



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

An eight-part television series  
about the thousand-year future of humanity

### Project Description

Bob Citron and Kirk Citron  
Fourth Draft  
April 1, 2002



## Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

# *The Next Thousand Years*

*“The last thousand years gave us the tools of science and technology—which now have a doubling time of 15 years. The next thousand years—indeed, the next two centuries—are likely to be decisive on where humans will be for all time.”*

*—E. O. Wilson, in conversation*



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### Contents

1. The Project
2. The Concept
3. The Programs
4. Scholarship
5. Program Workshops
6. Resources for the Series
7. Interviews and Location Filming
8. Summary Schedule
9. Budget
10. Presentation Package
11. Potential Co-Production Companies
12. Potential Funding Sources
13. Outreach Program & Follow-on Updates



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

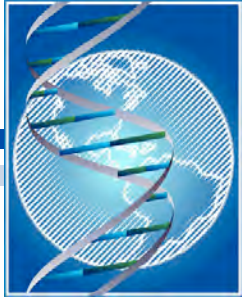
## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 1. The Project

Can we predict the future? Not entirely. But perhaps, for the very first time, we can make an attempt to look at the past and the current trends in human cultural development and gain some insights into the possible directions that humanity might take in the next thousand years. Advances in scientific fields as varied as medicine, genetics and genetic engineering, technology, biology, ecology, nanotechnology, robotics, space exploration, and cosmology continue to push back the frontiers of human knowledge. These advances are allowing scientists to project trends and speculate about the long-term future of humanity with a greater degree of confidence than ever before. For the first time in human history, we may actually be able to see patterns that suggest some directions our human future may take.

The Foundation For the Future is inaugurating an ambitious and exciting new program—a major television series called *The Next Thousand Years*—to address these trends and uncover these insights. The television series will take us on a tour of the possible long-term future of our species, led by some of the greatest scholars and humanists of our time. Imagine a guided tour of the future led by social and physical scientists, artists, and philosophers who spend their lives working to understand the possibilities for the future of our species. Imagine an entertaining, fact-based journey through the eyes of some of the most brilliant minds on Earth today.

This is ***THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS***.



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 2. The Concept

The concept for *The Next Thousand Years* television series grew out of the work of the Foundation For the Future's "Humanity 3000" project. Humanity 3000 brings together some of the most prominent thinkers on our planet each year to discuss and debate the critical factors that may have the most significant impact on the long-term future of our species. During the past three years the Foundation has hosted seminars, workshops, and a major international symposium for its Humanity 3000 program. Some 150 scholars from around the world have participated in these events to discuss the thousand-year future. These scholars have included leading thinkers from a wide range of scientific, social, and artistic fields from many different cultures around the world. They were brought together to attempt to identify the most critical factors that may have major impacts on the long-term survival and well-being of our species. These activities have led to the publication of a series of proceedings documents and the production of several films and videotapes that follow Humanity 3000 deliberations. These programs have also led to the distribution of educational materials to thousands of libraries, scientific and cultural institutions, and classrooms around the world.

The purpose of the Humanity 3000 project is not to predict the future, or even to plan for any specific future. Its purpose is to bring together the best minds on Earth from different fields of human endeavor to discuss trends in science, technology, and human cultural development; to document the scholarly discussions in print, in video, and on the Internet; and to assemble a permanent archival record of these deliberations for posterity. In the process of reviewing the videotaped conversations of the past three years, it became evident that the scholars' ideas and their views of the thousand-year future of humanity would make an exciting, educational, thought-provoking, science-based television series.



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 3. The Programs

**Program I:** *Past, Present, Future* starts with a history of prophecy, takes us back a thousand years to explore how much change is actually possible in the span of a millennium, looks at how change itself has accelerated during the past century, and then looks ahead to the year 3000.

**Program II:** *This Tiny Planet* examines the carrying capacity of the Earth, humanity's impact on the global environment, the threat of extinction, and travel beyond this planet to other worlds and other star systems.

**Program III:** *The Future Human* focuses on advances in medicine, theorizes about our ability to eliminate disease and extend the human life span, looks at the consequences of an aging population, and examines the possibility of conscious evolution.

**Program IV:** *The Prospect of Wealth* dramatizes the future of work, money, and the economy; looks at the future of the *haves* and *have-nots*; and explores the future of war and the possibilities for new forms of global governance.

**Program V:** *The Horizons of Intelligence* shows how intelligence evolved, the globalization of intelligence, the biology of the brain, the future of education, the development of very powerful artificial intelligence, and the possible impact of contact with extraterrestrial intelligence.

**Program VI:** *The Wisdom of the Ages* inquires into the past, present, and future of science, philosophy, and religion; examines the conflicts between science and nonscientific worldviews; looks at the development of global ethics; and asks some of our biggest unanswered questions.

**Program VII:** *The Future of Fun* explores the question of how people will spend their time; how people will entertain themselves; the uses of leisure; the possible consequences for human relationships like marriage; and the future of art, travel, sports, games, and virtual reality.

**Program VIII:** *The Future of the Future* examines the possible outcomes for humanity as well as the probable outcomes, looks at humankind's likely agenda in the year 3000, presents speculations of thought leaders about the possible future, and ends with a journey to the year 3000.



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 4. Scholarship

The Foundation's intent is to ensure that *The Next Thousand Years* television series will not only represent diverse cultural views of reality, but also incorporate the most rigorous scholarship in presenting those views. While the underpinnings of this television series are science based, some programs will contrast our scientific understanding of the natural world with religious and animistic beliefs to show how different cultures and different ethnic groups approach reality and envision the future in different ways.

Each program in the series will have its own editorial advisory team of scholars who will be responsible for reviewing program scripts for content and accuracy. Each program will have its own producer, its own writers, and its own scholarship review team.



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 5. Program Workshops

The Foundation plans to hold a workshop for each of the programs in the series. These workshops will bring together scholars, program producers, and writers who will work together to develop scripts that are dramatic, educational, and entertaining. The workshops are intended to flesh out the most salient topics on the subjects at hand. The participating scholars in each workshop will select what they believe are the most important subject areas to be covered, identify the scholars who should be interviewed on camera, identify significant past events that should be dramatically reenacted to add historical drama, identify the locations around the world that should be filmed to help tell a compelling story, and identify the most important visions of the future that should be simulated by computer graphics.

Producers and writers attending these workshops will be armed with lists of questions to be answered by the program scholars. Writers will stay in contact with their scholar advisory teams for ongoing feedback on content and accuracy. Program scripts will go through a rigorous scholarship review process before they are finalized for production.



## Foundation For the Future

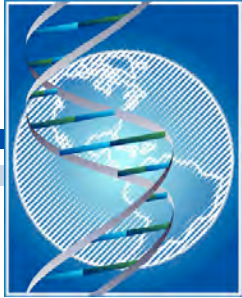
Bellevue, Washington USA

# *The Next Thousand Years*

## 6. Resources for the Series

The Foundation has a number of resources that can be used to assist in the production of the series, including:

1. Ongoing Humanity 3000 workshops, seminars, and symposia.
2. Over 200 hours of digital videotape of Humanity 3000 workshops, seminars, and symposium proceedings.
3. Agreement by Professor E. O. Wilson and Professor Richard Dawkins to participate, on a time-available basis, in the development of the series.
4. A comprehensive research library that includes thousands of books, publications, and videos on subjects concerning the past, the present, and the future of humanity.
5. Digital videotapes of major addresses and keynote speeches by prominent scholars related to the long-term future of humanity.
6. A 15-minute film, *Cosmic Origins: From Big Bang to Humanity*, produced by the Foundation For the Future and the Palfreman Film Group, which outlines the evolution of the universe, life on Earth, and human culture, and looks to the long-term future.
7. On-camera interviews with nearly 100 scholars giving their views on the thousand-year future of humanity.
8. A participating network of several hundred scholars in different disciplines, representing a diverse range of cultures from around the world.
9. Affiliations with several dozen organizations and institutions around the world undertaking “futures” research and education. Many of these organizations are interested in participating in the television series.
10. Established website and outreach programs that focus on the long-term future of humanity.



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 7. Interviews and Location Filming

#### **Scholar Interviews**

The series will include on-camera interviews with dozens of scholars, scientists, technologists, and researchers involved in assessing the past biological and cultural evolution of humanity, evaluating current worldwide cultural activities, and discussing trends that might give some insights into the possible future directions our species might take. There will also be on-camera interviews with philosophers, poets, artists, and sociologists from different cultures around the world that will portray different views of reality and present their own assessments of the future of humanity.

#### **Location Filming**

The series will be filmed at many locations throughout the world. Filming will take place at the institutions and laboratories where cutting-edge research is under way in numerous fields of human endeavor, from medical research and genetic engineering to the life and physical sciences, robotics, artificial intelligence, cosmology, space exploration, and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Filming will take place at religious sanctuaries as well as among preliterate tribal groups and aboriginal peoples to document their views on the long-term future of their peoples.



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 8. Summary Schedule

#### Project Planning

Year One

2002

Write master project plan, including budgets and schedules. Draft program sketches; identify and recruit scholar consultants. Hire fund-raising team. Identify sources of funding. Submit grant proposals to potential funding sources. Obtain funding for Phase I. Write and produce series pilot and presentation materials. Write research documents for the first two programs. Convene the first Producers Workshop. Identify potential co-production companies. Develop the details of the outreach program. Submit proposals for Phase II funding.

#### Pre-Production

Year Two

2003

Obtain Phase II funding. Conclude co-production agreements. Hire program writers and conduct eight program workshops. Identify interviewees and shooting locations. Write eight detailed program treatments. Decide on dramatic re-creations. Write dramatic reenactment scripts. Write CGI scripts. Arrange logistics for shooting locations. Prepare detailed program budgets and shooting schedules. Implement outreach program.

#### Production/Post-Production

Years Three and Four

2004/2005

#### Broadcast/Cablecast Series

Year Five

2006

#### Biannual Program Updates/Future Years

2008, 2010, etc.



# Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

## *The Next Thousand Years*

### 9. Budget

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Estimated Budget</u>
Project Planning	1 year	2002	\$1M
Pre-Production	1 year	2003	\$2M
Production/Post-Production	2 years	2004/5	\$9M
Distribution		2006	
Totals	4 years		\$12M



## Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

# *The Next Thousand Years*

## 10. Presentation Package

1. *The Next Thousand Years* television series Master Plan.
2. Treatment for the series.
3. Treatments for individual programs.
4. A production document that includes consulting scholars for each program, sequences, people, locations, dramatic sequences, computer graphics, and production schedules and budgets.
5. A demo reel that includes the *Cosmic Origins* movie and a series of sound bites from the very best of our "visions of the thousand-year future" scholar interviews; from the Kaku, Wilson, Dawkins, Laszlo, and Tickell interviews; from the Wilson and Dawkins Kistler Prize acceptance speeches; from the scholar keynote speeches; from the Tobias lecture; from the best of our seminar and symposium discussions; from the latest version of our Foundation video; and from the Kistler Prize video.
6. *The Next Thousand Years* series pilot.
7. Background materials and brochures on the Foundation For the Future.
8. Background materials and brochures on the Humanity 3000 program.
9. Copies of Humanity 3000 and Center for Human Evolution publications.



## Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

### *The Next Thousand Years*

#### **11. Potential Co-Production Companies**

There are several dozen potential co-production companies and television networks that might be interested in co-producing this series with the Foundation For the Future. These include commercial and public broadcasting stations and networks, cable and satellite television networks, as well as commercial science and humanities television production companies in North America, Europe, and Asia.



## Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

# *The Next Thousand Years*

## 12. Potential Funding Sources

The Foundation For the Future has supported the development of *The Next Thousand Years* project to date. There are four potential sources of funding for the series: private individuals, private foundations, corporations, and international television series distributors. The Foundation plans to solicit funding from these sources.

**Individual funding sources** include private individuals who are desirous of providing funding for science and educational public television programs and series.

**Foundation funding sources** include American and foreign private and government foundations that sponsor science, humanities, and educational television programs and series in North America, Europe, and Asia.

**Corporate sponsors** include major national and international corporations that sponsor science, humanities, and educational television programs and series.

**Co-Production sponsors** include television production, broadcasting, and cable television companies that produce international science and humanities programs and series in North America, Europe, and Asia.



## Foundation For the Future

Bellevue, Washington USA

# *The Next Thousand Years*

### 13. Outreach Program & Follow-on Updates

*The Next Thousand Years* television project will develop an extensive educational outreach program that will include:

- 1. Website:** The development of a major website during pre-production planning that will continue through series pre-production, production, post-production, broadcast and/or cablecast, and continue after the initial broadcast/cablecast. As a permanent educational resource, *The Next Thousand Years* website will be used to coordinate scholar, writer, production, and educational activities, before, during, and after the series is in production and after the series is broadcast/cablecast. The website will host extensive educational activities by scholars and series participants from around the world.
- 2. Curriculum Materials:** The development of high school and college-level curriculum materials from the resources created for the series, including books, teachers guides, lesson publications, videos, CD-ROMs, and DVDs.
- 3. Biannual Television Program Updates:** Plans are to produce a biannual television update program that will be based on the continuing activities of the Foundation For the Future's Humanity 3000 program. The updates will be based on the progress made in science and technology, and human cultural evolution.