

# THE DECLARATION

from service DAO to a digital network state



DEAN'S LIST

# TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>What is the Dean's List DAO?</b>	-----	<b>1</b>
<b>Why Are We Building a Digital Network State?</b>	-----	<b>1</b>
<b>How Do You Build A Digital Network State?</b>	-----	<b>2</b>
<b>Our Belief System</b>	-----	<b>3</b>
<b>The Roadmap</b>	-----	<b>3</b>
<b>From Digital to Physical</b>	-----	<b>5</b>
<b>Built on Solana For All Of Web3</b>	-----	<b>6</b>
- <b>The Tools We Are Building</b>	-----	<b>6</b>
- <b>The Tools We Use</b>	-----	<b>6</b>
- <b>The Tools we'll need</b>	-----	<b>7</b>
<b>HOW CAN YOU JOIN IN?</b>	-----	<b>7</b>



## **WHAT IS THE DEAN'S LIST DAO?**

Dean's list DAO is building a Digital Network State with a vision to provide prosperity & opportunity to its citizens while building templates for the future of decentralized work & collaboration.

We pride ourselves as being the first "Service DAO" on Solana. What started off as a Service DAO is now transforming into a network state.

Our aim is to foster an environment of aligned goals in order to create value on-chain in the form of service oriented products that our citizens are skilled in. We call this value our gross domestic product or GDP which is for the benefit of the state's treasury and its citizens.

We are leveraging the power of governance protocols and DAO tooling on the Solana network in order to create layers of collaboration within a DAO structure. This allows us to plan, create and sell services to the wider Web3 ecosystem & beyond.

## **WHY ARE WE BUILDING A DIGITAL NETWORK STATE?**

The term "service provider" has become an acronym for exploitation in our day and age. Centralized intermediaries in Web2 continue to dish out unfair treatment to service providers in the form of limited incentives & high participation fees. Divided & conquered, the colonization continues.

Unfortunately, the friction & regulatory environment precludes creation of networking companies to give strength in numbers under the Web2 umbrella. The lack of tooling to make these structures work in a transparent manner creates mutual distrust. The end result is that service providers remain divided and encourage their own exploitation at the hands of Web2 companies.

We believe that the answer to all these problems lies in building a digital network state as a bolder & global collaborative to end exploitation of service providers. To this end, we have placed our faith in the lightning fast and low cost blockchain architecture of Solana together with a host of available options on DAO tooling, as the territorial base of our state. This permits us to have a global outreach united by a shared vision & mutual trust: a state without borders.

United in our vision, we have chosen feedback as the signature export of our digital network state. It is no secret that feedback as a service creates value for the project receiving it but in our experience, this is assumed to be a free lunch or is paid for in a pittance.

We aim to change this by not only monetizing feedback as a service for our citizens but also providing a template for other potential digital network states to follow our example for other services.

# DEAN'S LIST

## HOW DO YOU BUILD A DIGITAL NETWORK STATE?

The American playwright, Tennessee Williams, once wrote about the human condition as:

*"It is a lonely idea, a lonely condition, so terrifying to think of that we usually don't. And so we talk to each other, write and wire each other, call each other short and long distance across land and sea, clasp hands with each other at meeting and at parting, fight each other and even destroy each other because of this always somewhat thwarted effort to break through walls to each other. As a character in a play once said, "We're all of us sentenced to solitary confinement inside our own skins."*

-Williams: Person to Person, 1955

The essence of what Williams says here is that human beings are lonely and seek social interaction. This urge for interaction has formed the basis of our evolution into a civilized race residing in villages, towns, cities & countries.

### Let us look at this from another viewpoint.

The earliest reported human presence in Athens is the Cave of Schist dated between the 11th and 7th millennium BCE. Had there been no urge for social interaction, there would have been no city state of Athens, modern day Greece and an affinity to affiliate one as European. All those centuries ago, the caveman walked out and interacted which is how we evolved into what we are today.

It is this urge for interaction that has been the precursor to the growth of social media networks in today's digital age. These Web2 companies have harnessed man's historical urge to socialize & built networks that enable this. Come to think of it, but, in January 2023, Facebook reported 2.9bn of monthly active users. If they were a state, by population, they would be the largest.

Having established social interaction as a base human condition, we take inspiration from Balaji Sivansan, the famed crypto philosopher who has proposed a reverse anthropology as to how digital network states may be built. While the caveman had to step out and interact, Balaji proposes harnessing the opportunities afforded by digital networking to first develop social interaction through digital networks and then transpose this to physical territories.

# DEAN'S LIST

## OUR BELIEF SYSTEM

The following core beliefs for decentralized communities drive our ethos as we evolve from a Service DAO to a Digital Network State:

- Initial distribution is when a community will achieve its highest quorum.
- The quorum a community can achieve is correlated to the amount of speculation in the community's token. The lower the quorum, the higher the market speculation.
- A governance token should be used for voting, not for speculation. Why hold a governance token if you aren't voting?
- The speed at which a community can grow is correlated to its proposal time. If discussion happens on a daily basis, decision making can happen on a daily basis.
- Participation in voting is correlated to an individual's contribution in a community.
- A community's health can be judged by looking at 3 core metrics. What brings value to the community (i.e. more members, more money, more mission), what extracts value from the community (how do we spend our time and money), and what is discussed in the community (what are we focused on, what do we talk about).
- A community needs a clear vision that connects those 3 core metrics (i.e. what brings value is connected to what extracts value and is connected to what is focused on).
- Rewards for contribution need to be rapid and clear; the longer it takes to settle the past, the more the confusion and disappointment from the contributor.
- Work in a community can become a centralized risk to a community if a task is not available to multiple participants; the work being finished is extremely different from having volunteers for the work.
- The vocal minority can create the illusion of disagreement. The ultimate measure of agreement is voting.
- Disputed proposals and failed proposals are healthy. Constant, unanimous, successful proposals are unhealthy.

## THE ROADMAP

Conventional thinking is to improve existing structures to better reflect human expectations. Human beings like change but are fearful of radical developments. This almost always leads to satisfying decisions and not necessarily optimal ones. A group on Facebook could come together, for example, with a shared vision but it would be limited by the inherent malaise and limited tooling that platform provides.

The world of Web3, blockchains and crypto currencies on the other hand provides us ample opportunity to be unlimited in our approach and build a digital network state from scratch. Just like the caveman at Schist, we are stepping out, reaching out and building something truly unhindered.

The above guides our efforts to unite under the vision of a high performing & cash flow positive service DAO that has growing recognition in the Web3 space & utilizes technological advancements to build a shared identity.

It is important to mention here that our long cumulative & individual experience in DAOs has taught us that there is one fundamental omission in Balaji's description of steps in the road to the Network State, i.e. the Network State in its infancy would require a high % of active contributors working constantly and

# DEAN'S LIST

consistently in laying the foundations & carrying out the operations of the Network State.

In order for this to happen, the Vision which the community unites under needs to be crystal clear, captivating and inspiring. And in order for it to be carried out incentives should be maintained at all times.

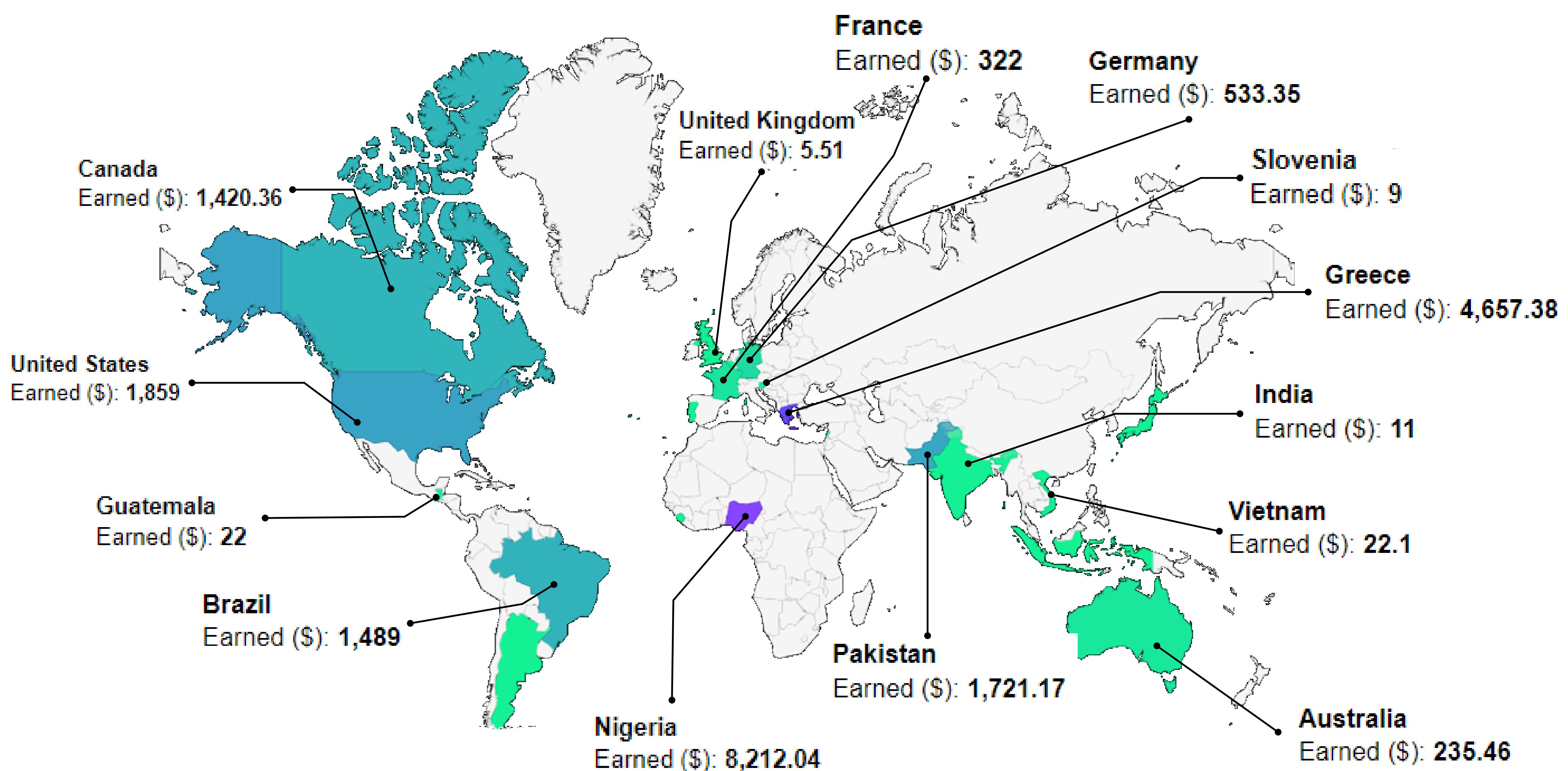
The Dean's List Network State identifies this as a critical component hence we are very meticulous in preserving the payments/earning schema for the contributors and also when it comes to the distribution of our new token (looking to maintain a high quorum as much as possible).

Here are the key ingredients of our plan & how far we have come:

	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Target</i>	<i>Results</i>
<b>Network</b>	Spread the word about Dean's List DAO & build a shared identity using cryptocurrency & blockchain architecture.	<input type="checkbox"/> Launch \$DEAN Token using Strata <input type="checkbox"/> Gate community access via Token-NFT Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 69 full citizens</li> </ul>
<b>Minimum Viable State</b>	Develop foundational elements of a viable state using DAO tooling & other infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governance on Realms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sub Treasury Management on Squads <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exclusive discord server as the base of all interactions between citizens <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Addition of a Royalty/Tax system through Strata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hyperactive citizenry with an average quorum of 50%. Rapid decisions on multi sig executions. United as one, we act fast &amp; execute fast.</li> <li>• A Council Of The People consisting of at the moment 9 dedicated citizens.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunity</b>	Provide opportunities for earning to our citizens by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizing the core skill set of being Web3 power users.</li> <li>• Identifying and swiftly attacking niche needs across Web3 by building &amp; rapidly developing high quality services.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop workflows <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apply for Grants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Launch Coinable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Store - Web3 E-commerce <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$41,411 in GCDP of which \$26,831 has been distributed to contributors</li> </ul>
<b>Metamorphosis</b>	Bridge our legitimacy, capital & network to a physical dimension and complete the anthropology of a digital network state as envisioned by Balaji	<input type="checkbox"/> Build embassies	WORK IN PROGRESS

# DEAN'S LIST

The greatest accomplishment, however, has been the way we have positively impacted income distribution for our citizens vis a vis their web2 counterparts. On a per capita basis, since inception, payout per wallet stands at \$462.5. This is after a 35% retention to the Treasury which is again utilized for the continued progress of the network state & its citizens. All this for a one time membership fee.



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For comparison, the average survey in Web2 pays \$1-\$2 & you are more likely to be jurisdictionally limited for work or for payments.

## FROM DIGITAL TO PHYSICAL

To expand to embassies & complete the reverse anthropology of going from a digital network state to a physical one, our plan is to initially run IRL workshops throughout the world focused on educating locals on how to make their first wallet and interact with dApps on Solana. These workshops will help bring in new citizens and also be a point of marketing for our services to Web2 businesses. Using a standard template will allow multiple workshops to happen across the globe.

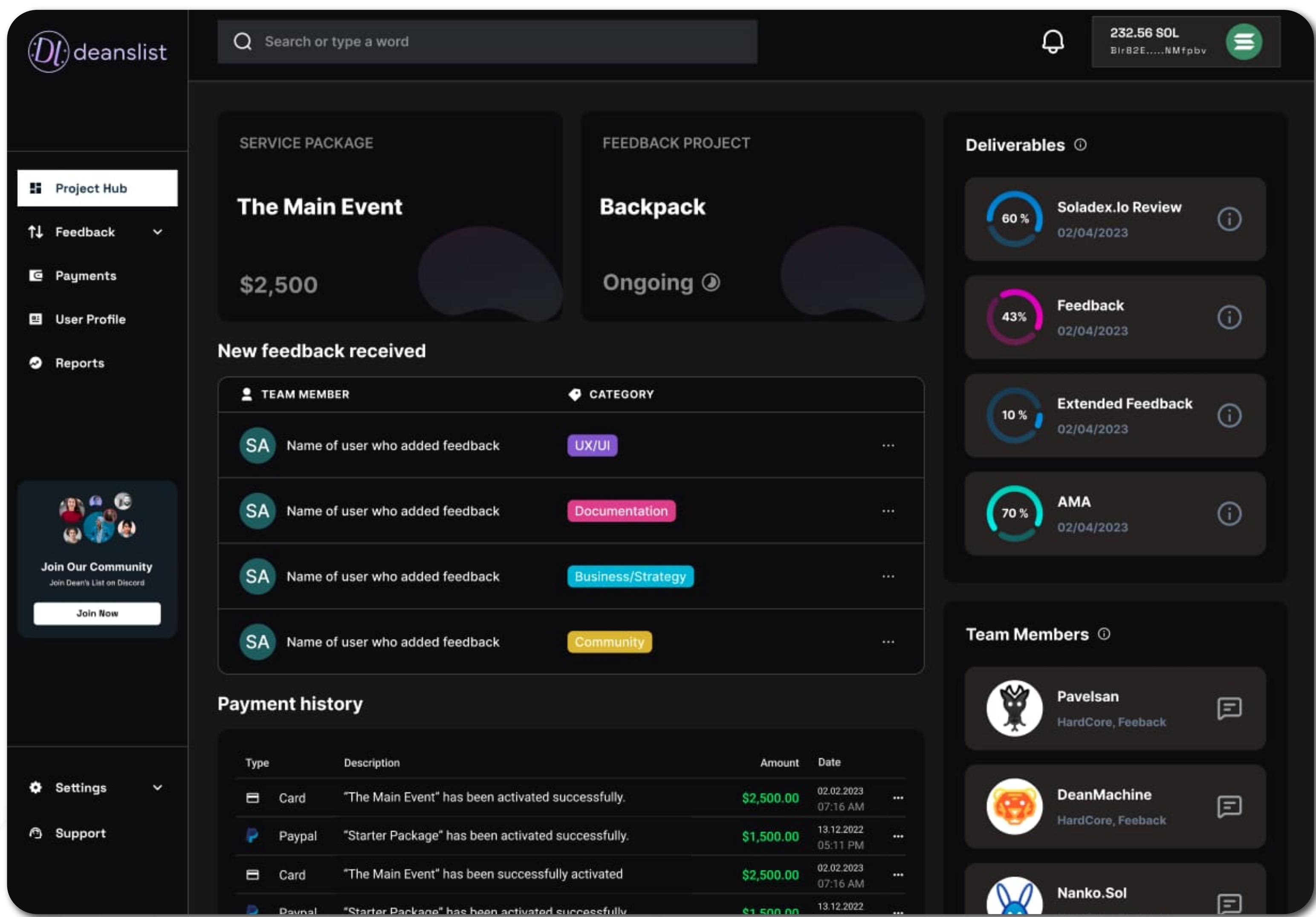
Once our treasury has grown & reached a sustainable level, we will be able to establish our first embassy, a permanent location for running workshops related to our services and selling merchandise related to our brand. Over time, these embassies will be expanded to give our state a global presence.

# DEAN'S LIST

## BUILT ON SOLANA FOR ALL OF WEB3

### - The Tools We Are Building:

To streamline workflows and take them on-chain, we are currently developing a dashboard that would serve to provide real time transparency to our customers as to the progress on their purchased services while equipping our citizens with the requisite information on the available opportunities they can participate in. At the heart of this is a Wallet based sign in for our citizens and our customers, which will help propel us to greater decentralisation and automation.



### - The Tools We Use:

#### Realms

This is our main treasury and governance platform. All votes happen here, both with and without instructions assigned to them. As a highly active and connected DAO, our quorum is regularly above 50%, with a vote time threshold that lasts only 24 hours. This allows our citizens to rapidly decide and evolve to new opportunities & challenges.

#### Squads

This is primarily used for our Department budgets which require even faster consensus. As a multisig, these departments are able to deploy their capital without concern to the greater DAO thus ensuring that operations run smoothly on a day to day basis.

#### Strata Protocol

This is the token-bonding solution that powers our flexible token, \$DEAN. By having a predictable bonding curve and royalties set on the swaps, we are able to remove speculation from our governance token and also create a dynamic liquidity option for services to be taxed as they are paid for. Royalties can be adjusted by Realms vote and are all sent to our common Treasury governed by the \$DEAN token.

We are fascinated to explore the boundaries of bonded tokens, which is where we started when we created \$DEAN, backed by \$GRAPE. We have now set our plan in motion to the path of a USDC backed token by moving to an interim token solution (minted on Squads).

#### Coinable

This is our ecommerce solution that accepts SPL payments for services. By using a web3 solution, we can instantly send these payments into our Realms Treasury.

# DEAN'S LIST

## - The Tools we'll need:

- Token-bonding connected to USDC
- Royalty and curve adjustment through Realms
- Multi-transaction sending from Coinable for enforced royalties/taxation
- Verification updated by Realms for role assignment by DAO
- Reputation system measuring contribution and reliability

## HOW CAN YOU JOIN IN?

Interested in becoming one of us? The Dean's List DAO operates primarily through our Discord server. At present, there are only three ways to join:

- Purchase a \$DEAN Token from our [Coinable Store](#)
- Purchase one of our NFTs on the [secondary](#) market or try your luck at one of our auctions.
- Become a customer by purchasing one of our packages through our [Coinable](#) store.