



Dwight James III

Grant Proposal for AfroTech 2019 in Oakland, CA

I. Proposal Summary (Executive Summary)

I am requesting a UKSP grant of 1,471.77 in order to pay for my flight, registration fee, room and board at an air bnb, transportation around the city, as well as food for four days at the 2019 AfroTech Conference. Attending the AfroTech 2019 conference will allow me to seek potential engineers that can aid me in creating affordable cameras for primary school children. Most kids have a limited frame of reference for photography and I aspire to teach kids about their self-image as well as the power of a picture. Attending this conference will expand my understanding on the developmental steps needed to design these affordable cameras for my target population. AfroTech Conference will also expand my network to a higher dimension for my business to grow.

II. Project Description (Narrative)

As a poet, writer, photographer, and director, it is essential for me to find ways to intertwine my love for education and the arts in a way that will aid children to learn in unconventional ways. I want to attend AfroTech because it focuses on bringing together black entrepreneurs, techies, and small businesses from around the world to fellowship, learn, and expose each other to their respective ventures. In an effort to build more support and community for collaboration in the tech industry, AfroTech aspires to educate and challenge attendees to set their aims high and network horizontally. The day to day [schedule](#) features entrepreneurship sessions, a pitch competition (similar to the group challenges at each UKSP summit), open forums, and lab

sessions hosted by featured speakers and sponsors. The conference is connected to the UKSP mission because it promotes the values of mutual benefit, passion, opportunity obsession, and knowledge through its programming and philosophy to build a community for collaboration in the tech industry. The conference also aspires to bring artists into the world of tech like Charlamagne Tha God and Hannibal Burrese to show the intersections between art and technology. AfroTech will be hosted by Blavity, Inc., a media company home to the largest network of brands specifically serving black millennials through original content, video and unique experiences. As a company that began as a startup, Blavity hosts conferences and events tailored to specific audiences in an effort to aid them in personal, professional, and creative development. AfroTech is also a platform used to educate and connect black people in the technology industry. Part of UKSP’s mission is to help students develop an entrepreneurial state of mind. By using sound judgement while building relationships and displaying my passion for arts education, I am upholding my responsibility as an educator and community member to help children learn about themselves. Since I’ve been a part of the UKSP, I’ve not only improved my entrepreneurial thinking but also learned the importance of seeking knowledge in other spaces. At AfroTech, I believe that I will be surrounded by budding entrepreneurs of color that will help me build my network and challenge me set bigger goals as I make progress to expand the scope of education.

III. Budget

Expenditure	Cost with hyper links (if needed)
Registration	\$291.77
Flight	\$550 Quotes for Flights: Expedia : \$544.11

	Priceline : \$536.99
Transportation	\$150
Hotel/Air Bnb	\$280 Air Bnb Quote \$60 per night
Food	\$200
Total	\$1,471.77