

DAO Grant Program Discussion - 2025/01/28 09:55 EST - Transcript

Attendees

Christopher Lema, cr1st0f, Eugene Leventhal, Eugene Leventhal's Presentation, Fehz (SEEDGov), Humberto Besso-Oberto Huerta, Ivey SEEDGov, Luis C, Pedro Breuer, Razvan Matei Popescu, XTG

Transcript

Eugene Leventhal: All right, Tuesday, January 28th. This is the DAO grant program discussion. And goal for today is really context setting. I'm not going to repeat everything I just said and make you all listen to it again. So yeah, I'll open it up to any kind of questions, thoughts, concerns at this kind of early stage or I can just do a recap of where we were at already. All right, maybe it sounds good to do a quick recap. All right, to remind folks and let me just screen share on this doc and show the outline within it so people see it. right.

Eugene Leventhal: So we had the co-creation cycle at the end of last year. One of the potential desired outcomes is having our first and early grant programs. as broad context the goal for scroll foundation is not to have kind of the one program that is all programs. we would much prefer to take a pluralistic lens towards grant programs which for us specifically means once your desired outcomes list is too long and has too many competing outcomes it's better to have multiple grant programs with much more targeted desired outcomes right so for now given some of the strategic priorities emerging from the lab side we very much want to focus on defi

Eugene Leventhal: high payment, stables, etc. and the regional priorities are Brazil, Kenya, Malaysia, South Korea. And when we had a discussion, and I need to clean this doc up a little bit to make it more measurable, make it more manageable. but we did have some ideas start coming up. this is kind of pulling from our wider discussions. and just some highle things to consider. and then down here below is from the co-creation cycle, So this was from the initial votings and what people were excited about and thinking there. So yeah, more than happy to look back on any of this if folks have any questions or thoughts relating to it.

Eugene Leventhal: but yeah, in my mind it's very much around starting to think about what information needs to be clarified. What are the questions and concerns y'all might have before we feel comfortable planning the first grant program and if there aren't any, which I would be kind of surprised by this given how early stage we are. But once we're ready, right, to start actually saying here's the first proposal we're going to try to define and then ideally for, April 1st, for as soon as we're ready, have a formal grant program proposal from the DAO going up. and I guess in case it's helpful, I'll pull up that RFP that I put together, but I will pause there for a moment just in case.

Eugene Leventhal: Louise. Yes.

Luis C: Thank you, Good morning, everybody. Yeah, so I was just wondering right now, we have the verticals, the areas of interest, right, DeFi and so on, that we're going to focus for this, initial grant

program. And we have the regions where we're going to focus on. But I think we talked about a little bit about this last week when we said that these countries represent not only different geographical places in the world but maybe needs maybe different levels of I don't know in the journey around crypto. maybe and different market opportunities as well for scroll. I think there's a couple of guys from Brazil maybe here.

Luis C: I don't know if there's anybody from the rest of the regions but I would like to ask the whole forum here what they think about are we going to consider I mean the different market opportunities does this countries represent for scroll when designing which one of those areas to focus on for each country.

Eugene Leventhal: So yeah, at least from my view, the goal of creating these very targeted programs is so that we can recognize some of that specific context and try to specifically source new ideas within that context. So I do think right the goal of not just having a single DeFi fund. I feel like if we just did a DI grant program, a lot of that is going to just broadly focus on full stop which actually could miss some of these very regional specific opportunities and is a very crowded market.

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Eugene Leventhal: from our place and just looking at where the lab side is starting we very much want to focus on providing meaningful use cases for the global majority and we see this kind of payments stables on offramps etc potentially being some of the foundational infrastructure upon which all kinds of other things will be able to be built. I don't think that we necessarily need to get to a point of saying we're only funding on offramps in Brazil. That might be potentially too limiting. And we have to find the right balance here. And that's where, we're starting the conversation today. but yeah, we recognize that in this virtual world, right, what does it mean for an onoff ramp to be purely focused on one country?

Eugene Leventhal: I guess that one is, more specific to regulatory and local currencies, right? But for a lot of other type protocols, it might not be as geographically constrained. So I think it kind of depends what folks on this call today. We can bring this up in the community calls tomorrow and start getting more of a sense of how much do we feel as though we know those contexts and how much are we ready to versus how much do we potentially start with something a little more general just so that we have a place to field the grant programs and then we get more specialized over time.

Eugene Leventhal: So I think it will highly depend on where the delegates are feeling comfortable and which part of the process delegates want to be involved right because in the version where theoretically if the delegates said hey actually we don't want to be part of any of this foundation go build a grant program that I imagine would look differently than we want to be part of the review or helping source or onboarding into the ecosystem and then there's more design to be

Eugene Leventhal: had there as well as a group. so that's kind of my quick response and I would love to hear what other people think.

Humberto Besso-Oberto Huerta: Hey, do you hear me?

Eugene Leventhal: Yes. Hey

Luis C: Yes.

Humberto Besso-Oberto Huerta: Okay. So, I added a point in the ideas. And it says regional hubs need a grand manager which becomes accountable for the point above which is that there is a competition

between grand managers for efficiency on the budget and that this budget is allocated to the areas scroll aims defy etc.

Humberto Besso-Oberto Huerta: So that the hubs are let's say the hiring of the grant manager and the grant manager is the accountable person to deliver this efficiency of the usage of resources and there are different areas as you were mentioning at the beginning...

Humberto Besso-Oberto Huerta: where the defy and infrastructure and whatever just an idea

Eugene Leventhal: Yeah. ...

Eugene Leventhal: I think especially to start my own personal inclination is to encourage folks to think that the initial grant managers will actually be the foundation team. to avoid folks just trying Yeah. because as part of governance here in general we want to try to separate out the versus executing ideas. and so yeah, as part of that, we very much want to encourage anyone to be part of the design, right? We again, I guess go back to, some of these are easier to plug into. I think the review structure is probably the easiest and figuring out getting involved in the funding decision and creating some kind of committees for it and whatnot.

Eugene Leventhal: I do think at least for the first one, the manager that's dealing with moving thing from stage to stage and then possibly the overall inbound can be a collective effort. All of the logistics and whatnot will be foundationled, especially to make sure that it feeds into any of the data infrastructure that we want to work on. And I'm actually going to be doing a call to delegates to start forming at least an informal data and metrics committee and then when we formalize it we can have votes in place. But yeah, just to make sure that it's connected to any of the data and metrics infrastructure and probably the foundation will own the ecosystem onboarding or maybe we'll design that and own it. We're very open to it.

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Eugene Leventhal: We just want to the priority is making sure that we have the highest probability of succeeding at our desired outcomes, And broadly speaking, the desired outcomes are having more builders come to scroll to build useful applications for folks.

Fehz (SEEDGov): I have one question maybe it's not about specifically focused grants but more looking at the big picture right it's these different domains or areas that we would like to promote grants programs how this is decided by the foundation right because it could be based on I know

Fehz (SEEDGov): market research or it could be also defined by let's say the foundation has a road map they have a certain number of developments and improvements for the protocol as a whole and maybe some things of that are the prioritized and could be tackled from a DO perspective or through advanced program so what I want to know if that's going to be 100% managed by the foundation or if the DAO is going to have a say on the priorities for the grants program.

Eugene Leventhal: So let me correct me if I start answering the wrong question. but what I heard was how is the foundation currently thinking about who is setting the priorities for the grant programs. and that will depend program by So right now the foundation has one program where we are just right it's not announced yet it's not public but as we iron this out that is just going to be the foundation running it. and we will pull in people if needed as appropriate but that will be a foundationled and owned program. Right.

Eugene Leventhal: The goal for this coming back to this whole initial grant program proposal idea the goal here is that it's us as the foundation saying we don't want to be the ones defining all the grant programs we can if the DAO says hey actually we have no opinions foundation please go do stuff we can definitely do it just right folks on the ground in Brazil Kenya Malaysia in South Korea folks more broadly in Latam, in Africa, in Asia are going to have a much better sense of what is needed. And then, we're going to have delegates on the team who are much more say generalist with their knowledge base and not necessarily regional specific and more just broadly applicable virtually. And the hope is that right we can have someone who's a deep DeFi person along with people who are regional experts as part of these review committees.

Eugene Leventhal: And so the hope is when we get to the point of actually launching these programs that we will define them together, We will state any of our opinions of what we want to see. But if this team here, let's just say the folks who are on this call today all raise their hand and say we are all willing to work on the first grant program and really part of designing it. I would hope we would define the priorities. So, we don't want to own the priority definition, If all of a sudden someone comes out and says, "Hey, great that you want to do DeFi in Brazil. We're going to do gaming in North America instead." in things like that, we might try to nudge back to be like, "Hey, let's focus on on operational excellence on amplifying effective funds spent."

Eugene Leventhal: So let's prioritize the areas where we know whatever the DAO does will be building on other energy or generating new energy where we want an experiment. yeah anything that is a DAO program we want to define with you. let's see technically got in first and then Pedro

Fehz (SEEDGov): Yeah, just a quick one. thanks for the response. it covered basically 90% of my question. So the other thing was may maybe I didn't ask the right way but it was like how can we be sure you mentioned right that there's going to be a back and forth and that's the thing that was a question about but how can we make sure that the priorities that the DAO is bringing to the table and the priorities that the foundation has right

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Fehz (SEEDGov): are a rematch there, right? Because again, if the DAO decides or the DAO suggests to go for a gaming domain or for infrastructure or tooling or whatever and the foundation and maybe the goals and the vision and the mission of the foundation, it's way far from there. how it's going to be that exercise, right? How it's going to be that back and forth.

Fehz (SEEDGov): because again I do believe that some things like infrastructure and tooling could be more top down to be honest thinking what the scroll foundation is prioritizing or dep prioritizing and maybe the other areas like defi or gaming or other areas or of interest could be more crafted from the DAO perspective, right? It's like as I see it, different areas might need more involvement from the foundation and other areas maybe not. that's what I wanted to say.

Eugene Leventhal: Short answer is that's what the governance team is committing to focus on and ensuring. that might be a vague answer, More specifically, the goal of these design approaches is that let's just say you are actually really excited about doing some massive program in DSI or something totally different. that would be up to me then to chime in and say hey how does that fit our priorities if we're trying to accomplish x y and z. So it is a bit more of a manual discursive approach. Right now we're not trying to automate it or inherently block the goal because theoretically right we also don't want to limit if

someone has a really good idea of the next vertical we should be focusing on. We shouldn't just say no or ignore that just because it doesn't perfectly fit all the check boxes.

Eugene Leventhal: But the hope in generating this RFP yeah which I dropped in chat is to help kind of frame right let's say you do want us creating a more clear container of what we're asking for the DAO to design at first right that's where the hope is in saying here are the elements here's the scope of work of it here's the format here's where to make it here's the elements of this you can design like I try to and have some kind of evaluation criteria to know of from the foundation perspective are we going to be excited for this and the more and checks all these boxes the more it will be aligned. but yeah I guess I don't have a shorter answer at this point.

Eugene Leventhal: I think it's just on us to figure out how do we best help communicate that to the delegates and on the other hand getting a sense of where your ideas are at right if no one's coming out with things too far a field then we can just focus on the first programs if we realize the first programs are all super out there then we need to have some more group discussions so that's also what I want to get a sense from this group is, how many ideas are already coming to mind for DeFi related programs? versus is everyone just excited about different things in which case I feel like we have a bigger problem. Not that it's actually a problem, but just a bigger thing to solve at hand. Pedro

Pedro Breuer: Yeah. Hi. I mean, I'm sorry if this has already been discussed, but this is my first call regarding this topic. to be on the same page or to have things clear like what we are discussing right now is a proposal of an RFP, the idea is to have a general framework where anyone can send a defy incentives program proposal a specific target in certain specific liquidity infrastructure whatever whatever related to defy and with the regional focus that would be Brazil, Kenya, Malaysia and South Korea right that would be the idea of what we are discussing right now and if that's the case

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Pedro Breuer: maybe I think given that it is a wide discussion my suggestion would be I would leave this decision to the foundation. maybe you could decide on how this RFP should look like and then yes let DO engage in the specifics of every single proposal for incentive programs because at least for me the thoughts or the first questions that come are about the specific details on how to execute but maybe an RFP as F mentioned before if you decide on the priorities as you

Pedro Breuer: have already decided on quite some of them because you have regional vertical focuses. the rest is easier from the legs and only one comment regarding the regional focus and here I am representing Argentina users. So maybe I'm not that motivated to participate if I know that these programs won't target Argentinian users. that's just a comment. I understand the reasons behind why the regional focus but we are limited on time and of course if we know that this won't benefit Argentinian users maybe we're not that motivated to engage on this. text.

Eugene Leventhal: In interest of time, let me jump to Kristoff and then I'll respond to everyone just to make sure we hear everyone's questions or comments.

cr1st0f: Yeah, mine was just again clarifying and again I ap I was just reading through the document so I apologize if this was covered in previous questions but what do I want to ask? what might a grant program proposal look like? How specific would we be requesting for example applications from builders that want to build peer stable coin payments in Kenya or what are the boundaries of it and how specific is

Eugene Leventhal: So, yeah, let me try to get through these as quickly as possible. so we can go about this in one of two ways. And again, if it would be more clarifying for us as the foundation to just make the call and just go about that just like please be direct with that because we are trying to respect not wanting to just over bulldoze everything and overdesign everything from the foundation. so right, we have an RFP. So I would be interested in getting feedback on the RFP to just see if it's too general still or too vague. Right. This is not Kristoff to your point of we want to see people's solutions to problem X or what was the example that you gave of a peer stable coin and payments tool in a specific country.

Eugene Leventhal: we can absolutely get to that level of things. I guess from my personal vantage point, I don't feel like I know those needs well enough. So on the one hand, we have some of the user research happening that will hopefully help us gain some of this information, but we also don't need to wait to for those results because that's also not necessarily comprehensive enough to be able to customize every single program to. So we can start defining a slightly broader grant program, right? So just say our priority is Brazil, but we want to do LATAM DeFi payments more broadly with kind of a preference for Brazil first.

Eugene Leventhal: and just see the kind of proposals we start getting and then as the review committee there we can either decide to put a pin in it and create more focused RFPs or if we already feel like we know what the focused RFPs can be we would love to see hyperargeted programs right or if anyone here is peer stable coins with this slight twist are going to be the next big thing and we need to get ahead of it awesome. That's absolutely something super specific we could create. and if we're not ready for that, we can keep it slightly more generalized so that we feel as though we're in a good position to catch more ideas. but yeah, there's always trade-offs to these of volume and depth of quality and whatnot. the more concrete RFPs you usually have lower volume of applicants, but they're all much more applicable.

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Eugene Leventhal: So I think it also just depends on where are we at as a group. yes, IB Yes,...

Ivey SEEDGov: Hey, guys a foundation has the scroll open hackathon. So maybe that's kind of a quick overview of what foundation is looking at as imper builders, right? I think that might be a good proxy just to see what foundation is thinking about that how we can complement that or not. But there are a lot of topics being covered in the application form. So yeah, inviting everyone to check out them.

Eugene Leventhal: thank you for calling that out and I will make sure to link to those here. Rosan,...

Razvan Matei Popescu: Yeah, sorry. I think I clicked by mistake.

Eugene Leventhal: no worries. Pedro Yeah.

Pedro Breuer: Yeah, one last comment is that if it was up to me, I would prioritize some synergy with the recent announcement of the foundation regarding the new tokens, the LRT and the ST scroll token. So somehow adopting them would be interesting to focus on that.

Eugene Leventhal: And I'm actually going to be asking the person who was leading with some of the design of that to come and present to the DAO at some point soon so that we can also learn more details and have something recorded for the delegate community. So I know we have a stop here. I don't have a hard stop right now so I can hang out and answer anything else that might help us with next steps.

Eugene Leventhal: I think a specific thing that I would ask for and I will post this in the grant program chat but would be to take a look at this right pretty much I'm trying to understand how much are we ready to propose specific ideas and it's about me facilitating the process of designing them versus how much are we feeling that we don't even know what direction we want to design in and so we need to help clarify what are we designing in the first place, right? So, we need help clarifying what we're designing in the first place, that's why I put together this RFP. So, I would love to get feedback on does this feel helpful or still too general? Would it be more details be helpful? that would be good. And then as next steps, I'll pull together some of the resources for scroll open. yes, Rosban.

Razvan Matei Popescu: Yeah, this time it's not by mistake. so I glad you mentioned that because I did want to ask something like do you feel that the first iteration of the grant program will be something like more simple or more complex because I guess that's also important because for a pluralist approach like I would say maybe because the program has already four regional focuses do they all need to be tackled at once by the program or...

Razvan Matei Popescu: focusing on one area at a time. For example,

Eugene Leventhal: So yeah,...

Eugene Leventhal: so personally I would prefer seeing more localized and I don't mean that geographically. I mean towards desired outcomes. So I do think matching a smaller instead of creating a \$5 million DeFi fund or even a \$1 million DeFi fund for DeFi across all of these regions. I would rather see four smaller programs focused on regions. just in that specific if those are the only two things being decided. I guess I would have more follow-ups on the simple verse complex is that in terms of mechanism design or priorities or from which dimension?

Eugene Leventhal: But as a rule of thumb, I would start simple and...

Eugene Leventhal: then get more complex if the simple things don't seem to be solving our problems. but yeah, I don't know if there's anything else you want to add there. Otherwise, we will jump to Kristoff.

Razvan Matei Popescu: Yeah, I'm good.

Razvan Matei Popescu: I'm good. Thanks.

Eugene Leventhal: Okay, Kristoff.

cr1st0f: Just a couple I think the first comment that came to mind when I was reading this was that it feels like the writer's kind of hinting at some has an idea but doesn't want to reveal it all if you know what I mean the region why were those regions were there specific applications or use cases that were in mind when they were being anything hinting at that might be useful. I don't know. and the other thing was I'm not from any of these regions so I don't really know but it might be useful to pull other people in that are delegates that are like Jen from South Korea.

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cr1st0f: I don't know what other people we have in the DAO, but it might be good to sort of ask if they want to be involved.

Eugene Leventhal: that a lot of folks with more of the geographical context are gravitating towards the local node programs. but 100% I think that I would not feel comfortable asking to have something targeting Brazil if there's no one with extensive knowledge in Brazil or experience in Brazil or speaking Portuguese etc on the team that is designing that. So I think we are in the fortunate position where across our delegates we have at least one delegate from u each one of these district regions.

Eugene Leventhal: and yeah that's where I think someone like yourself I could envision right having a lot of thoughts on the DeFi side broadly and then in my mind the benefit of pairing folks and doing this kind of code design is that if we can bring yourself and others with the deep knowledge and pair them with people who have the really local context then we can start generating some of those hyperargeted things of this one specific use case in this country might actually be a huge unlock both for people within that country and consequently for network growth on scroll. so yeah that's very much a hope and where I think the grant programs and the local node programs will intersect with time.

Eugene Leventhal: but for now it's kind of creating the first iteration right so I'm envisioning the first grant programs being kind of 6 to 9 months we're not necessarily committing for indefinite huge programs but let's just even see if we could get the energy and then we'll understand where is the actual problem right is it we might recognize that there's a need for a use case but for whatever reason no one's building it we might need to focus more on education or more building community first versus in other places it might just be like people are ready to rip and just waiting for resources to go build certain things. and so I think this is all a process that we will go through together and kind of answer some of these questions as we go. but to your point of feeling as though the RFP author had more ideas that they weren't mentioning, I will be honest, I didn't.

Eugene Leventhal: I was the one writing the RFP, but institutionally we do. and so that's where I think I don't know if I can have it in time for tomorrow, but I can do my best in the catch-ups with growth this week to kind of get some highlevel bullet points on, do we as an organization feel that certain use cases are primed to take off in these different regions? And if so, can we make that very explicit in these RFPs as we go forward? Does anyone have anything else they want to touch on for now? cool.

Eugene Leventhal: This has been helpful in terms of understanding where folks are generally I took notes on this in that initial grant program proposal codeesign doc. so yeah, I will make sure to follow up on the scroll open side and I will also post the RFP in the telegram chat to get some initial feedback on that. Cool. let me know if there's anything else. Otherwise, thank you for your time and looking forward to working with y'all going forward.

Humberto Besso-Oberto Huerta: Thank you very much.

Luis C: Thanks. Thanks everybody.

Razvan Matei Popescu: Thanks, Eugene.

Luis C: See you tomorrow.

Eugene Leventhal: Thanks. Appreciate it.

Meeting ended after 00:34:50 🙌

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