GrabGrants.com: The Free Grant Search Engine
United States
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https://grabgrants.com

PART A. NARRATIVE REPORT

Summary

Grab Grants is an entirely free website that seeks to help activists, minority-owned small businesses, artists, researchers, nonprofits, and students find and access grants that were made for them. It is the first and only entirely free grant search engine that includes private and government grants all in one centralized location online.

Project Description

Grab Grants seeks to contribute to peace by bridging the gap between marginalized communities and the resources they require to pursue their dreams and projects. The staggering wealth gap and economic inequity that persists within the United States disrupts any attempt at creating peace within our communities. Additionally, continued lack of direct investment in minority communities will further damage, divide, and stifle these communities and movements towards change. Grab Grants was created to aid in the remediation of these economic inequities. Oftentimes, individuals who belong to these underserved communities are unaware that there is a plethora of grants intended for them. Upon beginning this project, it became clear to me that there is a large discrepancy between the amount of individuals who qualify and are in need of grants versus the amount of existing grants, many of which are intended for those exact individuals, that are underutilized. The importance of free and available resources is staggeringly evident and as such it is Grab Grants mission to serve as a much needed resource. Additionally, Grab Grants' simplified grant-search process will help increase direct investment into underserved and underrepresented communities, which will in turn reduce inequity and inequality, aid in the recognition and representation of marginalized groups, and empower those belonging to minority groups to pursue their passions.

Since its inception, I made several adjustments to the original plan for Grab Grants including the decision to shift away from promoting the site using social media campaigns. I instead opted to prioritize building partnerships with chambers of commerce across the United States and to improve the site's functionality as a grant search engine by modifying the categories and search options. Additionally, while developing the site, I realized the importance of ensuring that the site serves as a long-term resource. As such, all expenses that went toward this project, including an additional grant for $1000 from the Seidelman Fund for Social Justice, were spent to ensure that the site would be automated and self-sustaining for the long-term. The site will now be able to automatically post grants as soon as their application cycle opens. This new streamlined and automated process guarantees that Grab Grants will remain a perpetually reliable, accurate, and free resource throughout the future.

Reflection

Peace is a state of stability and unity that can be achieved through collaboration and understanding one another. Grab Grants seeks to create and promote peace throughout the US by helping to uplift and empower marginalized peoples. Giving individuals access to financial resources that can aid their projects and small businesses will help reduce economic instability and inequity and allow for greater

representation of minority groups. Increased representation and awareness will contribute to a reduction of conflict and help to resolve the climate of dissension that is pervasive throughout the US. Throughout the duration of this project, I was continually reminded of the larger impact our actions have and the importance of collaboration. While redesigning the site, I frequently received emails from users who needed grants to create and sustain their small businesses and organizations that the site did not previously offer. By listening and responding to feedback from the site's users, I was able to make improvements that will make Grab Grants a more effective platform in the future. Outside input contributed to and ultimately enabled modifications to the search engine that make the site more straightforward and navigable. Additionally, users will be able to easily find grants that they qualify for and keep track of their application status. Building this site also reaffirmed my belief that the more awareness we bring to the need for grants within minority groups, the more large organizations and businesses will be encouraged to provide grants to marginalized peoples. The tendency of large corporations to respond to the demand for grants has already been observed, and I believe that this will continue to be replicated by larger organizations as we continue to raise awareness for the need and importance of grant funding.

There were many challenging aspects that came with pursuing this project, ranging from the technical objectives that I sought to accomplish to trying to understand what the users of the site would find to be most beneficial to their grant search. In the end, all challenges faced allowed me to better understand what users needed out of the site and in turn, create a better resource.

Personal Statement
Developing Grab Grants showed me the importance of unity and empowerment within a community. By empowering members of marginalized communities through making capital accessible, I learned that empowerment can further aid and inspire individuals to pursue their passions and in turn, create a peaceful and prosperous society.