

## Redacted Application - 11

### What is your Grand Plan and why do you want to do it? (300 words)

As a global majority who migrated to the UK, my initial experience in the UK was one of loneliness. To combat this solitude, I began organizing events at university, discovering my natural flair for hosting and, subsequently, my comedic abilities. However, as I delved into the Scottish comedy scene, it became evident that there was a lack of representation—both on stage and in the audience—for stories and individuals who looked like me.

Motivated by this realization, I embarked on the journey of creating [REDACTED] aiming to bridge the gap in the comedy landscape. What started as an endeavor to bring diverse voices to the forefront quickly evolved into something much more significant. At the inaugural event, the gratitude expressed by the audience, comprising individuals of various ethnic backgrounds, highlighted the pressing need for such inclusive platforms.

Beyond its primary goal of showcasing comedians of color, [REDACTED] emerged as a powerful catalyst for social connection. Attendees, both black and white, conveyed appreciation for an event that not only entertained but also fostered a sense of community. In the UK, where socializing can be challenging, these nights offered a welcoming space for people to meet and connect.

The structure of the events is deliberate, with a 40-minute comedy section featuring sketches, comics, or comedic actors of color presenting their material. This is followed by an all-night mixer featuring a curated playlist of vibrant genres such as Amapiano, Afrobeat, trap, and hip-hop. The combination of laughter, music, and socializing creates an immersive experience that resonates with the audience and addresses a cultural gap in the Scottish live entertainment scene.

My Grand Plan is to continue and expand [REDACTED], ensuring that it remains a beacon of diversity, inclusion, and joy within the Scottish cultural landscape.

### Why is now the right time for your Grand Plan?

Now is the opportune moment for [REDACTED] to flourish. Having successfully organized events during Black History Month in Glasgow and Edinburgh, I've tested and validated the concept. The initial events were held with the generosity of a free venue and the acts, and I've pushed the boundaries as far as possible independently. This grant would be a transformative boost, enabling me to expand the event's reach, enhance the overall experience, attract a broader audience and pay the talents. The financial support would catapult [REDACTED] to new heights, ensuring its sustainability and long-term impact on the diverse cultural landscape in Scotland.

## How will you spend £1000?

1. £400 for Organizational and Creative Efforts: As the organizer, host, and graphic designer for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] £400 will support the time and effort invested in coordinating events, liaising with the venue, and crafting promotional materials.

2. £400 for Talent Compensation: Recognizing the importance of valuing performers, £400 will be dedicated to compensating the comedians, sketch artists, and actors of color who contribute their talents to the events.

3. £200 for Marketing: A portion of the grant, £200, will be earmarked for marketing initiatives. This includes advertisements and the creation of short promotional materials, essential for reaching a wider audience and ensuring the events gain visibility.

This budget breakdown ensures a comprehensive and impactful use of the £1,000, contributing to the success, sustainability, and growth of [REDACTED]