

1. CORE PROJECT DETAILS (10%)

- **Your Bitcoin Circular Economy project name:** Cuba Bitcoin.
- **Geographical region the BTC circular economy will cover (ie, community, town, state, or region?):** Cuba (country) National.
- **Any demographic or other details about locals needs and potential impact of Bitcoin in the region:**

Cuba has unique characteristics that set it apart. For many years, it has been under an Economic Blockade or Commercial and Financial Embargo imposed by the United States government, which has isolated Cubans from the International Banking System.

Consequently, we do not have access to payment methods such as Visa, Mastercard, or Paypal, and cannot make online payments or use platforms like Amazon and eBay or exchanges like Binance, Bitfinex, among others.

In addition, the country operates under a centralized and inefficient economic system managed by the government.

The CUP (Cuban Peso) has seen a significant devaluation over the past two years, going from 1 USD = 25 CUP to 1 USD = 400 CUP. Bitcoin is an emancipatory and liberating tool that can greatly assist the Cuban people in their harsh reality.

- **Some information about the individual(s), group(s) and/or partners leading the project:**

Cuba Bitcoin is organized by a group of enthusiastic Cuban Bitcoiners. They are Catrya (x.com/Catry_a), Bitalion (x.com/Bitalion), Marcus, and Forte11 (x.com/Forte11Cuba).

They have organized events, Bitcoin courses, workshops, and activities with the goal of achieving the adoption of this technology on the island and establishing a circular economy in Cuba.

2. VISION & PLAN (30%)

- **What's your vision and plan for evolving this circular economy? Provide some steps and goals that you are setting to grow the circular economy.**

Our vision for evolving a circular economy in Cuba is based on educating the population about Bitcoin and its benefits. By increasing awareness, understanding, and knowledge about it, we aim to create a self-sustaining ecosystem where Bitcoin is widely accepted and used.

Education and Training:

- Increase participation in Bitcoin courses, meetups, and workshops.
- Invite local business owners and local entrepreneurs to learn and adopt Bitcoin, encouraging them to accept Bitcoin payments.

- Offer training on using BTC Pay Server, Swiss Bitcoin Pay, and other Bitcoin Payment processors.
- Conduct Specialized Bitcoin Courses to promote the creation of applications and technological solutions useful for the Cuban context.

Community Engagement:

- Ensure that each event includes more businesses with stands, selling their products for Bitcoin and facilitating networking among the participants.
- Support entrepreneurs in using Bitcoin tools, such as wallets.
- Conduct training sessions and workshops to spread knowledge across different provinces.
- Organize the 4th edition of My First Bitcoin (MFB) virtually to reach new provinces, and the 5th, 6th, and 7th editions in person across more provinces.

Cultural and Social Projects:

- Organize cultural and social activities where participants earn Sats and spend them at local businesses that accept Bitcoin, promoting its use as a currency and inviting more businesses to join.
- **What are the next steps/activities from your plan that this grant funding will enable?**

Expand Bitcoin Courses and Host Meetups:

- Execute the 4th edition of MFB virtually to extend Bitcoin knowledge to new provinces we have not yet reached.
- Organize Bitcoin-only meetups in new provinces.
- Plan and conduct the 5th, 6th, and 7th editions of MFB in person in more provinces.
- Offer specialized Bitcoin courses such as "Mastering Bitcoin," "Mastering Lightning," and "Learn Bitcoin from the Command Line" to empower Cubans in technological development using Bitcoin as a tool, fostering both consumption and the creation of technology-based solutions.

Develop and Distribute Resources:

- Create locally tailored materials to facilitate Bitcoin integration in businesses.
- Promote the use of BTC Maps to increase visibility and accessibility for local Bitcoin-accepting businesses.
- Strategically place stickers around the city to attract the attention of local residents.
- Print "Bitcoin Accepted Here" stickers for participating businesses to boost Bitcoin adoption as a payment method.
- Establish a Cuba Bitcoin store via BTC Pay Server, integrating local businesses into a platform.

- Conduct marketing campaigns on our social media channels to promote Cuban businesses that accept Bitcoin and are listed on BTC Maps.

Support the Community and Events:

- Supply merchandise and promotional materials to raise awareness about Bitcoin.
 - Fund costs related to instructors, event organization, venue rental, and catering.
 - Provide payments to volunteers participating in our programs and events.
 - Offer discounts to consumers using Bitcoin as a payment method at participating businesses.
- **What is the projected timeframe for using these funds to carry out these steps/activities?**

One year

- **What amount are you requesting (5M sats, 2M sats, 1M sats)? Include a budget with some breakdown of projected costs (see sample budget on next page)**

We are requesting 5M sats

Education and Training:		
	Sats	Total
Teacher salaries for the 4th Edition of MFB (To be distributed among 4 teachers)	450000	2600000
Teacher salaries for the 5th Edition of MFB (To be distributed among 4 teachers)	450000	
Teacher salaries for the 6th Edition of MFB (To be distributed among 4 teachers)	450000	
Three Bitcoin-only meetups in new provinces.	750000	
Teacher salaries for the Specialized courses on Bitcoin (To be distributed among 3 teachers)	500000	

Develop and Distribute Resources:		
	Sats	Total
Stickers	75000	1625000
Cuba Bitcoin Store (Online) and Web Page of Cuba Bitcoin	500000	
Materials: Bitcoin for Business (video tutorials and manuals on how Cuban businesses can adopt Bitcoin in their environment)	300000	

T Shirt Bitcoin for VolunTERS, Bussines and Students (10 USD per Tshirt)	750000	
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Support the Community and Events:		
	Sats	Total
Cost of renting space for meetup and events (5 events)	230000	930000
Snack and Food	450000	
Provide payments to volunteers	250000	

3. PROOF OF WORK (30%)

- **What activities have been done to date to build and advance a local Bitcoin circular economy? Education, outreach with merchants to accept BTC, etc.**

We have been working for over a year, starting with online meetups in our Telegram group (t.me/Cuba_Bitcoin). Later, we began holding face-to-face meetups in Havana. So far, we have organized more than 10 meetups, including a Socratic BitDev, a format we intend to use more frequently. On average, 15 to 20 people attend these meetups.

We have also conducted 3 in-person editions of the "My First Bitcoin" (MFB) diploma course in 3 Cuban provinces: Havana, Las Tunas, and Sancti Spiritus, with a total of 62 graduates. In Las Tunas, we did the clases in a school for children aged 14 to 18, which was a significant achievement since all schools are government property.

We have adapted the MFB courses for Cuba and added content. One class focuses on how to acquire Bitcoin in Cuba through p2p transactions without KYC, using the @Inp2pbot, due to the many restrictions that make it difficult to access Bitcoin otherwise.

We have already announced the 4th edition of MFB, which will start in July. For the first time, it will be held online to reach a wider audience across Cuba. Several people have already enrolled, including Cubans who have emigrated to other countries, as well as foreigners from Costa Rica, the United States, Nicaragua, and Iran.

We also aim to promote the creation of circular economies with Bitcoin in Cuba. At our meetups, we invite private entrepreneurs and individuals with social projects to learn about Bitcoin and explain how to integrate it into their activities. Those who already accept Bitcoin are invited to showcase their work.

Before Cuba Bitcoin, there were about 5 local businesses accepting Bitcoin in Cuba. Gradually, we have increased this number to 29 businesses across the island.

4. IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY (30%)

- **What are the projected outcomes of activities covered by the grant?**

Expected outcomes:

- Expansion of Bitcoin knowledge in Cuba and Latin America
 - Specialized courses, technological development, and creation of Cuban businesses and ventures centered around Bitcoin
 - Integration of Bitcoin into local businesses
 - Strengthening of community and events
 - Promotion of businesses that accept Bitcoin
 - Achievement of circular economies across the island of Cuba
 - Economically more sovereign and free citizens
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- **How will this funding and activities contribute to sustainability of your BTC circular economy project?**

The proposed funding and activities will significantly contribute to the sustainability of our circular economy project in several key ways:

Expanding Bitcoin Knowledge and Reach:

- Courses and Meetups: By conducting the 4th edition of MFB virtually, we can reach provinces where we haven't yet had a presence. In-person meetups and future editions will foster a stronger, more united Bitcoin community. This not only expands the Bitcoin user base but also creates a conducive environment for idea exchange and collaboration.
- Specialized Courses: Offering courses such as "Mastering Bitcoin," "Mastering Lightning," and "Learn Bitcoin from the Command Line" will enable Cubans to develop advanced technological skills. This will boost both the consumption and creation of Bitcoin-based technological solutions, driving local innovation.

Resource Development and Distribution:

- Local Materials and BTC Maps: Creating locally adapted materials will facilitate the integration of Bitcoin in Cuban businesses, while promoting BTC Maps will increase the visibility and accessibility of Bitcoin-accepting businesses. This will strengthen the local Bitcoin commerce network.
- Stickers and Bitcoin Store in Cuba: Strategically placing stickers and printing "Bitcoin Accepted Here" signs will attract local residents' attention to businesses accepting Bitcoin, thus increasing its usage. Additionally, creating a Bitcoin store in Cuba through BTC Pay Server will further integrate local businesses into the platform, easing Bitcoin commerce.

Community and Event Support:

- Promotional Materials and Funding: Providing merchandise and promotional materials will help raise awareness about Bitcoin.
- Volunteer Payments and Discounts: Offering payments to volunteers and discounts to consumers using Bitcoin will incentivize participation and the use of Bitcoin as a payment method.

PoS Devices for Establishments:

- Acquisition of PoS Devices: With the funding, we can acquire PoS (Point of Sale) devices to be used in establishments accepting Bitcoin. These devices can be built using Lilygo ESP32 with a display, and the 3D printing schemes and firmware are available. This will facilitate Bitcoin transactions, improving the user experience and increasing adoption in businesses.

In summary, this funding will not only expand Bitcoin knowledge and adoption but also strengthen the infrastructure necessary to sustain a Bitcoin-based circular economy in Cuba. These efforts will create a more robust and self-sufficient ecosystem that promotes continuous use and acceptance of Bitcoin in the daily lives of Cubans.

● **Are there other sources of funding that this grant will enable you to pursue?**

Yes, this grant will enable us to pursue several other sources of funding and opportunities:

- Private Sector Partnerships: Successful execution and visibility of our activities and showing a working model of a Bitcoin-based economy can attract sponsorships from tech companies, financial institutions and businesses.
- Crowdfunding and Community Support: The momentum from this grant can help us launch successful crowdfunding campaigns. We can attract donations from individuals and organizations within the community in Cuba.
- Revenue-Generating Activities: Selling branded merchandise, such as T-shirts and other promotional items, can provide an additional revenue stream.
- Technology Donations: As our project gains visibility, we can attract in-kind contributions, such as donations of hardware and technical support from tech companies and individuals.

Annexes:

Cuba Bitcoin Socials Networks:

- X: x.com/Cuba_BTC

- Telegram: t.me/Cuba_Bitcoin

Cuba_Inp2p Social Networks: (P2P exchange without KYC founded by the Cuba Bitcoin team)

- X: x.com/Cuba_Inp2p
- Telegram: t.me/Cuba_Inp2p

Documentaries and Interviews about Cuba Bitcoin:

- The Truth Behind Cuba's Bitcoin Revolution | What it Really Looks Like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPp0Xbk4bFo>
- Blockchain for Humanity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXO0TYc4494>
- Adopting Bitcoin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgFhIK59Adg>
- Crox Road: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PByaIncwXE>
- Bitcoinismo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMaQier5ZeQ>

News:

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