The Solana Foundation Grants Program

Company / Project name
Pollum / DAOception

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Pitch

In a few sentences describe your idea and why you want to build it on Solana.

DAOception will bring the pillars of ecosystem-wide governance adoption to Solana: standardization, good & simple UX, and decent tooling.

The project's first goal is straightforward: wrap up Oyster Governance by merging its fully-capable MVP UI with the recent Mango Governance UI, adding the DAO creation functionality, and turning it into a cohesive, standalone product. We plan on delivering this in 3 to 4 weeks.

Next up, it's a matter of bringing the full snapshot.org experience to Solana, but better: on-chain, modular and community-driven. We don't intend to deliver a simple copy. By taking true ownership of the product alongside past contributors and future users, we'll tailor the DAOception experience to be what the Solana community expects and deserves. Actual functionalities, screens, and details involved in this phase will be decided in a more fluid manner alongside key stakeholders. We plan on also allocating 3 to 4 weeks towards this phase.

From this point on, the basic infrastructure for DAOs on Solana will already be out there, and we'll be facing the challenge of standardization, composability, and governance engagement. With proper tokenomics that intercommunicate with its features, DAOception will pave the way for a global DAO reputation tracker across all participating organizations, divisible DAOs so organizations can be more closely aligned, and a global governance/utility token DAOC that will govern the future of the project as well as unlock advanced features and cosmetics for holders/stakers.

DAOception would also be glad to lead other governance initiatives necessary for widespread DAO adoption across Solana such as multi-sig services/dApp, decentralized treasury management, and further tooling.

Why You?

Why are you and your team the people to build this product? What edge do you have over the competition?

Pollum has a pretty comprehensive experience across the blockchain space. The combination of EVM-based DAO projects build in the past, blockchain core tooling (such as block explorers, load-balanced RPCs, browser wallets), and solid Rust and Solana knowledge makes this a very fit squad to lead the way for DAOs to be consolidated into Solana. By following a more blockchain-agnostic mentality up until this point, our team managed to benchmark governance in the Ethereum ecosystem from the inside in order to realize the true potential of decentralized governance in Solana. We truly believe that DAOs on Solana can really step up the gave across the board and we envision this being done by leveraging as much practical experience as we can, be it from our team, from previous/future contributors, or the general community.

Competition

Who is a direct competitor to your project? Either in crypto or traditional industries

Our biggest indirect competitor is snapshot.org, with a few differences in terms of it being direct towards EVM-based chains and also doing all voting off-chain. On the other hand, it offers a very straightforward UX in terms of getting it started and features that set the term of what the general crypto community expects in a DAO platform.

Our biggest direct competitor is sqds.io, who's also attempting to achieve similar goals to DAOception. The biggest difference here is that Squads takes a very centralized and opaque in terms of development and (ironically) governance. They've already raised funds and been around for quite some time and still have no working demo of proper documentation on what they plan on building. Squads also appear to be oblivious to the true potential of next-gen governance on Solana, apparently focusing on just bringing the snapshot.org experience to Solana and not going above and beyond what Ethereum has brought us.

In between those tho competitors, we have astrodao.com, a project that brings the snapshot.org experience to Near, another Rust-based blockchain ecosystem. Astrodao actually went ahead and implemented unique features that can be benchmarked such as DAO bounties, treasuries, NFTs and groups ("subDAOs"). They also have great adoption in terms of diversity among users.

Team & Experience

Tell us about your team, their specialties, and any previous related projects you have built. Please link to any relevant github repos or websites.

The initial DAOception team is young, bold, and crypto-native. What they might lack in white hairs they make up with past experiences, passion, all-nighters, and crypto user experience. This is a very compact and horizontal team so the sense of ownership is shared among all members.

While each person has their own strengths and weaknesses, they all share the responsibility of bringing this project to life together and a lot of flexibility is required for that. With that in mind, rough roles and responsibilities are described below, but this isn't meant to be written in stone and team members are encouraged to be fluid and dynamic.

A) Enya Manfredi
Blockchain UX Designer and Component Engineer

Enya is a very talented designer who's also extremely versatile, being able to go from logo design and concept to UI/UX in a heartbeat without losing focus on the product's vision. She's already been

involved in a number of different DeFi projects and has gradually been onboarded into becoming a crypto-native user.

A few things she did:
https://elint-mvp-3lvqp4vlq-elint-frontend.vercel.app/
https://www.behance.net/enya_mmcd85

B) Amanda Gonsalves
Senior React Engineer

Superb self-taught full-stack coder, really fast-moving, great with architecture, and a great team player as well. Although Amanda is really well-versed with React, she's also experienced in Vue, Next, and Nest. Smart-contract-wise, she's a solid Solidity developer and has also some experience around Solana contracts, especially around NFTs and AMMs.

https://github.com/amandagonsalves

C) André Muri
Customer Success & Integrations Engineer

André has been around the development space for a while with a very extensive stack, from JS/TS (as well as many frameworks) to PHP, Python, and Rust. André evolves at an extremely fast pace with a very strong leadership presence. He is also online all day on Discord and loves the dynamic crypto environment, especially if it's using new tech and coupling that with his solid empathy and product-driven mindset, he's really fit for this community-facing role.

https://github.com/Mury12

D) Kaue Cano
Smart Contract & DAO Architect

Kaue has been coding since he was 14, joined the crypto scene in 2015, and has been involved in DAOs since then. More recently, Kaue was the blockchain lead of Jigstack DAO, a collection of DeFi protocol governed by the decentralized community. He is a big advocate for DAOs and is pretty well inserted in the Ethereum space, being in constant touch with the largest DAOs in the world such as Maker, Gitcoin, AAVE, Rarible, and many others. Smart-contract-wise, his main contributions over the ears have been in Solidity-based projects but he's also one of the first developers to pick up and advocate for the Solana ecosystem.

https://github.com/canokaue

Any Assistance Needed?
Will you need engineering support to implement your idea? If so, how much support do you anticipate needing? Do you anticipate needing BD or Marketing help?

The engineering support from past contributors of the repositories we'll be handling is really important to help speed up the development in the initial phase of the project. The plan is to gradually be less dependent on them, although we wouldn't dishonor their previous work and mentorship/feedback is always appreciated.

From the marketing & community perspective, our team is a bit lacking on that currently. If possible, having some insight and recommendations from Solana Foundation would be nice to speed up that process, but if that's not the case we have some currently unavailable resources we can tap into in the near future or recruit new members altogether.

More towards the last phases of DAOception outlined here, BD help would be very much appreciated in terms of reaching out to potential partners, investors, and contributors.