Resolution 34: Approving Special Projects Request for the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council

Abstract: Approves $4,000 from the Special Projects fund for the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council (SMSC) to host the Sephardi-Mizrahi Shabbat, a Shabbat dinner open to all Cornell undergraduate students on Friday, November 6, 2026.

Authored by: Christian Tarala ’27

Reviewed by: Executive Board (6-0-1)

Type of Action: Internal Policy

Originally Presented: 11/05/2026

Whereas, the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council (SMSC) is a registered student organization that shares the traditions of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews, whose communities originate from Spain, the Middle East, and North Africa, with the broader Cornell community,

Whereas, SMSC receives its primary byline funding through the Interfaith Council at Cornell (ICC) and has a pending 2026–2027 ICC allocation of $1,250 for non-event expenses,

Whereas, SMSC seeks funding for the Sephardi-Mizrahi Shabbat, a dinner to be held on Friday, November 6, 2026, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM, with an expected attendance of 500 students,

Whereas, SMSC’s four previous Shabbat dinners each drew more than 400 students, and SMSC is conducting outreach beyond the Jewish community, including to Muslim and Christian students through partnerships with religious organizations and community leaders,

Whereas, the total cost of the event is $11,350, consisting of $8,920 for CU Dining Shabbat dinner catering, $1,650 for Kiddush food, $660 for utensils, and $120 for promotional materials,

Whereas, SMSC has also requested $2,500 from CU Tonight for this event, which is pending,

Whereas, Part B: Special Projects Funding, Section 1, of the Standing Rules reads:

> The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through the Assembly Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life. Special Projects funding is a type of category spending.

Whereas, SMSC complies with Part B: Special Projects Funding, Section 2, subsection a, of the Standing Rules as a Cornell registered student organization,

Whereas, Part B: Special Projects Funding, Section 8, of the Standing Rules reads:

> Organizations without open membership are not eligible for Special Projects Funding, except in cases where the applicant is hosting an event open to all Cornell undergraduate students.

Whereas, the Sephardi-Mizrahi Shabbat is open to all Cornell undergraduate students,

Whereas, Part B: Special Projects Funding, Section 5, of the Standing Rules reads:

> Requests $2,500 and over shall be decided upon by a majority vote of the Executive Board and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly, at large. … The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

Be it therefore resolved, the Student Assembly approves the transfer of $1,655.32 from the Student Assembly Reserves Account (G943602) to the Student Assembly Special Projects Funding Account (30001).

Be it finally resolved, the Student Assembly approves the $4,000 disbursement from the Student Assembly Special Projects Funding Account (30001) into the account of the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council to fund the November 6, 2026 Shabbat dinner open to all undergraduate students.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christian Tarala ’27
Vice President for Finance, Student Assembly

Appendix A: Special Projects Application

Submitted by: Gavin Hakimian (gh438@cornell.edu) on Oct 15, 2026 6:16 PM

2026-2027 Student Assembly Special Projects Funding Request Survey PENDING APPROVAL

Submission ID: 7102395

Cornell Student Assembly Special Projects Application (Part 1)

Dear Cornell Student Assembly Special Projects applicant,

This form is the official application for AY 2026-2027 Special Projects funding. Below are guidelines for the Special Projects fund:

The Student Assembly may choose to fund any project, program or service through the Assembly Special Projects that it deems to improve the quality of undergraduate student life. Special Projects funding is a type of category spending. Special Projects funding may be requested by any of the following, but not limited to:

- *(i) Any Cornell registered student organization,*
- *(ii) the Assembly committee chairs that seek funding for expenditures that exceed their committee's budgeted allocation.*

(1) 1. The President and Vice President for Finance together may approve any special projects funding request up to $500 without consultation with the Executive Committee. Amounts up to $500 may also be funded by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Request must be made public at a Student Assembly meeting in the form of an "Announcement/Report" before being approved. Any voting member can motion for the request to be sent to the Executive Committee if they feel necessary.

(2) The Executive Committee shall decide upon special projects requests over $500 and under $2,500 by a majority vote. The Assembly, at large, may reverse an Executive Committee decision to fund amounts over $400 by a two-thirds vote. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

(3) Requests $2,500 and over shall be decided upon by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and confirmed by a majority vote of the Student Assembly, at large. The Assembly, at large, is only required to confirm requests of $2,500 or greater. The request should be presented to the Student Assembly in the form of a resolution.

In addition to the Special Project rules outlined in the 2025-2026 Standing Rules, pursuant to APPENDIX B: STUDENT ASSEMBLY GUIDELINES FOR FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS, Section 4: Organization Specific Guidelines (lines 822-825) of the Student Assembly Charter, an organization is only allowed a maximum of $5,000 per semester in Special Projects funding.

- *x. Student Assembly*
  - *a. The Student Assembly allocation shall be managed and overseen by the Cornell University Office of Assemblies Department.*
  - *b. The Student Assembly Special Projects allocations should not exceed $5,000 per organization per academic year.*

What Organization is requesting the funding? *

Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council

Please do not just display an acronym, type out your group's name in its entirety.

What is your role in your organization? *

Vice President

If applicable, please list all conflicts of interest that your organization has with the Student Assembly. (Ex. Names of Organization members who are members of the Student Assembly or Student Assembly committees) *

N/A

Please list any Student Assembly members or committees you have worked with in regard to this project.

What Primary Funding Byline Organization does your Organization currently receive funding from? *

Interfaith Council at Cornell (ICC)

What is the Total Expected Cost of your project? *

11350

What is the total disbursement your organization is requesting from the Special Projects fund? *

4000

Please describe the project your organization intends on using Special Projects funding for.

If this is for a one-time event, please include the name of the event, date of the event, expected attendance at the event, etc.

If this is for a one-time purchase of a good or service, please describe the items to be purchased, quantity purchased, cost per item, number of people this purchase will affect, etc. *

Event Name: Sephardi-Mizrahi Shabbat Date: Friday, November 6th (6:30pm-9:30pm) Expected Attendance: 500 Description: Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews are those originating from Spain, the Middle East and North Africa. They are a minority within the broader Jewish community, and the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council's goal is to share the Sephardi and Mizrahi warmth and traditions with Cornell students while spreading awareness and appreciation of our minority group. Through a vibrant Shabbat dinner with amazing food, singing, and atmosphere, this event will showcase the core values of the Sephardi & Mizrahi community to a wider audience at Cornell, engaging all types of students. The previous four dinners each brought in 400+ students, and we have greater attendance goals for this event. We will discuss and practice several Jewish traditions during the event. We will do ceremonies such as a blessing recited on grape juice, ritual hand washing, and a blessing on bread to begin the meal. Additionally, we will display a gallery of posters on different Sephardic communities to spark students' interest in learning more about these communities. Lastly, two students from the Sephardi & Mizrahi Student Council will give short speeches relating their background traditions to a lesson related to a Jewish text. We are directly advertising to Jewish students through social media, group chats, and posters. Our other target audiences are the Muslim and Christian communities, who we will be reaching through partnerships with religious organizations and community leaders. We will set up fliers in many locations on campus, including residence halls, libraries, dining halls, and in Collegetown.

Please list all sources of funding your Organization has received or requested from in the 2026-2027 AY. This includes funds that will not be used on this project, as well as funds that will be used on this project. *

Interfaith Allocation ($1,250 pending, non-event related) CU Tonight ($2,500 pending)

Please list all sources of funding your organization received, has applied for, or intends to apply for in the 2025-2026 AY. In addition, name all sources of funding that will be used to fund this project. Finally, name all other possible sources of funding that have failed to fund this project and how they have failed.

Please quantify the expected number of students impacted by this project. *

500

Please describe the expected number of attendants and/or students impacted by this project.

Please outline all sources of income and expense for your organization in AY 2024-2025. *

Interfaith Yearly Allocation: + $4,000 Sephardi Boat: - $800 Sephardi Tea House Dinner: - $350 Sephardi Yom Kippur Break Fast: - $100 CU Tonight Funding (PENDING): + $2,500 Sephardi Shabbat Dinner (TENTATIVE): - $11,350

This should not be a transaction history. Expenses should be event costs, food for meetings, etc.

Please describe all related expenses for this project. Be as specific as possible when describing each expense, and be sure to include quantities purchased, the cost per unit, and a breakdown of food costs if applicable. Include any links to websites used to purchase these items or services. *

Utensils $660.00 Promotional Materials $120.00 Total Non-Food Items $780.00 CU Dining Shabbat Dinner Food Total $8,920.00 Shabbat Kiddush Food Total $1,650.00 Total $11,350.00

Please list and describe the expenses by category for the project.

Describe how your Organization intends to adhere to Cornell University Policies related to Accessibility and Inclusion. *

While the event will be highly attended by Jewish students, we will be hosting and welcoming non-Jewish students from Cornell's large community to attend the event, while specifically focusing on increasing Muslim and Christian student attendance. This event will highlight the diversity within the Jewish community that is often overlooked. By introducing several ceremonies with explanations and definitions for new terms, this will help all students understand the ceremonies and feel welcome in participating in them. Additionally, the gallery of posters will introduce students to learning about Sephardic communities with fun facts and explanations. This will make the Cornell student community more aware and accepting of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews, creating a better environment for this minority group.

Note: Although your project/ initiative may be targeted toward a specific group of Cornell students, your Organization can not discriminate against identities protected under Policy 6.4, which are those protected under federal, state, and local equal education and employment laws and regulations.

Policy related to Accessibility (Policy 5.12: Web Accessibility)

Policy related to Inclusion (Policy 6.4: Prohibited Bias, Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual and Related Misconduct)

Please upload the most updated Constitution or Charter for your organization. *

Upload file

Sephardi_Mizrahi_Charter.pdf (Delete)

Please upload the most updated Bylaws or other Governing Documents for your organization. *

Upload file

Sephardi_Mizrahi_Charter.pdf (Delete)