wilkins

# **BOARD & STAFF ADVISORS**

Shae L. Birkey Jo Lakota

Rusty Dunn Rolland (Dave) Marshall

Preston Jackson Eve Studnicka

Mike Lied

# **CONTRACTED FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Ginoli & Co. LTD AUDITOR

# **VOLUNTEER ACCOUNTING SERVICES**

Blaine Adam, CPA

PRINCIPAL, ADAMS CONSULTING, LLC



In 2021, we provided a virtual celebration for our community—and the world—available for free. It included a Clean Water Champions mini-documentary series and a Virtual Environmental Classroom, complete with games and activities, available online and through an app.



Download the Clean Water Celebration app on the Apple App Store







LEFT Avatar, Recycled Robin, explores the virtual Peoria Riverfront RIGHT Activities in the Virtual Classroom

he Virtual Clean Water Celebration launched April 26, 2021. Both mini-documentaries and Virtual Environmental Classroom are 100% free of charge.

This experience offers the opportunity to take virtual field trips anytime to our area's rich ecosystems, see presentations and demonstrations from experts in their respective fields, and participate in interactive activities that build knowledge about water and its properties, prairie plants, composting, bird migration, wetlands, environmental anthropology, and so much more.

Clean Water Champion episodes are cross-curricular documenting the work of scientists, artists, conservationists, storytellers, or youth leaders. Each is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards and challenges the viewer to take action themselves. An action planning and reporting form is available.

Entering the <u>Virtual Environmental</u> <u>Classroom</u>, avatar, Recycled Robin appears in a virtual version of our Peoria Riverfront, but the location could be any river town in the world. Robin guides the

user to Clean Water Champion video tents and through mini-game activities and scavenger hunts.

This amazing online resource will be ongoing and was accomplished in collaboration with production and film team Brian Fox Ellis and Frank Blain, the Peoria Art Guild, the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council and Interactiva Studios with the generous sponsorship of Illinois American Water as well as Ameren, IVY Club, and individual donors.

Funding to expand this virtual programing in 2022 included \$4500 through the American Water Environmental Grant program to create additional episodes and \$10,000 from the American Water Charitable Foundation Keep Communities Flowing program to enrich the virtual classroom.

# **2022 AND BEYOND**

The 29th Clean Water Celebration will be virtual and launches April 25, 2022.

Plans are underway for the 30th Sun Foundation Clean Water Celebration, April 23–24, 2023, in Peoria. CLEAN WATER

# By the Numbers

CLEAN WATER CHAMPIONS
YOUTUBE SERIES

2,676

45
EPISODES

28,612

**IMPRESSIONS** 

3

COUNTRIES: USA, MEXICO, ARGENTINA

CLEAN WATER VIRTUAL CLASSROOM ON THE PEORIA RIVERFRONT

375

PEAK MONTHLY AVERAGE USERS

20

VIDEO TENTS PRESENTING SCIENTISTS, ARTISTS, CONSERVATIONISTS, STORYTELLERS, AND YOUTH LEADERS

7

MINI-GAMES BUILDING
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WATER
AND ITS PROPERTIES,
PRAIRIE PLANTS,
COMPOSTING, BIRD
MIGRATION, WETLANDS,
ENVIRONMENTAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

1 AVATAR: RECYCLED ROBIN Art & Science in the Woods

Over the course of five days in July, the Sun Foundation welcomed our community back to attend nature's classroom in-person.











ABOVE Guest artist, Preston Jackson, shares his annual work with campers
BELOW Classes perform and share what they've learned



e are happy to report the 48th year of Art and Science in the Woods summer program was safely presented in person for 350 students ages 6 to 18. A special thank you to program director **Brett Root Ericksen** and our local health department that worked together to insure all participants would be safe and free from contracting COVID infections.

Thank you to Brett, program coordinator
Sharon Obery and assistant, William
Blumenshine, for the many weeks of
planning and preparation of the program.
A special thank you to friends Eric Jones
and Danielle Kreie—who both came from
California to help staff during the program.

A Summer Youth Employment grant was awarded from the Illinois Arts Council Agency funding two high school interns for the program.

Blick Art Materials program sponsor donated program arts materials and financial support for the 48th year. The Caterpillar Foundation through its employee matching fund sponsored the program for the 47th year.

Stanley Steemer donated special health cleaning services of the indoor classrooms. Over 60 teaching assistants and six nurses volunteered their service. Two Men and a Truck donated their services moving tables to and from the tent and indoor classrooms.

Thank you to trail lead **Bob Kreie**, and staff and auction lead **Dominique Kreie**, for another great year.

Thank you to volunteer staff **Libby Verkuilen** and **Jennifer Lindstrom** for the huge task of providing class supplies and equipment.

Thank you to all the volunteers who prepared classrooms and trail sites.

Through the awarded grant from Ameren Illinois and contributions from our donors, 135 underserved students received financial need scholarships to attend the program.

We have so many friends to thank for making this special program possible this year.

ART & SCIENCE

# By the Numbers

350

STUDENTS

135
FINANCIAL NEED STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

31 INSTRUCTORS

99 VOLUNTEERS

# Community

Arts Access



The Sun Foundation, in collaboration with the Illinois Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, awards grants for community and public arts programing.

ommunity Arts Access Grants are funded by an awarded grant from the Illinois
Arts Council, a state agency and matching funds from local business and individual
donors. Last year, the Sun Foundation was awarded a \$10,000 grant for community
and public arts programs for regranting.

With this grant and matching contributions from **Adams Consulting**, **First National Bank of Lacon**, **Katherine and James Weber**, the Sun Foundation awarded \$13,550 to schools, arts and community service organizations for public arts programing throughout the counties of Bureau, Marshall, Stark and Woodford. The funded programs were able to adapt and innovate their programs with COVID safety measures in effect.

#### **2021 GRANTEES**

# **Bureau County Historical Society**

Photographer, historian and artist work with students creating and preserving of family memories boxes. The boxes will contain preserving family photos; artifacts and creating decorated children's memory boxes. In–person, Zoom and Video formats. \$1,000

# **Eureka Public Library**

"Reading Colors Your World" a six-week summer program Art in the Park. A reading program which includes small workshop and field trips encouraging reading, learning, creativity, and new life skills instructed by local artists, musicians and community members. \$1,000

# **Festival 56 Learning Stage**

Support for artist to present a two week summer theater arts camp for youth 8-18 \$1000

# Future of Henry Events Committee

Music Brown Bag free concert summer and fall series featuring 20 musicians \$1,250

# **Gateway Services Inc.**

Providing multi arts workshops with local artists for underserved individuals served by Gateway Services. Gateway \$500.

# **Henry Community Character Counts**

"Pro Kids Show," "People Respecting Others." Two performances, one for students and one for family night By Artist Tom Hanig. Performance includes, music, puppetry, magic, story telling and comedy. \$1,000

# Lacon Area Community Center Organization

Music Arts enrichment for youth ages 8-12...Zoom platform of diverse music related activities to provide master level musician and music educators to help students develop music skills and be inspired to continue to peruse learning music in a variety of ways. \$1,250

# Malden CCSD #84

Experiencing Diversity. A Visual Arts Program exposing k-8 students, teachers and Malden Community in 2 and 3 dimensional art projects. The students will be introduce to the art work of a variety of artists and cultures ... Including the art of Africa, Hispanic cultures, minority artist Faith Ringgold, Mr. Imagination, David Philpot and 20th century European and American artists. Projects based on these artists and cultures, using recyclable materials, will include Tribal shield, metal tooling masks, clay figures, Chinese dragons, staffs and Imation bark painting, Oaxaca foil sculpture, Senufo cloth painting, story quilts, story telling, watercolor painting etc. art projects. \$1,500

# Marshall Putnam Stark Showchoir

A summer program to involve, teach and steer area youth ages 14 to 22 toward dance and music excellence. During countless hours of rehearsal, each young person will receive individual and group training in vocal and dance technique. They learn group dynamics, responsibility and the joy of providing diverse entertainment for all ages. The student community performances are booked from early July to the end of August. \$1,500

# **River Valley Players**

Summer Youth Camp Following all COVID-19 mitigations. Students ages 5-18 from three rural counties, in small groups will have fun learning many element of a theatrical production. Students will develop their own singing, dancing, acting and technical theater production with a professional Directors. The students summer session with culminate in a community performance. In August. \$1,500

# **Snyder Village**

A Master Therapist, certified through Art Without Boundaries, will work with residents who have Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia & or brain issues to facilitate an expressive art-based program using four visual art modalities (singing, movement, painting and storytelling). \$1,000

# **Toulon Public Library**

Free summer arts family friendly classes studying with artists, a storyteller and magician in four differ art mediums. Each week an artist will demonstration and incorporates Art color appreciation into their presentations and audience made art creations. \$1,000

COMMUNITY ARTS

# By the Numbers

4,540

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVED, INCLUDING:

1,970

YOUTH (UNDER 18)

2,570

ADULTS

277

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

1,220

SENIORS

1,495

UNDERSERVED

**153** 

ARTISTS EMPLOYED

# Impact & Media

#### **SUN FOUNDATION FY 2021 IMPACT**

From September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 the Sun Foundation engaged 65,000 people though educational programs, services, publications, broadcasts, performance exhibits, community service organizations, presentations, classes, and workshops.

# WEBSITE

Our website continues to provide an important means for communication with over 15,000 visits in the fiscal year (a 10% increase over 2020), of those, 11,000 were unique visitors (an increase of 5%).

# PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR PROGRAMS

The Sun Foundation designed and produced hard copy and electronic promotional brochures posters and flyers. Program materials were distributed to area community festivals, local businesses, local libraries, local schools and internet links.

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

A very special thank you to Concentric Design for donating their time and skills to design and maintain our website, and design this annual report, and other promotional material throughout the year.

# **G** concentric design

# www.concentric.design

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Facebook continues to be a valuable source of communication for Sun Foundation programs, sponsor acknowledgement, and news.

#### **ARTS ADVOCACY**

As a member of Arts Partners of Peoria and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Sun Foundation is an art advocate providing regranting support, employment, and free marketing—throughs social media and our website—for artists and arts organizations.

# Program Support

# WINTER WARMING PROGRAM SUPPORT EVENT

Due to the pandemic our Winter Warming Children's Benefit was canceled in 2021.

# Partnerships & Funding

The Sun Foundation gratefully acknowledges our partners and supporters.

# SUSTAINING SUPPORT, GRANTS AND FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Blaine Adams, CPA, and his firm donated accounting service again this year. Concentric Design of Chicago continued their in-kind services as webmaster and graphic designers of program and fundraising promotions.

The Illinois Art Council Agency \$15,000 awarded operational grant, and a federal PPP \$16,000 grant, allowed the Sun Foundation to continue its mission during the pandemic surge in fiscal 2021.

# CORPORATE, TRUST & FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS

Businesses, corporations, and foundations that have partnered with the Sun Foundation and given support of \$1,000 or more in fiscal year 2021.

- Alvar, Inc
- · American Water
- American Water Charitable Foundation
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Commerce Bancshares Foundation
- David Vaughan Investments, Inc.
- Goodfield Bank
- Hasselberg Grebe Snodgrass Urban & Wentworth

- Illinois Valley Yacht Club
- Kansas City Southern Matching Gifts Fund
- Living Lands & Waters
- · Network For Good
- Rex & Nelle Jackson Foundation
- Root Bros MFG & Supply Co.
- Rucker Family Charitable Trust

#### INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIPS

- · John & Sharon Amdall
- Bridget Burke
- Robert Ericksen & Joan Root Ericksen
- Roger & Jane Gabrielse
- · Joe Gehrig
- Dr. Erika & Ronald Grimm
- Mary Jane Johnson
- Michael & Mary Jane Johnson
- Lionel & Vilma Kinney
- Douglas & Eileen Leunig
- James & Lynn Limanowski
- Dina Lunken D.D.S. P.C.
- Angela Madison
- Laurel & Henry Maze
- Grayce & Neal Mesner
- · Nancy Rakoff
- Steven Shostrom & Joy Kessler
- David Trachtenbarg & Joyce Blumenshine

- James & Katharine Weber
- Richard W & Karen Zuckerman

#### **GRANTS AWARDED**

- Ameren Illinois
- American Water Charitable Foundation
- American Water Environmental Grant Program
- Illinois Arts Council
- Miles C. Hauter Foundation
- Peoria Academy of Science

# **IN-KIND DONATIONS**

In-kind donations amounting to \$75,038 came from local businesses, service groups, and individuals to make the FY 2021 Sun Foundation programing and events possible.

# **VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS**

Special thanks to:

- Sharon Obery, Art and Science in the Woods volunteer coordinator
- Karen Zuckerman, Clean Water
   Celebration volunteer coordinator
- David Marshall, Community Arts Access committee chair
- Bob Kreie, trail lead

# Partnerships & Funding, cont.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

Over 112 people volunteered to support programs in 2021.

Community members gave their talents and time to serve on the Sun Foundation Board of Directors, serve on program committees, help at fundraising events, facility maintenance, assist with teaching, and provide medical care for students.

These amazing people and groups are essential to the work of the organization.

#### **GENEROSITY**

We thank our community for showing such significant and long standing support for the mission of the Sun Foundation.

#### **ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL**

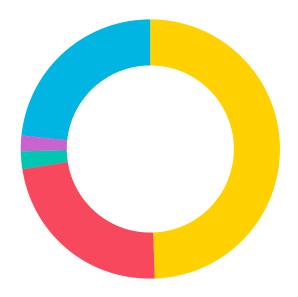
The Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, awarded the Sun Foundation \$15,400 for operations and



program support, \$10,000 for regranting through Community Art Access Grants to Marshall, Woodford, Stark and Bureau counties, and a \$6,000 Summer Youth Employment grant for student interns.

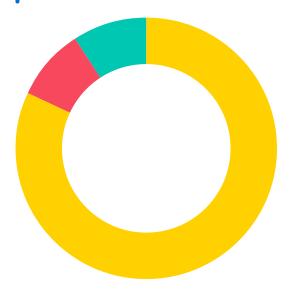
# Financials

# Income



Income Sources	\$ 302,639	
<ul> <li>Contributions</li> </ul>	\$ 149,323	49%
Grant Income for Operations	\$ 69,520	23%
Interest & Other Income	\$ 6,966	2%
<ul> <li>Program Event Fundraising</li> </ul>	\$ 5,782	2%
Program Service Revenue	\$ 71,048	23%

# **Expenses**



Expenditures	\$305,319	
Programs	\$ 249,736	82%
Program Fundraising	\$ 28,662	9%
General Administration	\$ 26,921	9%

We received \$32,857 in PPP loans in 2020 that were foregiven in 2021.

Thank you to those who generously made donations

through Facebook's Network For Good fundraisers

# Donors

Thank you to our individual and organizational donors during our 2020 fiscal year! We couldn't impact our community in the same way without you.

ABRAHAM, ALICIA S AKAGAWA, KINJI ANTHONY ALAHI, PETER ALCAST ALDRIDGE, NANCY ALVAR, INC. AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION AMDALL, JOHN & SHARON AMERICAN WATER AMERICAN WATER **CHARITABLE FOUNDATION** ARVIND, KRIS BAKER, ROXY BAKEWELL, JANET & ROBERT BARD OPTICAL BARNES, KERRY JOANIE BARNES, SCOTT & ROBIN BARTON, CHARLES BASQUIN, ELWIN AND **PHYLISS** BAUTER, REBECCA & JOSEPH BENNETT, KEVIN & **BERNADETTE** BIEDERBECK, TOM BLACKBAUD GIVING FUND BLAIR. LYNN BLOME, SARA BLUMENSHINE, DOUGLAS BOONE, VICKI **BORN PAINT COMPANY** BOSSINGHAM, ROY BOUGIE, NICOLASA BRADY, KATHRYN BROCKMAN, HERMAN & MARI FNF BROWN, DELORESC BROWN, IDA BROWN, PAULA BRYANT, PAULA **BUFFINGTON, GREGORY** BURKE, BRIDGET CAHILL, GUY & JANE **CATERPILLAR FOUNDATION** CLAUDNIC, BONNIE COBB, MARILYN COHEN, SHERYL **COMMERCE BANCSHARES FOUNDATION** COONS, RONNIE COPP, MARILYN CORSO, KATHLEEN CORSON, FRANK, JR. COULTER, KENNETH & ANN CREMER, AVA CROOK, DIANE S. CUNNINGHAM, ROGER DARNELL, JAMES DAVID VALIGHAN INVESTMENTS, INC. DEHAAN, BYRON **DERUBEIS GRAIN &** INSURANCE **DERUBEIS INSURANCE** AGENCY, INC. **DERUBEIS, BERNARD & BECKY** DEVINE, SUE DINTZIS, SUSANNAH & ALAHI,

**PETER** 

DIVAN, GAIL

DIVAN, TRACY DUBOIS, MARK EHRHARDT, VICKI ERICKSEN, DEAN ERICKSEN, ROBERT & JOAN ERICKSEN, RONALD & JOANNE ERLENBORN, NANCY **ERWIN, PAT & CHARLES ESSENTIAL WELLNESS** PHARMACY, INC. **EUREKA GREATER AREA** KIWANIS CLUB **EXXONMOBIL** FARRELL, DR. JAMES FIRST NATIONAL BANK LACON FLANNERY, CATHY FLEMING, THEODORE FLUEGEL, DEBORAH FOSDYCK, ZACK FREI, MARGARETTE P. FULLER, EMILY GABRIELSE, ROGER & JANE GAIL, HOLLY & SANFORD GALENA ROAD GRAVEL, INC **GARY & DEB DAHL CHARITY FUND** GEHRIG, JOE GEHRIG, LINDA GEHRIG, STEPHANIE GILKERSON, WILSON GLICK TRUST, BARBARA **GOLDEN BANTAM FUND** GOODFIELD STATE BANK GRIMM, DR. FRIKA & RONALD GRIVETTI, PAMELA GUDAT. LORI GUINEE, PATRICIA GUSTAFSON, ROGER & LINDA HAGENBUCH, EILEEN HALL, DIANA HANSON, LORI HARKRADER, ALAN HARKRADER, MARY HASSELBERG GREBE SNODGRASS URBAN & WENT HAVERA, NANCY AND DR **STEPHENS** HAWORTH & CO HEALY, MICHAEL HEIN, JAMES L. HENDRICKSON, HAROLD HENNEPIN, VILLAGE OF HENRIKSON, WILLIAM **BERNARD** HENRY ROTARY CLUB HESS, GLENN HICKS, JAMES HIGGINS, TIFFANY HOBIN, BARBARA & BERNARD HOLMES, RAMONA HOPKINS, ELAINE & GEORGE HUBLER, JAMES HUMPHREY, RUTH ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL ILLINOIS VALLEY YACHT CLUB

JACKIE PADESKY STATE FARM

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MCMURTREY, ANGELA

MCRAE, ELLEN MCSHERRY, JANICE & JAMES **GOBLE** MCSHERRY, LISA MCVAY, WENDY MEAD, NORMA ROSSI MELBY, RICK MESNER, GRAYCE & NEIL METAMORA TELEPHONE CO MIAI KOWSKI, FUGENE MICHAEL AND LYNNOR **MATHENEY** MILES C. HAUTER **FOUNDATION** MILLER, BEATRICE MILLER, MARLENE MINI, LILLIAN MISSELHORN, MARK MOORE, RICH & HEIDI MORRIS, ANAMARIE MORSE, ERIN MUIR FAMILY FUND MUIR, ROBERT MURRAY, DAVE NAPA NAUMAN, LONNA J. NELLAS, PAULA NELSON, JEFFERY NETWORK FOR GOOD O'MALLEY, MARY OEDEWALDT, ROGER ORCHESTRA, HEARTLAND **FESTIVAL** OWEN, HILARY PALM, MARILYN PARISI, ROSE & MECKLEY, DONALD PASTUCHA, ANN PASTUCHA, KATE PEORIA ACADEMY OF **SCIENCE** PHILLIPS, YORK PIERCE, DEBORAH PILAT, MARY KAY & THOMAS PODZAMSKY KAREN Y POIGNANT, MARY POTTHOFF, MARY POWERS, MICHAEL & JANICE PRAIRIE CENTER OF THE ARTS PUSEY, PATRICIA R.M. GULLEY, M.D. RADEMAKER, DENNY RAKOFF, NANCY RAPPUHN, DAVID RAUH, GLENN & SHARON RAYMOND JAMES REESER, CRAIG **REX & NELLE JACKSON FOUNDATION** RICHERSON, ZAK LEE RICHEY, JOSEPH & MICHELLE RITSCHEL, TOM & DEB RITTER, JOHN & JENNIFER ROBINS, ROBIN **ROBINSON INSURANCE** 

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ZORN, SHARON

& KAREN

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Advancing the Environmental Sciences and the Arts



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