

*"Your story
starts with you.
right here."*



THE DREAM ↻ SWITCH

Co-produced by BLIXT and
Nebraska Community Foundation

* In partnership with
our Nebraska hometowns *

KEY INFORMATION AND INTEREST FORM
FOR POTENTIAL PARTNER COMMUNITIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TELL ME ABOUT NCF'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DREAM SWITCH, AND HOW CAN IT BENEFIT MY HOMETOWN?

Nebraska Community Foundation helps hundreds of Nebraska hometowns be successful at people attraction. *The Dream Switch* is a catalyst for honest community conversations in your hometown about what it will take to be more successful at people attraction (among stayers, returners and newcomers).

Are we a welcoming community? If so, how? Do all community members feel a sense of belonging? If yes, why? If not, why? What can we do together to weave a stronger social fabric in our hometown? How can we best invite our friends and neighbors to do this work, together?

We know positive change that sticks happens along the lines of relationships at the speed of trust. Cultivating and nurturing more honest, future-focused conversations in your hometown about the future of your homeplace will result in many, many good outcomes that will benefit everyone.

WHAT IS THE DREAM SWITCH ABOUT?

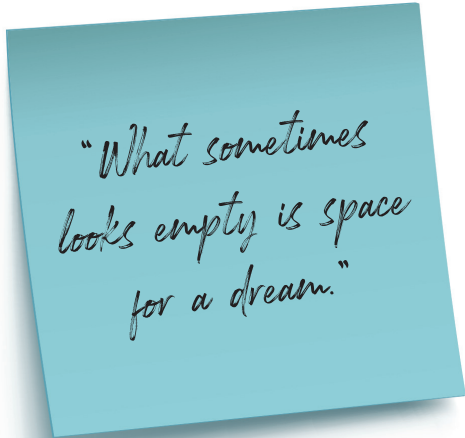
The Dream Switch story revolves around a young outlier from the Sandhills who decides after her first year of college in Nebraska, that her happiness awaits elsewhere. *The Dream Switch* follows her journey as she leaves home, explores the world beyond, and then comes to her own understanding that "everything I needed to be me, was around me."

WHO HAS CREATED THE DREAM SWITCH?


The Dream Switch song cycle is written by the award-winning Nebraska-based musical theatre team Becky Boesen and David von Kampen.

IS THE DREAM SWITCH SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES?

There is no adult language in the lyrics of *The Dream Switch*, so it can be enjoyed by people of all ages, from young children to senior citizens.



"What sometimes looks empty is space for a dream."



"Gold skies at dawn.
Radio on...
Nebraska."

WHO PERFORMS THE DREAM SWITCH?

The Dream Switch is performed by a vocalist, a pianist, a percussionist, a bassist, two violinists and two cellists. Lyricist Becky Boesen serves as the host for the evening.

HOW LONG IS THE DREAM SWITCH PERFORMANCE?

The Dream Switch performance consists of 14 songs that take approximately 65 minutes to perform. Immediately after the performance, we turn it over to the audience for a candid community conversation about the priorities of YOUR hometown, inspired by the themes in *The Dream Switch*. The conversation will usually last about 45–50 minutes so the whole event lasts a little less than 2 hours in total.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO BRING THE DREAM SWITCH TO MY COMMUNITY?

\$4,000 plus possible lodging and a meal on the performance day for 11 people.

(The NCF recommendation is that \$2,500 come from affiliated funds, and the remaining \$1,500 can come from sponsorships, etc.) This special fee is discounted by over 50% for NCF affiliated communities, with underwriting provided by NCF and the Peter Kiewit Foundation, to make it affordable.

DO YOU HAVE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMUNITIES WHEN IT COMES TO SOURCING THE 1,500 BEYOND THE NCF AFFILIATED FUNDS?

Our Pioneer communities (Nemaha and Valley Counties) partnered with other local organizations to raise the additional money, such as the Adult City Rec and Development Council in Auburn (Nemaha County) and Valley County Economic Development Council and The Golden Husk in Ord (Valley County).

WHEN IS THE DREAM SWITCH AVAILABLE?

The Dream Switch is currently available from March through September 2020.

WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU HAVE IN TERMS OF PERFORMANCE DAY AND TIME?

We recommend that you schedule the performance on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday evening, or on a Sunday afternoon, to maximize attendance.

DO YOU RECOMMEND AN INDOOR OR OUTDOOR VENUE?

We recommend an indoor venue, as it reduces the worries about weather, and creates a focused atmosphere for listening and the conversation. However, if an outdoor venue is the best option for your community, we are happy to explore this with you. We are also happy to perform in unconventional venues.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES OF THE DREAM SWITCH?

The Dream Switch is built to engage audiences around the following themes:

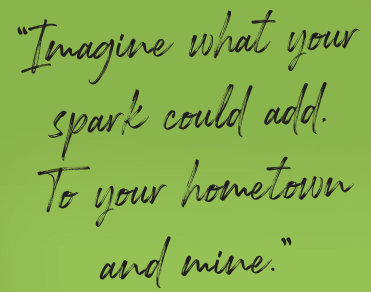
- * Returning to one's home
- * Sense of place
- * Loneliness
- * Intergenerational communication
- * The complicated bonds between parents and their children
- * Inclusion and belonging
- * The power of invitation
- * What it means to live in Nebraska



However, *The Dream Switch* will work as a catalyst for conversation about ANY topic that is a priority for your community!

WHO FACILITATES THE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION?

Lyricist and performance host Becky Boesen will facilitate the community conversation alongside a member of your community, whom we identify together ahead of time.



"Imagine what your
spark could add.
To your hometown
and mine."

CAN MY COMMUNITY CHARGE FOR TICKETS TO THE DREAM SWITCH PERFORMANCE?

It is the wish of the producers that *The Dream Switch* performance is accessible to everyone in your community. Sometimes, that means that all tickets are free. If you feel it is better to charge an affordable ticket fee, while ensuring accessibility to those who are not able to afford the ticket price, we are happy to discuss this with you.

CAN I LISTEN TO ONE OR MORE SONGS FROM THE DREAM SWITCH?

The song *Make Good* from *The Dream Switch* is available here:
www.nebcommfound.org/dreamswitch

You can also enjoy a taster video of the same song here:
<https://vimeo.com/352928629>

"We enjoy any chance to connect with students and community members about their hometown and instilling a sense of belonging among them and *The Dream Switch* was an incredibly unique, fun and creative way to do so. There were so many special moments that took place as part of the project and I know they will have a lasting impact for individuals that took part as well as for our community as a whole. We can't wait to carry aspects of the project into future years to help grow our community connection and attraction efforts even further."

KRISTINA FOTH, VALLEY COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ORD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BLIXT AND NCF (PRODUCERS)

- * Provision of *The Dream Switch* performance with 7 musicians, vocalist Andrea von Kampen, and host Becky Boesen (lyricist of *The Dream Switch*).
- * Co-facilitation of the post-show community conversation.
- * One day of teaching with two Teaching Artists, who will come to your community to work with students and/or community members before or after the performance event.
- * Provision of a specially written song (by Boesen/von Kampen) that can be rehearsed by local young people, such as school choirs, and performed at the end of *The Dream Switch*. This is a great opportunity to integrate your young people into the performance and give them a chance to sing alongside world-class musicians.
- * Digital marketing materials.
- * All technical and production logistics. We may use the sound system and/or lights in your venue, if available—but if not, we will bring them, as well as experienced production and sound engineers.
- * Artist transportation.
- * Collaborative planning with *The Dream Switch* producers.

COMMUNITY

- * Community investment of \$4,000, plus possible lodging and a meal for the artists.
- * Collaborative planning with the producers.
- * Identifying a venue, date, and time for *The Dream Switch* performance and community conversation.
- * Spreading the word about *The Dream Switch*, using provided marketing materials, local radio, social media, etc., to attract a robust and diverse audience for the community performance and conversation.
- * Planning community and school engagement activities with the producers to expand and deepen the interest and excitement about *The Dream Switch* performance.
- * Partnering with local businesses and organizations to develop a community atmosphere around the performance.
- * If the event is outdoors, ensuring proper licenses for possible street closures and public restroom availability.

We are excited to work with you on utilizing *The Dream Switch* as a springboard for rallying your Fund Advisory Committee around an exciting and tangible endeavor, to identify community priorities and dreams, and to gain momentum for long-term opportunities in your community!

The Dream Switch Interest Form

NCF Annual Celebration

November 14, 2019

Hello, friends,

We are excited that you are interested in learning more about bringing *The Dream Switch* to your community. This form is not a commitment, but rather a first step in the exploration process. Please fill in as much (or as little) as you can below. We understand that you may need to bring this form back to your community for discussion before submitting it back to us. For that reason, we have attached a stamped self-addressed envelope to this form (or you can email producer Petra Wahlqvist at petra@blix.space for an electronic version of the form). If you are able to complete it tonight, any NCF staff member would be happy to accept it.

Please note that the deadline for getting this form back to us is Friday, December 1, 2019.

1. Contact name: _____

2. Contact details: (phone and email) _____

3. Affiliated Fund/Community name: _____

4. What themes of *The Dream Switch* do you think are the most important for your community to discuss? _____

5. Do you have an idea of an ideal date and/or range of dates for presenting *The Dream Switch* in your community? _____

6. Do you have an idea for one or more possible venues in your community? (if not, don't worry, we can help you identify a place!) _____

7. Do you have an idea of additional local partners who would be passionate about collaborating, who will put "skin in the game" in helping to maximize *The Dream Switch* in your place? (We will not reach out to these partners without you. Knowing your current thoughts will help connect dots when we speak more about *The Dream Switch*). _____

8. Do you have any other comments or questions for us? _____

Tick the box that applies to your community:

We are excited to explore possibilities for bringing *The Dream Switch* to our community!

We are ready to commit to bringing *The Dream Switch* to our community!

THANK YOU!

What happens next?

We will collect interest forms from communities until the deadline of Friday, December 1, 2019. After this date, each contact person will receive an email from producer Petra Wahlqvist, acknowledging receipt of the interest form, and setting up a date and time for a follow up phone or Zoom conversation. During this conversation, we will go over the information above and talk in-depth about bringing *The Dream Switch* to your community, including answering any outstanding questions you may have.

After Petra has talked with all interested communities, she will be back in touch to let you know the number of open slots available for communities to book *The Dream Switch*, and see if your community is ready to take the next step in the process. This would include making a commitment to agreed upon roles and responsibilities and deciding a date for *The Dream Switch* performance and community conversation.

Contacts:

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*"I've got places
to go and places
to grow..."*