

This Is Laisa, LLC

Executive Summary

Community Partner

Laisa Barros

Student Consulting Team

Alex Bellomo

Joyce Wu

Rjay Lane

Background

This is Laisa, LLC, an organization owned and operated by Laisa Barros, is developing Grantly, a student-sponsor matching web portal. The purpose of Grantly is to connect students in need of funding for research projects to corresponding sponsors who are likely to support such a project based on its merit. Laisa is also interested in making Grantly accessible, so as to not exclude students who live with some kind of disability.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

Team G built in React, a popular JavaScript development framework, a frontend for Grantly, which allows professors to register classes on the platform, students to upload project proposals for their classes, and sponsors to fund projects based on the students' proposals. Changes to the backend were not within project scope. Ensuring accessibility of the front-end was however a major goal of the project, given that 20% of Americans live with some form of disability. Compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) helps to avoid legal issues under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) legislation that could arise in the future from not providing equal access to all users.

Project Vision

Team G's solution allows Laisa to focus on deploying and promoting her platform. Grantly helps students find money for their proposed projects, while it simultaneously helps sponsors find projects to support that they believe have merit. Finally, Grantly helps professors connect their students to potential sponsors who may provide funding for their projects. This project addresses three facets of the United Nations sustainable development goals: equality, quality education, and work & economic growth.

Project Outcomes

Team G implemented in React, a popular JavaScript development framework, all front-end features originally agreed to with the client. This was accompanied by formal testing, both functional and accessibility compliance. Team G's solution will benefit the client by providing a base platform that will serve to further promote the cause of This is Laisa, LLC .

Project Deliverables

A Gitlab repository, accessibility test report and related findings and recommendations, functional testing documentation and results, and deployment documentation have been provided to the client.

Recommendations

The front-end was built to accommodate the existing backend provided by the previous developers; however, Team G recommends changes to the back-end logic in order to facilitate Grantly's further growth. Team G also recommends exploring multiple techniques to maintain accessibility, to see if the accessibility of the site can be improved.

Student Consulting Team

Alex Bellomo served as project manager. He is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Software Engineering. Over the summer, he will be in Seattle, interning at Amazon as part of the Alexa AI Natural Understanding team. He is currently looking for a career in software engineering.

Joyce Wu was the accessibility lead. She is a third-year student majoring in Information Systems with a double major in Computer Science. She will be interning at Aurora Innovation this summer and is looking for a career in software engineering and artificial intelligence.

Rjay Lane was the client communication liaison and the lead for functional testing. He is a fourth-year student majoring in Information Systems with a minor in Business Administration. After graduation, he will be seeking a career in user experience design.