

Fwd: Airtable forms: Your response to NEAR Foundation Grants Program

From: **Eugene Leventhal** | eugene@scrf.io

Wednesday, 16 Nov, 16:20

To: **Inês Santos Silva** | ines@scrf.io

FYI, submitted

Eugene

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Wednesday, 16 Nov, 11:19



Review the response to **NEAR Foundation Grants Program** below.

Project Name

Public Goods Student Association

Grant Track

Activation Grant (\$10K)

Category

Social Impact

Project Description

Create a student group focused on public goods with a specific set of outcomes and outputs. The goal is to bring together a group of students across blockchain clubs from around the world to help develop a reading list/seminar, host meetups, partake in ideation events or hackathons, and contribute to public good outputs such as reading lists, an open problem list, curricula, etc.

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Team

Team

Team + Achievements

The SCRF team consists of:

- [Eugene Leventhal](#) (Executive Director)
- [Twan Chen](#) (Head of Content)
- [Paul Zube](#) (Head of Engagement)
- [Maria Vinokurov](#) (Head of Discovery)
- [Rich Brown](#) (Advisor)
- [Inês Silva](#) (Project Manager)

We have been running SCRF for almost two years and our site lists some of the high-level highlights: <https://scrf.io/>.

Github - Team Members

We are not building a technical product

Received Previous Funding?

Project Website

<https://scrf.io/>

Github Project

<https://github.com/smartcontractresearchforum>

Grant Amount

\$25,000

How far along is your project?

The student group itself is not currently running. This is being planned as a new project. We currently have relationships with a variety of blockchain clubs (CMU, Berkeley, UT Austin, UMich, RMIT, and Cornell) and are in the process of reaching out to more, making sure to focus on universities internationally. We have written out an initial process and project plan to get the initiative started and are securing funding for us to drive it forward.

Project launch date on NEAR?

2/1/2023

What are you building & why?

The main problem being solved is that there is no single mechanism coordinating learning and building attention around public goods. Conferences like Funding the Commons have created an opportunity for consistent interaction around public goods, but more focused community building is needed in order to actually capture the interest and attention beyond conferences and to convert that energy to actionable results and building. Additionally, we need to onboard more students and engage them through the development of public goods and provide opportunities for them to contribute to the positive impacts of web3.

What makes you different from your competitors?

There are currently no groups purely focused on building a cross-campus initiative around public goods. Gitcoin's Public Goods Library was sunset in September 2022. We are unaware of others.

Project Milestones + Estimated Budget + Expected Delivery Dates

The rough breakdown for a total budget of \$65k over the first three months of activity, covering just over 500 project labor hours from at least 11 contributors (7 at SCRF and 4 TBD interns) is outlined below. Clubs | bring together all of the students groups interested in public goods | \$ 10k to map the clubs, reach out, gather necessary docs/infrastructure, etc. | Starting with at least 8 meaningful connections and reaching out to 30+ / get a group of 2-

4 interns to hire and 20-50 committed students excited about the reading group and other activities | create a space for onboarding students and other academics into web3 via public goods, especially focused on education, discussion, and building Reading group / list | Get an initial reading group seeded by SCRF, hire students to keep running/planning it, and get a schedule going into Spring semester 2023. Students will also put together a list of public goods events/resources that already exist and share that publicly | \$10k for researching potential topics, previous seminars/conferences, gathering a list of proposed speakers, discussing with some students, reaching out to speakers, making sure notes are taking and share after the first meetings, generate a publicly shareable reading list that anyone can contribute to, | ideally get 25-50 students showing up and a handful of academic researchers to drop by for at least one session. This would create an open, ecosystem wide avenue for onboarding for anyone who wants to delve into public goods (starting with students but eventually expanding out, though the expansion is beyond the scope of the initial grant)

Grants | create a meetup grants program to make it possible for students to gather around public goods on campus| \$10k to help build out the infrastructure and to get the initial grants out + 20 * \$250 grants | these are for meetups not projects | Students gather on campus to work on contributing to the Public Goods Student Association Ideation event in January 2023 | host an event to start propose written potential solutions for some of the public goods challenges, seeding a virtual hackathon to start in the Spring semester (follow on activity) | \$20k in costs for labor within SCRF and interns to cover event planning, logistics, and execution + \$10k in prizes for the written solutions | We are looking to reach 100 students and other interested individuals for the first ideation event | This helps build on the reading group and other aforementioned activities and anchors the goal of this group being to a) gather, b) learn, c) identify problems, d) propose written solutions, and then e) work on building out those potential solutions. While point e) will be part of a follow on activity (the Spring Semester virtual hackathon), the impact will be to bring together the main supporters of public goods and to create the infrastructure for folks to have a long-term way to focus on building public goods project

Some of the direct activities that will be required as part of that will include: Creating a list of clubs internationally. We have around 100 and are seeing if we can identify others before we start outreach Reach out to at least a quarter of the list to start, take meetings with the club members, better understand their interests and goals, and start connecting all of the students interested in public goods We also will have to develop documentation to help onboard the students and will need to

establish infrastructure for students to communicate / collaborate We are going to create a marketing campaign as well to start sending to the clubs we're working with as well as to others to maximize the reach of this group / seminar The SCRF team will plan the initial few seminar series to get the ball rolling We will start looking for interns to hire, starting with 2 and ramping up to 4 to help plan the seminar series and to help us connect with all of the clubs, to start the public goods meetup grant program, and get a sense of the interests from as many students as possible (these are pending excitement from students - we will adjust if they prefer to focus on other things to start) The students will then work on planning the reading group and reading list into 2023, as well as which additional resources the students are excited to generate (curriculum, learning modules, hands on demos/workshops, etc.). As part of this initial grant, we would also run an ideation session around Funding the Commons at the end of January 2023.

Open-Source

Yes

Which components of the project will be open source?

Everything that gets produced from this project

How will this impact the NEAR Ecosystem?

We believe that there is a lot of interest in public goods within the NEAR ecosystem right now and this will provide a chance for students from around the world to coordinate around it. Once we establish the relationships with the clubs, we will work to connect with relevant orgs in the industry as appropriate. We believe this can also provide an avenue to onboard hundreds of students and faculty members into the NEAR ecosystem. This project will create a multi-ecosystem supporting Public Goods Student Association. That will result in shared resources around public goods, as well as both an active network of contributors and an onboarding pathway for other students and academics to get into web3.

What makes you excited about NEAR?

NEAR is an exciting platform and community. I know from when I was still at CMU, they have done a great job working with student/development

communities. The focus on building an L1 and also looking at integrations with other tech such as AI makes the NEAR ecosystem an exciting one overall. More specifically with SCRF, our goal is to work with all of the groups that have quality research so that we can collaborate to help the space overall advance. As part of that goal, we are looking forward to working more closely with NEAR researchers and to see how we can best help each other.

How will you measure project success?

This project will measure success in terms of: Number of students joined / active Number of public good learning opportunities and discussions Number of meetup grants Number of new ideas source during the ideation event in January Longer term, we're interested in positioning this project to also support professor onboarding into web3.

Video URL

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSA8Xu-rCemVuoBG2s449UQ>

Attachments

SCRF Pitch Deck - NEAR Public Good Student Association .pdf

Actively Fundraising?



Explanation If Currently Raising

We aren't fundraising in the traditional sense, we're currently exploring potential funding options from various groups in the space as outlined in our attached pitch deck for this project

How did you hear about the NEAR Grants Program?

Did someone refer you to the NF Grants Program?

Cameron Dennis

Do any of your team members self-identify as the following?

Womxn, "Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander", LGBTQ+

Additional Comments

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