



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Oakland Community Wireless Internet Project Receives \$100K Donation from Handshake Foundation

Oakland, CA - Sudo Mesh, a small nonprofit dedicated to equitable Internet access and education, has received a \$100,000 donation from the Handshake Foundation. This award will enable them to distribute donated bandwidth and dramatically expand their free wireless network, People's Open, across Oakland and the Bay Area.

"For a project that's sustained itself entirely on hardworking, passionate volunteers and a shoestring budget for the past five years, this is a gamechanger," said Jenny Ryan, co-founding member and Treasurer of Sudo Mesh. "This is exactly what the project needs right now to mature into a large-scale, successful open wireless network accessible to all."

Project members are currently building links to donated multi-gigabit bandwidth, with the goal to distribute it freely across Oakland and the East Bay. Those who connect to the network are not customers, but rather, community members. Each home or business that is linked to the network becomes a free and open wireless hotspot. Using common, off-the-shelf hardware and Sudo Mesh's open source software, small groups of people can utilize existing bandwidth to share their internet connections and cover public and underserved areas.

"I nominated Sudo Mesh because they share similar values of building a public internet commons," said Pamela Pascual, a community member of Handshake. "I believe that mesh networks are an important physical infrastructure layer that can support a decentralized Internet where users have more agency and control over their data. Handshake's spirit of radical gifting to the open source community made People's Open a natural fit."

In this same spirit of radical gifting, Sudo Mesh has decided to allocate 10% of the funds to Sudo Room, the creative community hackerspace that provides space and resources for Sudo Mesh to store equipment and host open office hours every Sunday afternoon, and 30% of the funds to Omni Commons, the collective space in which Sudo Room resides and which also hosts Sudo Mesh's weekly meetings and quarterly Build Your Own Internet (BYOI) events.

About Sudo Mesh

[Sudo Mesh](#) is a non-profit organization founded in 2013, dedicated to providing educational and material support toward the creation of community-owned and -operated wireless telecommunications networks. Sudo Mesh encompasses several projects, including: the [People's Open Network](#), empowering communities to build and operate their own wireless networks using open source software, off-the-shelf hardware, and open educational materials; and [disaster.radio](#), a solar-powered, long-range mesh network built on free, open source software and affordable open hardware running low-bandwidth web apps that can be accessed by any WiFi-enabled device.

About Handshake

[Handshake.org](#) is a decentralized, permissionless naming protocol compatible with DNS where every peer is validating and in charge of managing the root zone with the goal of creating an



alternative to existing Certificate Authorities. Its purpose is not to replace the DNS protocol, but to replace the root zone file and the root servers with a public commons.

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