



**SEJF Grant Application
2024-2025 Academic Year**

This SEJF grant application is for all fund requests, regardless of grant size. Please fill out the application completely, utilizing additional space as appropriate. Supplemental documents may be added in the appendix at the end of the document. For questions about the application, reference the SEJF Grant Proposal Toolkit or ask a program representative.

Submit your completed application (including signatures) by emailing it to the SEJF Grant Program Manager, Zinta Lucans. Applications must be signed by your advisor, all project team members, and stakeholders, for them to be reviewed. Email: lucansz@wwu.edu.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, only grant requests between \$500.00-\$35,000.00 will be accepted. Applications will be reviewed by the Associate Director of the Sustainability Engagement Institute for alignment and completeness and then provided to the SEJF Committee. The committee will review the grant application, receive your presentation, and approve or decline the funding request.

Project Title	Soleil Magazine Debut Issue
Funding Amount Requested	\$5,200.00
Deadline you are submitting for (Fall, Winter, Spring)	Spring 2025
SEJF program representative signature (all project teams must work with an SEJF representative prior to submitting the application)	Zinta Lucans

SECTION 1: Project Concept.

a. Statement of Purpose:

Summarize your project idea, including a problem statement, in 1-2 sentences.

Soleil Magazine is an organization under the Ethnic Student Center and Associated Students. Although we are a club, we present ourselves as a BIPOC-centered publication. Naturally, a magazine needs quite a bit of funding in order to operate, and we need financial support to get started on our first publication.

b. Project Description:

Describe your proposed project in detail, including a description of costs associated with the project.

Soleil Magazine was created as a response to the lack of BIPOC representation in media produced by Western Washington University. While our audience is general BIPOC, we are welcome to all and any students on campus. To produce such a magazine, we will need to consider printing costs, costs for launch events, costs for filming and photography materials, and costs for clothing models. Our first shoot will be for the cover. We are photographing a diverse set of students on May 2nd at JJ's, a convenience store in Happy Valley that is frequented by Western students. Our second shoot will be done in Viking Union, as the Digital Media Center has no openings for us on May 9th. Our Photography Director, Jaimee Wacker, is a passionate student who will be making a backdrop herself for the shoot. This shoot is based off of the Bratz doll line, a line of dolls that gave Barbie a run for her money. These dolls possessed features that only people of color would recognize as beautiful, as they were features they possessed themselves. On May 25th, we will be visiting Wink Wink for a pageant shoot. But this won't be just any pageant. This pageant will feature individuals who have relieved themselves of gender norms and societal expectations. We initially were asked to pay \$300 to use the space for the shoot, which is a huge barrier we're facing with getting photoshoots done without the funds needed. We anticipate running into these kinds of barriers again, which is why financial support is crucial. Moreover, the current state of the administration and uncertainty of costs of materials due to tariffs and the economy makes things harder overall. Soleil wants to be able to continue shooting and producing issues despite possible high costs as a creative space like ours is necessary for students to escape and put energy into something with lasting impact outside of the WWU bubble.

c. Goals:

What are the goals and desired outcomes of your project?

We hope to create better representation for BIPOC students. We want to highlight pop culture as it pertains to the impact people of color have on many aspects of today's trends and topics. We hope to foster a strong sense of community in an area (journalism) where people of color aren't normally found.

d. Student Impact:

How does this project directly impact the Western student community?

By positioning ourselves within the ESC and being centered for marginalized students, Soleil hopes to give opportunities to BIPOC communities whether that be creatively directing a shoot, modeling, submitting art work or writing. This would be experience for post-college jobs and internships as well as representation for your culture and being able to morally engage with something like a physical magazine where you know it's giving credit where credit is due, there's opportunity to learn with our political undertones and so much more. Everything Soleil does is for students as we are students, and we know what specifically BIPOC students want to see. With the rise of fascism in this current administration, a space to create unfiltered for your community is going to be really sacred.

e. Education and outreach plan:

How do you plan on promoting your project on campus? How will the Western community learn about your efforts? Is there an educational component to your project?

Over the past few months, Soleil has hosted multiple information meetings. Our first one, an interest meeting, introduced who we were and our then position in the process of becoming an official club under AS and the ESC. Our second was a collaboration with the Alma Clark Glass Affinity Housing Resident Advisors. We hoped to reach underclassmen who were new to the university and were looking to expand their passions in photography, journalism, graphic design, writing, art, or any creative area. Our third meeting was a production launch meeting, which assigned photo shoots, fundraisers, and other tasks to club members. In addition to meetings, we have also passed out flyers in the Viking Union and Red Square.

f. Metrics:

How will the impact of this project be measured? What are quantitative and/or qualitative metrics that can be tracked?

We will be selling magazines, starting off with about 150 copies for our first issue. This will be the main mode of tracking interest as it is the main goal to get the magazine printed and onto campus. Along with

the magazine launch, we will be having a themed launch event where we will be tracking attendance and support. We will also fundraise various times throughout between quarter and next school year where we will be spreading our name.

g. Lasting impact:

What is the longevity of this project? How will it impact sustainability, in the long-term, on campus?

The longevity of this project will be ongoing as we plan to continue with Soleil for years to come. We plan to release magazine issues every fall and spring and will be available to buy online therefore will need to be active throughout the year in planning and fundraising and getting the word out. Through that we hope to build great rapport with our supporters, as we are a club anyone can help and are not bound to certain members and by having that distinction we really want like-minded and passionate individuals who will continue the work we set out to do. As mentioned previously, we are gearing up for a tough 4 years and want Soleil to be a safe space, a creative space, and one with lasting impact.

h. Ownership & post-SEJF-funding plan:

Which individual, office, or department is taking ownership of this project? Identify the post-SEJF-funding plan: if the project is to be continued, how will it be funded?

We will be under the ESC, BSC, and La Plaza. The Centers that houses our club and provides funding when needed for bigger events etc. We hope to receive consistent funding while also fundraising and saving what isn't used in our first issue and moving it to the second. Money collected by selling issues of the publication will go towards funding future publications.

SECTION 2: Sustainability Impact.

- a. How will your project positively support each of the four pillars of sustainability at Western? Explain the connection to at least three of the four pillars.**

1. Protect The Environment:

By creating an online presence that is just as strong as our physical presence, Soleil Magazine can help the environment by putting out online copies for sale to help control the waste of using trees for the print magazine. We will still offer print in order to keep physical media alive, but will do less as we do more issues.

2. Promote Well-Being :

Soleil Magazine will be promoting the perspectives of marginalized students, and will give opportunities to BIPOC communities that they would otherwise not have. We want to create a publication that serves to represent the BIPOC student community at Western.

3. Uphold Social Justice :

Soleil Magazine will feature written articles in each magazine issue that will address different social issues that are affecting BIPOC students at Western. We will also publish articles that address broader issues that affect BIPOC people around the country.

- b. How will your project positively align with Western’s Sustainability Action Plan (SAP)? Please determine how it advances one or more of the ten SAP chapters by connecting it to a specific objective.** For information on the SAP, please refer to the Sustainability Engagement Institute’s website (sustain.wvu.edu) or ask a program representative. The ten SAP chapters are:

Campus & Community Engagement:

Objective 2.4: Establish sustainability-related interactive experiences, cooperatively designed and supported by WWU and community partners, to help build relationships among members of Western, and with the broader community.

Objective 3.1: Enhance web materials that enable the public to access sustainability resources.

Explanation: Soleil Magazine positively aligns with campus and community engagement by being a club, it automatically makes our purpose for students and by students. We are housed in the ESC and so there’s opportunity for cross-collaboration with other clubs to further our community reach. We at Soleil want to have a strong relationship with the students at WWU being open to everyone. We hope to grow to where we are seen as a safe space for students to develop creative ideas and see themselves represented on campus. We hope to enhance web materials that enable the public to access sustainability resources by being published online.





SECTION 3: Project Participants.

Project Advisor (Faculty or Staff) Student proposals must include a staff or faculty advisor. The role of the advisor is to assist the team during the development, implementation, and post-implementation stages of the proposal process.

Project Lead: There must be a team lead designated for the project. This individual is expected to serve as the communication liaison for the project.

Financial Agent: The project must have someone with budget authority to manage funds for all purchases. Should funds require transfer, this individual will have to provide a FAST Index and Activity Code to the SEJF Program Coordinator. Financial agents must be permanent staff and/or faculty members on campus, and cannot be student employees.

*Important note: expenditures become the responsibility of the grantee if not all grant conditions are met. This includes final reporting requirements. If you are unclear what the requirements are, please contact an SEJF representative. Your signature below indicates an understanding of this note.

Role	Name	Department/College: <i>Students provide major/minor and expected graduation quarter/year</i>	Position: <i>faculty/ staff/ student</i>	Western email address	Signature to verify agreement
Team Advisor	Nia Gipson	Western Washington University / Black Student Coalition	Black Student Retention Specialist	gipsonn@wwu.edu	
Team Lead	Aryam Tamene / Ijomi Houston	Western Washington University ; Public Relations / Fairhaven Spring 2026	Student	tamenea@wwu.edu / houstok2@wwu.edu	
Team Member	Josephine Boone	Western Washington University ; Undeclared Spring 2028	Student	boonej6@wwu.edu	
Team Member	Madison Gregory	Western Washington University ; Communications Spring 2026	Student	gregor3@wwu.edu	
Team Member	Leanna Fitzgerald	Western Washington University ; Communications Spring 2026	Student	fitzgel5@wwu.edu	
Financial Agent	Nia Gipson	Western Washington University	Black Student Retention Specialist	gipsonn@wwu.edu	

SECTION 4: Project Timeline.

- a. **Describe how your project will progress, both before and after the approval of your proposal.** Outline all tasks that are required to complete the project, including all the means in which you will promote the project on campus, in the table below. Insert additional rows, as necessary.

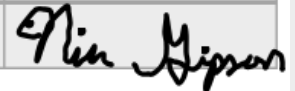
Task	Timeframe	Estimated Completion Date
Shoots (Photography and Videography) take place	May 2025-August 2025	August 2025
Printing	August 2025-October 2025	October 2025
Launch Party	October 2025	October 2025

- b. **When is the planned project completion date?** This is when SEJF staff will be checking in and requesting a Final Report and a Final Expense Report.

We plan to launch our debut issue in October of 2025.

SECTION 5: Project Stakeholders.

- a. **Does your project involve labor/participation or require permission from organizations, departments, or individuals on campus?** Who will be impacted if this proposal is implemented? All stakeholders must provide a signature of approval for this project. Note: Only stakeholders internal to WWU must be listed.

Stakeholder Name	University Department and Position	Involvement in Project	Stakeholder signature of approval
Nia Gipson	Black Student Retention Specialist	Club Advisor	

- b. **Does your project propose a temporary or permanent facility or property modification?** If so, is a Project Owner Form attached to the appendix of this application? Please ask a program representative for this form.

Not applicable.

SECTION 6: Project Budget.

Provide an itemized list of the budget items required for this project. Include equipment, construction costs, publicity, labor, and any other costs.

Budget item	Cost per Item	Quantity	Total Cost
Printing Magazine	\$13	150	\$2,600
Camera Equipment	N/A	N/A	\$1,000
Clothing and Styling	N/A	N/A	\$600
Miscellaneous (such as renting out spaces, launch events, outreach materials, etc.)	N/A	N/A	\$1,000
Total project budget			\$5,200

The SEJF program encourages the identification of additional funding sources to augment SEJF funds, though it is not required. List pending, approved, and denied applications for funding from other sources, along with amounts requested from those sources.

Additional funding source(s), if applicable	Status	Amount
Not applicable		
Total of all other funding sources		\$

Total funding amount requested from SEJF	\$5,200
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If the project is implemented, will there be any ongoing replacement, operational, maintenance or renewal costs? If yes, has a source of funds been identified to cover those costs? This must be communicated to the appropriate stakeholder.

Ongoing cost	Amount/year	Responsible Stakeholder	Signature
Not applicable			

SECTION 7: Appendices.

Provide any additional documents, references, or information here.