



Action Update Bumper Edition

2020 Summary and Financial Results

Thriving in the face of a tough year for
the world

by [Zennith](#) on Sunday 23rd May 2021

It's that time of year - May - when charities' financial results from the past year have been compiled and filed with the IRS and many state governments. We're thrilled to be able to share that information with you.

2020 brought a lot of challenges, but we're proud of the developments and progress that our organization has made possible. Early in 2020, a paper by Ben Ramanauskas we funded was published in an academic journal. Throughout the year, we talked with multiple professors and leaders in science - Anders Sandberg at Oxford, Aubrey de Gray at SENS, and Hugh Herr at MIT.

We've added some of the best scientists and engineers to our research teams, with expertise in quantitative biology,

software engineering, and cell signaling. We started a strategic, internal R&D project in anatomy and physiology, to create what will ultimately be a CAD-like, medically useful anatomy customization tool. In parallel, we started a project to summarize scientific literature about the cell biology of skin, fur, feathers, and scales (the integument project), and to start organizing recommendations on ways of modifying those features. We've also grown as an organization as well. We added 3 board members at the start of 2020, we've hired more employees and contractors to help us scale, and we're always learning and improving how we do things.

Without further ado, here are our financial results for 2020:

In our 2020 fiscal year (our fiscal year is the same as the calendar year), we had a total of \$26,921.30 in revenues, of which \$17,550 (65%) was attributable to major donors and \$8,968.53 (33%) was donated through Patreon.

We had expenses of \$26,779.12. The largest portion of expenses is attributed to legal and professional services - \$10,919.08. This was divided among compliance contractors, a payroll contractor, and an accounting firm. We used \$6,329.44 for investments in information technology equipment and services, and a further \$4,568.16 in part-time employee compensation, with most employee time directed towards IT, especially research, procurement, and deployment of productivity and information tools used across all activities. \$2,328.36 in direct costs went towards program services in outreach and education, such as putting on panels and making podcasts possible. We spent

\$593.34 in marketing. \$1,705.66 went towards taxes and regulatory/governmental fees, the majority of which (\$1,452.16) went towards payroll and employment taxes. Finally, \$335.08 was spent in banking fees and transaction costs. At the end of 2020, we wrapped up with a net income of \$142.18.

Our balance sheet at the end of 2020 consisted of \$5,273.13 in cash, as a result of retained earnings of \$5,130.95 entering 2020, combined with the \$142.18 of net income.

Additional details and year-ago numbers are given on our [website](#).

We're doing what organizations 10 or 100 times our size do, and that's only possible because of our volunteers, employees generously working at substantially-below-market pricing, and supporters like you. We achieved a lot in 2020, despite many headwinds. We're proud of the progress we made, and we couldn't have done it without you!

Our ongoing goals in 2021 are to undertake more research and outreach activities, to grow revenues organically, and continue investing in our growth and scalability. We'll continue closely monitoring overhead expenses and do everything we can to reduce the percentage they take of our overall budget. And - we've already given a \$4,000 grant to Hugh Herr's lab at MIT. We're off to a great start!

We can't wait to share more with you throughout 2021.

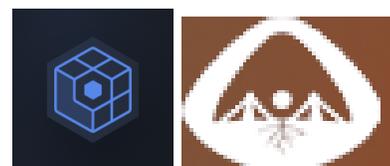
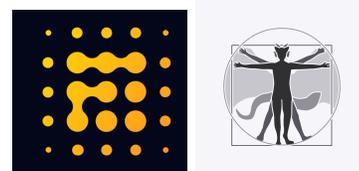
[Full report and 990-EZ download](#)

We Are In The Futurist Network Consortium

Progress, transhumanism, and may we never get bored of them!

by [Athamanatha Kitsune](#) on Wednesday 19th May 2021

A new group of organisations has been convened who are founding members of the Futurist Network. Joining the Futurist Foundation and the Freedom of Form Foundation in this steering committee are Projectium (a sort of LinkedIn meets Kickstarter for transhuman projects) and Nexus Aurora (a strong effort to develop technologies for Martian colonisation via SpaceX starships). This group will endeavour to ensure our future is augmented with well connected ideas and projects, companies and groups with real positive impacts for everyone.



The website for the FNC is under construction.

Logos clockwise from top-left: The Futurist Foundation, Freedom of Form Foundation, Nexus Aurora, and Projectium

It's Not Fun To Charter An Accountant

Tempests in the Accountan-sea

by [Athamanatha Kitsune](#) and [Zennith](#) on
Thursday 13th May 2021

Any charity needs to keep its books in order, to prove all is functioning well with its finances and nobody is taking what they shouldn't. From a consequentialist perspective, no bookkeeping activities are more important than those which pertain to the Internal Revenue Service.

Over the last year, we decided that we wanted to outsource accounting of our financials and tax returns to clear time and allow us to focus on having compliance in-house, as we had found our external compliance provider to be somewhat short of our expectations.

Conversations went well and agreements were made for an external accountant to provide such services to us.

Athamanatha, being organised and careful with his new role of in-house chief compliance officer, made sure to have a calendar outlining all the dates when he should perform renewals and annual reports, and also included on it key dates by which he would need tax forms to be filed, including the 990-EZ, a major form filed annually with the IRS.

The promised date for the 990-EZ draft came and went, and Atha asked Zennith to contact the accountant to request an update. The accountant explained something had come up that delayed matters a little, and that the form would be ready by the 15th of April. When it was not ready for then, the end of April. Then

still nothing. Zennith chased up again. The deadline slipped to Monday 10th May.

As the dates they gave came and went, Atha became less impressed by the accountant and more concerned about being able to file the growing pile of renewals and annual reports that needed doing by 15th May. Indeed, two of the annual reports had gone past their deadlines in part due to the lateness of Form 990-EZ and in part due to Pennsylvania and Florida having the worst lack of information about whether and how a non-profit based in another state should file annual reports. Fortunately, these turned out upon phoning the states to ask for more info, to be interpretable as exempt for our specific circumstances.

Still, no fewer than five renewals of state registrations including Massachusetts itself, and two annual reports, remained to be done and time was getting short. Zennith decided to fire the accountant, and like last year file the form himself, though unlike last year, would need to do it much faster.

Atha helped to compile the figures and sense-checked them. With Form 990-EZ completed on Sunday 9th, the rest of Sunday and all of Monday 10th were used for an intensive crunch time of form filling. Some of these were mail-in, some were digital, all are now done.

[Our merchandise is available now!](#)

Want to help out more?

by [Athamanatha Kitsune](#) on Thursday 13th
May 2021

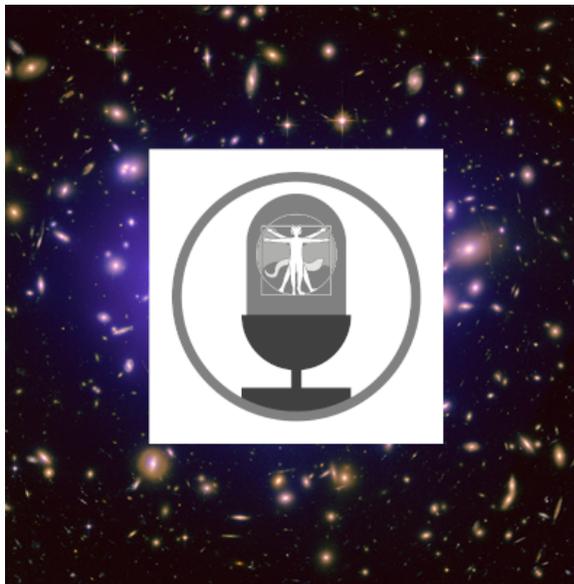
We're always on the lookout for more formal volunteers who are willing to put serious effort and time into working with us and who can often take the initiative to work with only

remote and occasional supervision. If you'd like to be part of our main team of volunteers and have the time and energy to put into it week after week, please get in touch with Syralth, Athamanatha, Moonbeam or Zennith.

Into Space

by **Athamanatha Kitsune** on Wednesday 19th May 2021

For our next podcast, the topic will be Space: The Final Frontier. Furrries, like Polandball, can into space. We're going to talk about how freedom of form might just save the very existence of intelligent Terran life...



[Catch up with our previous podcast episodes today!](#)

Website Improvements

by **Athamanatha Kitsune** on Thursday 13th May 2021

We are set to have a new artwork featuring neko and transhuman characters in a public location, to display in equal prominence to our existing furrries-in-a-lab image. The artist will be ValentinaPaz.

The website will also gain archives of this newsletter and updates on our podcasts and transcripts of our videos, along with maps of our compliance status.

<https://www.freedomofform.org>

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We're on LinkedIn, Youtube, Soundcloud, Google Podcasts, Breaker, RadioPublic, Spotify, Pocket, iTunes, Anchor, Twitter, Telegram and Discord!

Why not check out our awesome perks on Patreon or if you prefer, drop us something nice via Paypal. You can also add us to your Amazon Smile orders in the USA!

This late edition of the newsletter was brought to you by bureaucracy. Never underestimate its power.

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