

Redacted Application - Seven

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

We would like to hold a community books and word event to bring people together. Offering a book swap, games, book marks and creative writing workshop, vibes and making reading cool! We relate to people that have felt like they are the odd one out, breaking the stigma of who reading should be accessible to and enjoyed by.

As [REDACTED] who have grown up with a love of reading and have a background in community arts engagement and education we have found ourselves more and more socially engaged and aware. Our work as is centred around inclusive event planning in community spaces, curating exhibitions, empowerment and wellness.

Our 'why' is to share the power of storytelling with others to inspire people to engage in reading, specifically; the black community to enjoy and dive into the world of fantasy, sci fi and fiction novels. Using books as catalyst for conversation, including the ones that are sometimes difficult. In our community of [REDACTED], we have observed that our peers tend to go for the self help or non fiction books. Whilst we recognise the importance of knowing history and the desire to self improve, we also believe in the power of story telling to be catalyst for important conversation and self reflection as fictional stories are often rooted in truths. We are big advocates for fictional stories to be reflective tools and support healing and in doing so also celebrating black love, joy, imagination, creativity and so much more.

Why is now the right time for your Grand Plan?

In addition to the work we do as individuals we have spoken a lot about sharing our joy of reading with others but this year wanted to take it from more than just an idea. We have started building a online community with a podcast we launched this year [REDACTED] where we share [REDACTED] book reviews and discussions inspired by what we have read. We recognise that we are at the very early stages of our new venture together and some financial support would help us to elevate our ideas and increase our reach and contribute building our book community. This grant would be a starting point in getting us out there and be the beginning of our long term goal of opening a bookstore/cafe centred around (not exclusively) black author, writers, academics and artists, as this space currently does not exist in [REDACTED].

How will you spend £1000?

£500 (£250 each to plan organise and promote then event)

Event venue hire - £200

Resources for workshop £150

Refreshments £75

Handmade Bookmarks- £75