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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

HISTORIC ONLINE MUSEUM CAMPAIGN SAVES THE LAST REMAINING LAB OF NIKOLA TESLA BY RAISING \$1,370,511!

The Stanford White-designed Wardenclyffe laboratory and surrounding property can now be purchased by the Tesla Science Center, thanks to a viral crowdfunding campaign started by the popular internet comic artist "The Oatmeal".

The indiegogo "Let's Build a Goddamn Tesla Museum" online campaign started by The Oatmeal's Matthew Inman (a popular internet comic strip artist) has resulted in an astounding \$1,370,511, well exceeding the project goal of \$850,000. The funds, which will now free up a NY State reimbursement grant of \$850,000, will allow the Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe, a local non-profit organization, to purchase the property and begin the restoration that will transform the site into a world-class museum.

Matthew Inman explained to Forbes magazine what inspired him to start such an ambitious campaign, "As I've mentioned in my comics, Nikola Tesla was an unsung hero in the history books. He gave us so much and we gave him so little in return."

"Enormously, overwhelmingly-astounding," is how Jane Alcorn, president of the Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe described her feelings about the project's newfound fortune to the Associated Press. In addition to the money raised, a Capital Grant of \$850,000 obtained by former NYS Assemblyman Marc Alessi provides for \$850,000 in reimbursement to the Tesla Science Center.

Tipping them over the top of their fundraising goal was "Fragments From Olympus-The Vision of Nikola Tesla" filmmaker Joseph Sikorski, who used the last of his film's seed money, and raised some additional last minute funds to make the now famous \$33,333 donation Matthew tweeted about:



“FRAGMENTS FROM OLYMPUS” filmmakers have long been involved in trying to save the historic Wardenclyffe property. A four million dollar letter of commitment they received for their total film financing included a one million dollar donation for the TSC to purchase the property. When a sudden illness put the deal in limbo as an interested buyer arose, Jane Alcorn put out an appeal to raise the money online. Enter The Oatmeal's Matthew Inman, who started what ultimately became a historic IndieGoGo campaign to raise the funds for the museum . "Tesla would be very pleased to see this many people kind of worshipping him as this geek hero" and backing it up with credit card donations by the thousands to restore his lab," Inmann said.

In addition to Sikorski's donation, the final tally was reached in part through the help of a distant relative of Nikola Tesla, Dusan Stojanovic, who provided a final matching grant of \$33,333. Also pledging at the highest gift tier was Greg Tally, owner of the Best Western Denver Southwest in Colorado.

Wardenclyffe, located in Shoreham NY, was the site where Nikola Tesla built his wireless telegraphy plant in 1901 with the dream of transmitting free wireless energy to the whole world. Though the 187-foot tower no longer remains, the Stanford White-designed building still stands. The Tesla Science Center hopes to continue to raise the funds for a full restoration of the property and ultimate transformation into a museum in honor of the genius inventor. To achieve this, they will need help with their ongoing effort. "Building a science center will take a lot more time and money, so in the interim I'd love to have a Nikola Tesla Festival on Nikola Tesla Day (July 10). It'd just be a big one-day outdoor event ," Inmann said. In the aftermath of the online campaign, donations for the museum's restoration can still be made through the TSC's website.

Also pledging continued support is Sikorski, who hopes his film "***Fragments from Olympus-The Vision of Nikola Tesla***" will find a new private investor and ultimately help the TSC continue to raise awareness and financing for the maintenance of the museum. Co-written by Michael Calomino, "Fragments from Olympus" was "Best Screenplay" of the Long Island International Film Festival and a "Quarter Finalist" in one of the country's largest script contests, "The American Screenwriting Competition". Currently on board the project is Actress SEAN YOUNG (BladeRunner, Ace Ventura), Veteran Character Actor LEO ROSSI (Analyze This, The Accused) and Cinematographer HOWARD J. SMITH (Harry Potter, Matrix films). About using his own film seed money to help save the Wardenclyffe property, Sikorski said, "It's a sequence of priorities, the first thing was to support all the efforts to preserve this valuable piece of history. It's all part of the vindication of Tesla, who sacrificed so much and died penniless. Telling his story is the next part."

And thanks to the effort of Matthew Inman, the Tesla Science Center, and the generous support of the people, the next part may be just as inspirational.

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