

DAAP cares 2025

15th annual event April 10th | 5:30 – 7 pm

AGENDA

- INTRODUCTIONS
- AWARDS
- PROJECTS
- DAAPCARES: YEAR ROUND



DAAPcares MISSION

DAAPcares honors and supports the work of DAAP students, faculty, staff, and alumni to improve the quality of life around the world. From local to global, individual to multidisciplinary, and academic to professional - we connect scholarship to solutions. These accomplishments are celebrated annually in a showcase of innovative projects and research that represent our mission to achieve sustainable outcomes with environmental, economic, and cultural equity.



DAAPcares Student Organization

Faculty Advisor: John Dixon

Staff Advisor: Lora Alberto

Graduate Assistant: Rachel Carr

Student Leadership:

Margaret Dull

DAAPcares Awards Committee

John Dixon, SOD

Brian Grubb, SOP

Mrinalini Aggarwal, SOA

Anca Matyiku, SAID

Awards



**Collecting Joy
by Sadie Beck**



**The Sensory Hub
by Anna Choi**



**Queering Design by
Colin Putman**



**Relational
Techniques by
Justin Pokorski**



**Informing
Microplastics by
LeFors & Nguyen**



**Bearcat's Pantry by
Dougherty &
Weaver**

Awards



**YouSee by
Campisano &
Townsend**



**Innovative Courses &
Publications by Theresa
Leininger-Miller**



**Oyster Reefs by
Fatemah
Alabdulrazaq**



**Fig Alley Steps by
Rachel Carr**

Collecting Joy: A Multigenerational Approach to Care by Sadie Beck

Senior Studio | INTD5002 | Professor Amanda Woltjer

LOCATION: Detroit, MI, USA

PARTICIPANTS

Student: *Sadie Beck*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project cultivates a community culture of interconnectedness across generations. In one community hub, seniors can find a desirable place to live with specialized care, and young families are provided with nurturing services for their children and opportunities to build local connections. Identifying and responding to the specific needs of both demographics, enriching environments provide opportunities for learning, playing, healing, exploring, and relaxing as necessary for the engaged, multifaceted lives of children and seniors.

2025
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Innovation
Award

SAID



Design for Community Engagement: Increasing student awareness about sustainability resources at University of Cincinnati, Main Campus by Atousa Hajhosseini

Thesis | DSGN 8002 | Professor DJ Trischler

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH
PARTICIPANTS
Students: Atousa Hajhosseini

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In partnership with UC's Office of Sustainability, this project leverages interdisciplinary design and participatory methods to expose students to the campus sustainability resources by reaching out and engaging them in meaningful, simple and rewarding interactions to create visibility, awareness and a space for sharing around the resources.

POP-UPS

(272 PARTICIPANTS ACROSS 13 SESSIONS)



YouSee by Campisano & Townsend

Design Research Methods | CODE
4021 Professor Muhammad Rahman

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, USA

PARTICIPANTS

Students: Michaela Townsend and
Francesca Campisano

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

YouSee is a creative zine designed to visually engage DAAP freshmen by introducing them to the diverse buildings on the University of Cincinnati's campus, encouraging exploration beyond their primary academic space. Traditionally, DAAP students spend most of their time in a single building, which can make it difficult to connect with and utilize other campus resources. This project aims to foster a greater sense of belonging by helping students navigate and engage with the broader university environment.

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Best in School
of Design

SOD



Hearthstone by Courtney Roberts

Senior Studio 2 | INTD 5002 | Professor Amanda Woltjer

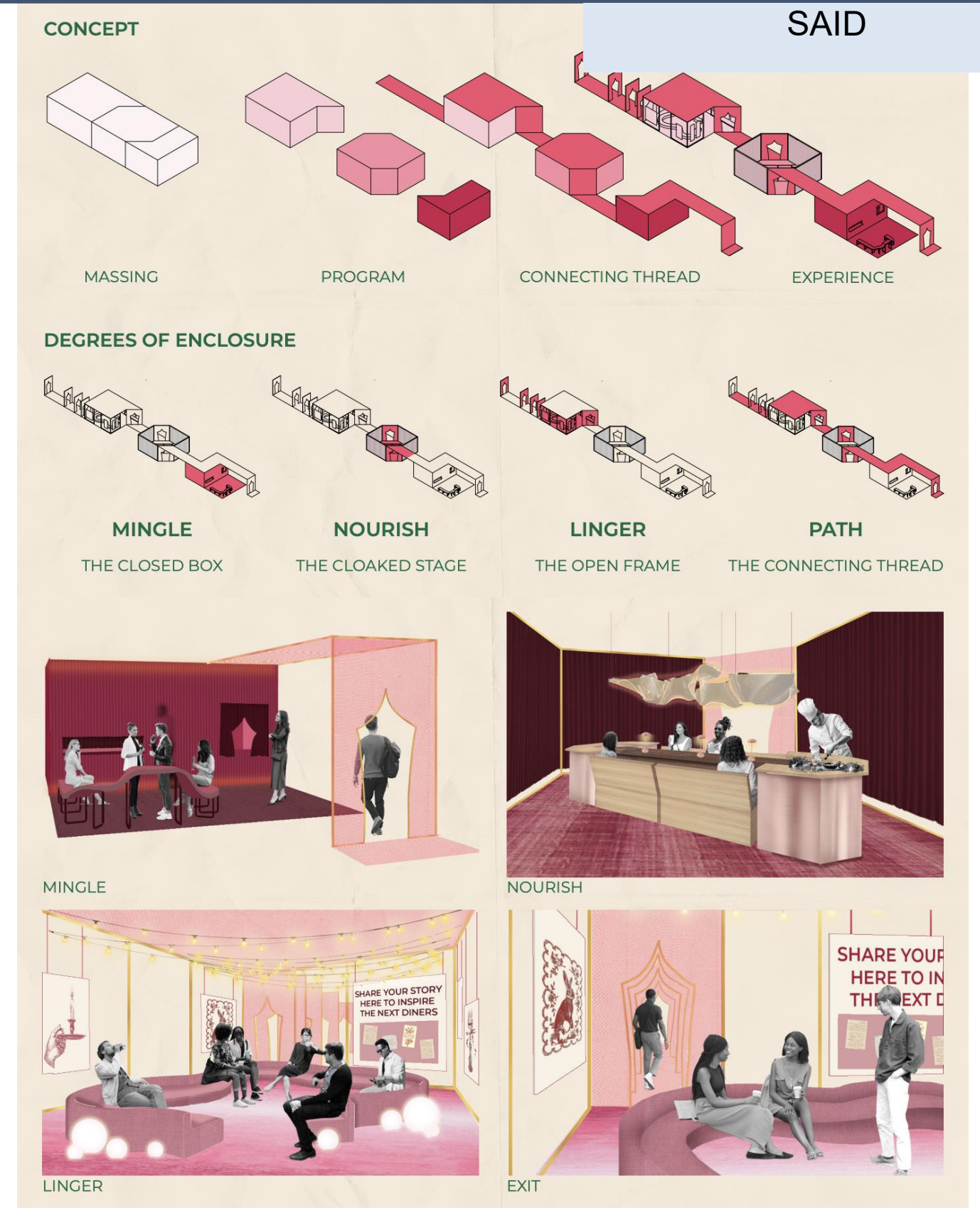
LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH

PARTICIPANTS

Students: Courtney Roberts

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Hearthstone is a one-of-a-kind pop-up dining experience whose goal is to revive the ritual of communal eating while fostering authentic connections and laying the groundwork to rekindle communities. Incorporating the AIA Design Excellence strategies of designing for Equitable Communities, Well-being, and Discovery, this dining experience aims to connect users to themselves, people, food, and their locations. The pop-up's menu is based on guests' memories surrounding food, allowing food to act as the medium for storytelling and connection, therefore crafting an experience that can never be entirely replicated. Utilizing the themes of a gradient of enclosure, a thread of connection, and ephemeral sculpture, the pop-up has three main zones: Mingle (pre-dinner experience), Nourish (dining experience), and Linger (post-dinner experience). The space evolves with the user journey, gradually dissolving as guests become more open with one another.



Innovative Courses and Publications About African American Art and the Black Body in European Art by Theresa Leiningner-Miller

ARTH 3002, AFST 3002 and ARTH 5161/6061, AFST 4052

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH

PARTICIPANTS

Students: Sameera Bansal, Lilly Barman, John Borger, De'Auna Brooks, Sara Hutchens, Tiara Jones, Olivia Riggs, Emma Rose, Eva Sliesoraitis, Farhat Afzal, Alexandr Fernholz, Neva' Fuller, Anna Hughes, Dena Khodeir, Kelly King, Ella Lipnik, Courtney Ware

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As of late 2023, Cincinnati became the first city in Ohio to legalize the use of an Accessory Dwelling Unit, ADU. This zoning policy innovation provided an opportunity to reshape the city's urban fabric and construction techniques. Community Building Blocks is a bold reimagining of suburban living, transforming traditional single-family lots into a neighborhood that embraces sustainability, efficiency, and fosters a strong sense of community.

2025
DAAPcares

Best in School
of Art

SOA



Promoting National and Local Photographic History With Exhibitions & a Documentary by Theresa Leininger-Miller

Independent Work

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH

PARTICIPANTS

Partners: DAAP Library, Cincinnati Art Galleries, FotoFocus, Cincinnati Museum Center, Loveland Museum Center, Elizabeth Meyer, Cade Stevens, Mia Getter, Anna Hughes, Ella Lipnik, David Hausrath, Nannette Maciejunes, Nick Vaccarro, Jerry Spohr, Margaret Klein, Sarah Schmitt, Lilly Hinckley, Nina Parr, Katie Siegwarth, Monica Williams-Mitchell, Rob and Wilma Kumler, Tim Jeffries, Tom Law

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Collaborating with the DAAP Library and Cincinnati Art Galleries, with material from two museums and multiple local private collectors, funding and support from FotoFocus, and assistance from UC students, Theresa Leininger-Miller curated two large exhibitions of 19th-century photography in fall, 2024. She also served as project consultant and appeared in the documentary, *Capturing Life, 1839-1869*, the first segment of *The Big Picture: A History of Photography in Greater Cincinnati*, which aired on public television in February, 2025 and is now available



SOA



The Sensory Hub by Anna Choi

Senior Studio 2 | INTD 5002 | Professor Mandy Woltjer

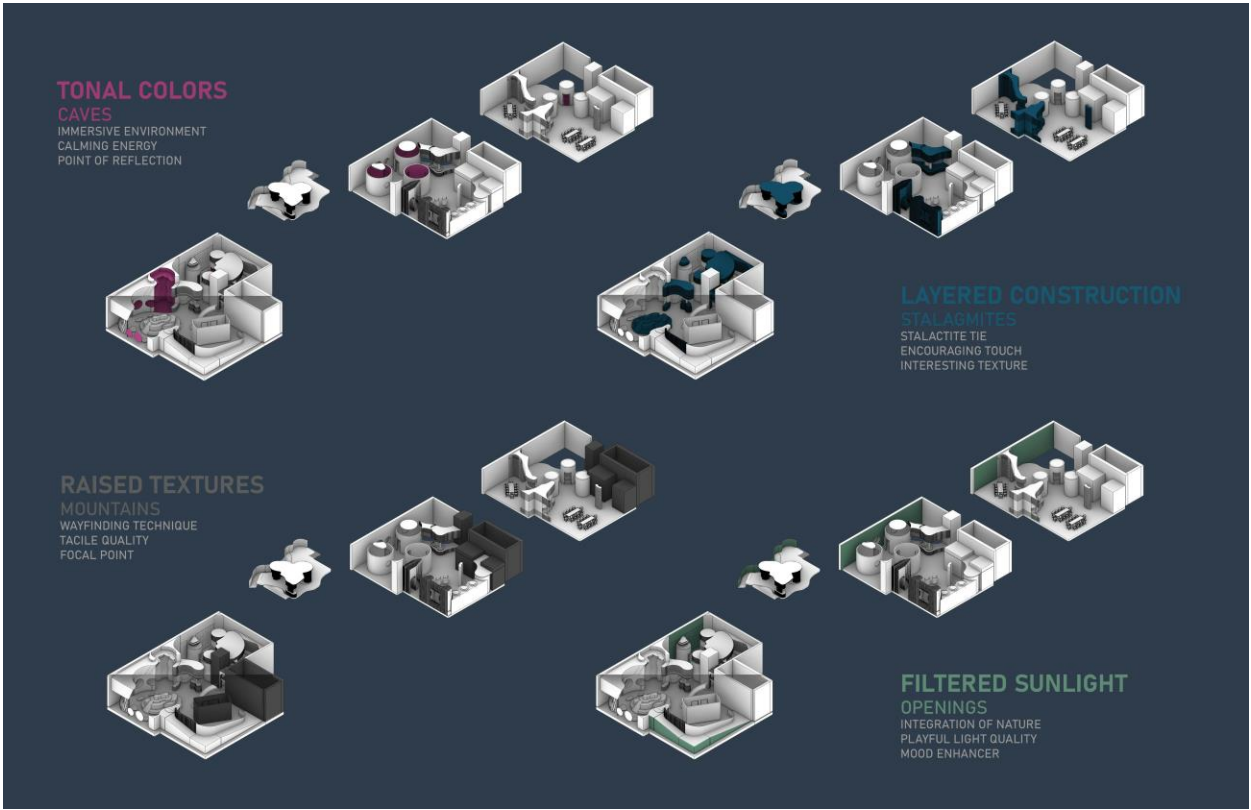
LOCATION: Philadelphia, PA, USA
PARTICIPANTS
Students: Anna Choi

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The urban environment is often overwhelming to those with sensory processing difficulties, but the built environment severely lacks accommodations for neuro-divergent people. The Sensory Hub project brings sensory design into the public realm in a meaningful way by adding a new function of space to an existing library for children and families. Situated at the junction of community space and health education, this three-floor sensory playscape features active play elements, a wellness area, counseling rooms, and activity rooms for those with sensory processing issues to feel confident in exploring the world around them. Located in Philadelphia, which has the highest population of residents with sensory processing difficulties in the United States, the accessibility of the space through public transit and drivability helps this sensory space to become an everyday tool for those struggling in the busy urban environment.



SAID



Oyster Reefs: A Costal Treasure by Fatemah Alabdulrazaq

Design Studio 2 | INTD 2002 | Professor Anca Matyiku

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, US
PARTICIPANTS

Students: Fatemah Alabdulrazaq

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This exhibition highlights the critical role of oysters and oyster reefs in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, while drawing attention to the harmful impacts of pollution and overconsumption. By intertwining science and history, it aims to deepen visitors' understanding of the ecological significance of oysters and the threats they face. The exhibition fosters a sense of urgency and empowerment, encouraging collective action to protect and restore these invaluable marine resources for future generations.

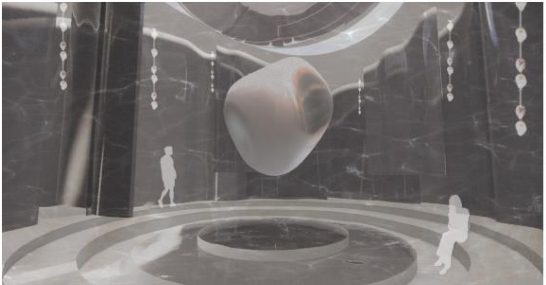
2025
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Best in School of
Architecture &
Interior Design

SAID



This rendering captures the first experience within the exhibition, highlighting the abundance of oysters that fill the environment. The design is enhanced by curtains draping around the skylights in the ceiling, creating a soft, enveloping atmosphere that complements the robust presence of the oysters.



The main immersive experience in this exhibition takes visitors through layers of curtains, symbolizing the water filtration process of oysters. As you move through each layer, light and water interact, casting reflections on the curtains that shift and change. Sitting within this dynamic environment, you are fully surrounded by the interplay of these elements, creating a meditative, sensory experience that mirrors the natural filtering process of oysters.



Section

7 Hillz Productions Foundation Scholarship Social Media Campaign by Thomas Gilmore

Alumni | Independent Works

LOCATION: Palm Beach, FL USA

PARTICIPANTS

Partners: *7 Hillz Productions
Foundation, Paradise Bank*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As a graphic designer, I have worked on a number of initiatives to help elevate people of different cultures and backgrounds—most recently completing a social media campaign for a Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) scholarship initiative for 7 Hillz Productions Foundation.



7HILLZ SEVEN HILLZ PRODUCTIONS FOUNDATION PRESENTS
**Benjamin Moses Jr.
2024 SCHOLARSHIP**

THE APPLICATION PORTAL
WILL CLOSE ON NOV 15TH

Up to three scholarships will be awarded in the following amounts:
\$5,000 | \$2,500 | \$500

Paradise Bank is sponsoring the \$2,500 scholarship.

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE EMAIL US AT
info@SevenHillzProductionsFoundation.org
www.SevenHillzProductionsFoundation.org

The Seven Hillz Productions Foundation: This 501(c)(3) organization is the non-profit arm of Seven Hillz Productions, LLC. We offer scholarships to exceptionally promising students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



**Benjamin Moses Jr.
2024 SCHOLARSHIP**

7 DAYS LEFT

6 DAYS LEFT

5 DAYS LEFT

4 DAYS LEFT

3 DAYS LEFT

2 DAYS LEFT

1 DAY LEFT

Relational Techniques in Communication Design by Justin Pokorski

Thesis | DSGN 8002 | Professor D.J. Trischler

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, USA
PARTICIPANTS
Students: Justin Pokorski

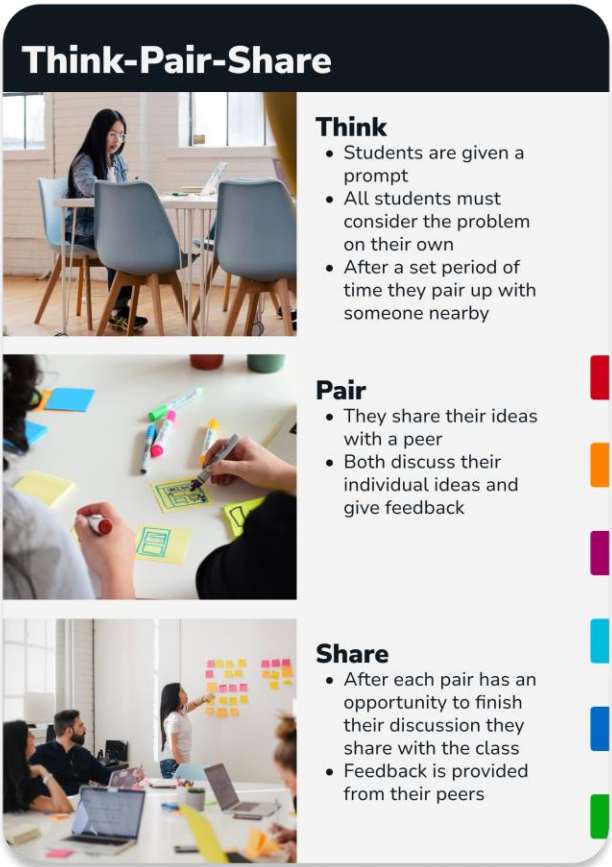


PROJECT DESCRIPTION

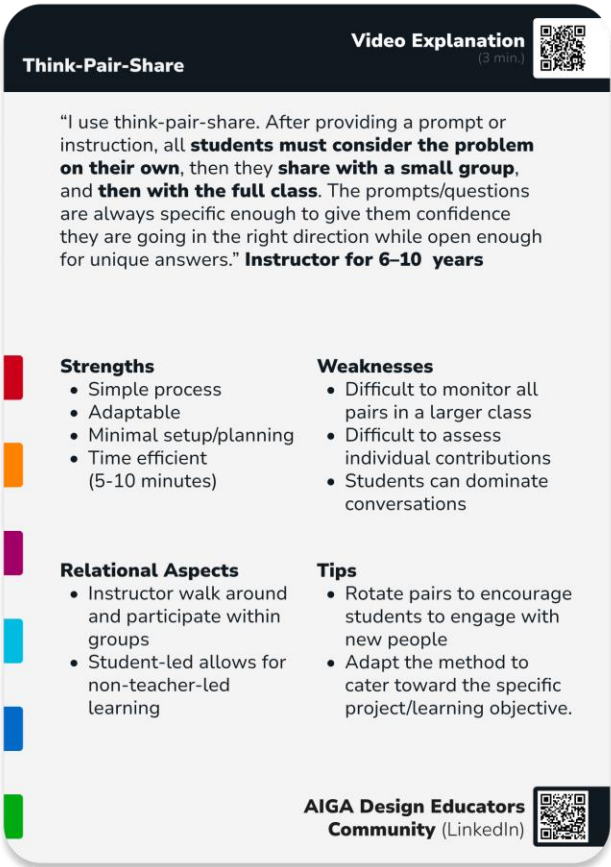
This thesis research seeks to identify how Communication Design instructors foster positive relationships in their classrooms. Investigating relational practices within the Communication Design classroom can bring unique techniques to the surface. Allowing newer instructors to adopt and adapt these techniques within their own practice. This project utilized a survey to capture techniques used by instructors and printed technique cards to share helpful tips.



Front of Card



Back of Card



Redesigning underutilized public spaces in transient, campus-adjacent neighborhoods by Andrea Maravic

Thesis | Professor Muhammad Nafisur Rahman

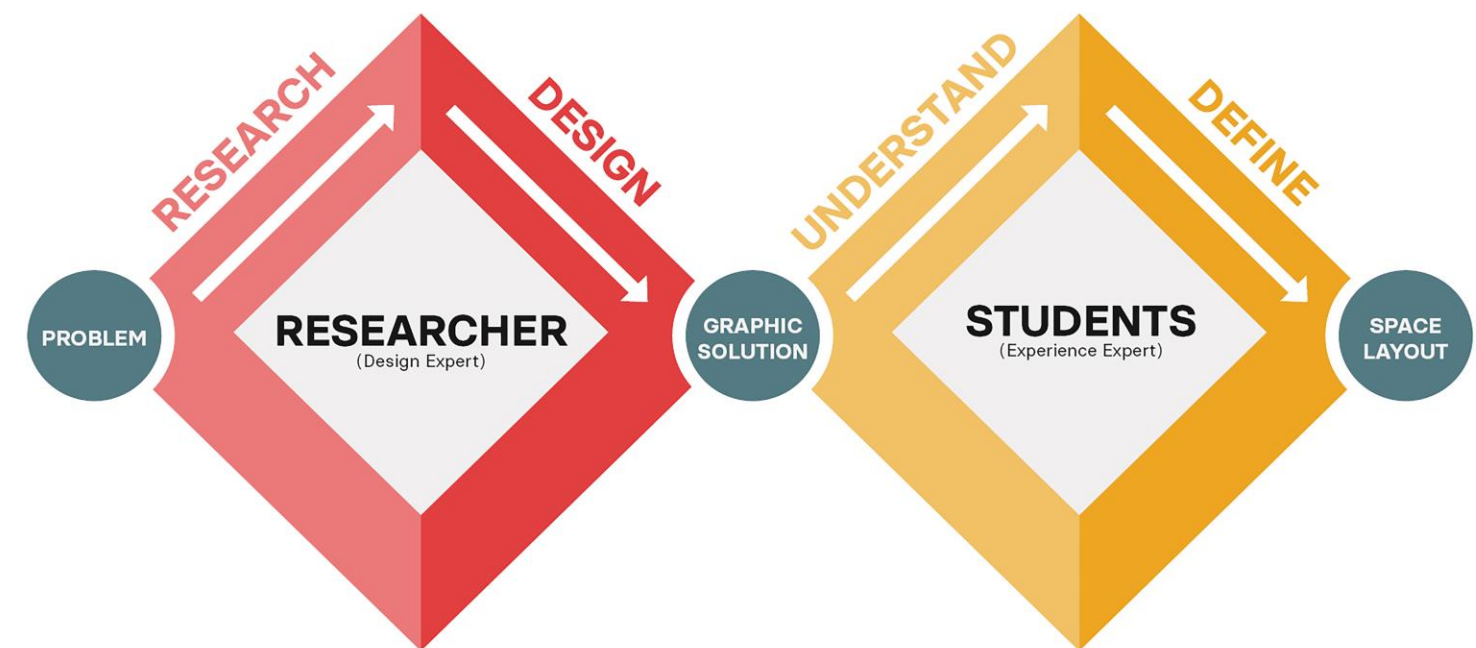
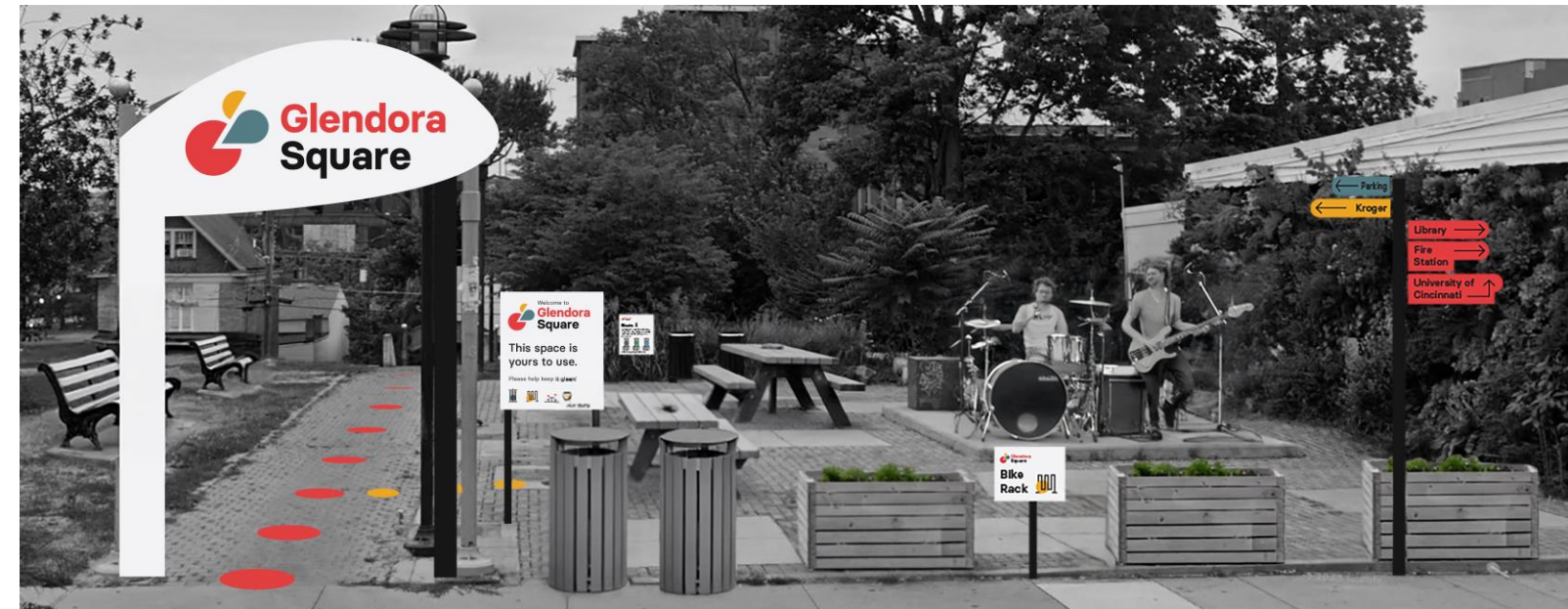
LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH

PARTICIPANTS

Students: Andrea Maravic

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Corryville has undergone significant transformation due to student migration and urban expansion, resulting in 71% of the population being students. Despite previous efforts, a small square on Short Vine Street deteriorated into an underutilized barren concrete slab with hostile marble benches, serving only as a pathway to a parking lot. The hypothesis guiding this research was that engaging the primary users, university students, in interactive redesigning activities would increase the use of the space. Five UC students participated in workshops, using graphic design solutions and a LEGO model of the square to conceptualize their ideal public space. As a result, the workshop findings guided the development of a cost-effective toolkit to revitalize off-campus open public spaces.



Informing Microplastics by LeFors & Nguyen

Design Research Methods | CODE 4021 | Professor D.J. Trischler

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, USA
PARTICIPANTS

Students: Loc Nguyen and Kiva LeFors



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Informing Microplastics is a digital questionnaire designed to engage Cincinnati residents in meaningful conversations about microplastics. While plastic pollution is widely recognized, microplastics remain a lesser-known issue, often leading to misinformation or inaction. This tool helps people assess their knowledge, learn the facts, and access local resources and next steps to make informed choices regarding their plastic usage.

SOD

Do you know where microplastics come from?

Project Definition
the city of Cincinnati needs to better understand how the public perceives microplastics in order to improve its outreach efforts.

Project Statement
a digital questionnaire that provokes what residents currently know about microplastics and provides them with actionable next steps.

Methods

Exploratory Findings

Free Association Posters
letting people tell us what it came to mind when reading the word 'microplastic', findings show that we need specific probes

Expert Interviews
discovering who our stakeholders were, where we were going to capture a project within the ever-growing idea of microplastics

Generative

Parallel Prototyping

Posters
no formal way to collect data, all caps found to be unfriendly

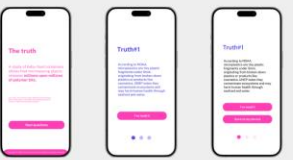
Scavenger Hunt
users wanted self discovery rather than having a facilitator

Video Game
found audio input through a screen was effective for users to be candid


Game Show
users were intimidated to walk up to table with the game show set up

Evaluative


Figma Usability Testing
figuring out how users navigated the kiosk and mobile versions.




Design Criteria




Tone
friendly, neutral, unbiased




Accessibility
multiple ways to input data



Visuals
distinct from city branding



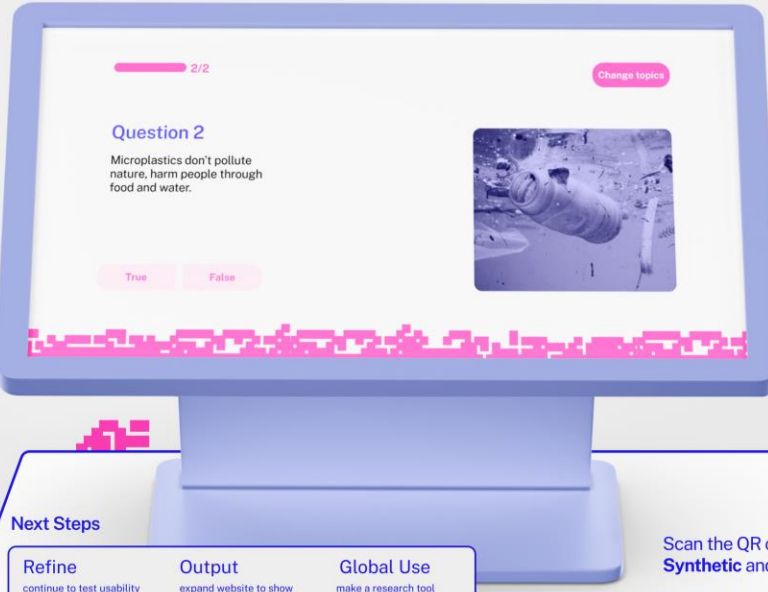
Elaborate
more than a yes or no response



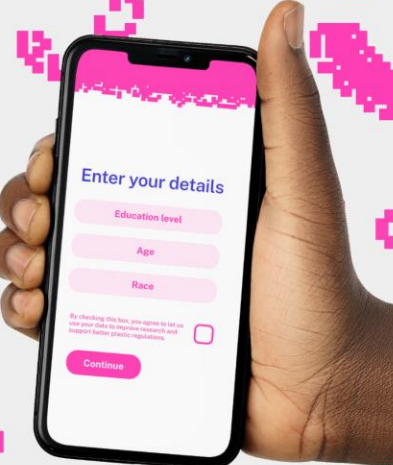
Style
minimal style, unnatural colors

Meet Synthetic,

A digital questionnaire that learns what people know about microplastics.



Question 2
Microplastics don't pollute nature, harm people through food and water.
True False



Enter your details
Education level
Age
Race
By checking this box, you agree to let us use your data to improve research and develop future plastic regulations.
Continue


Next Steps

Refine
continue to test usability and make UI/UX more accessible

Output
expand website to show results with data visualization

Global Use
make a research tool accessible across the globe

Scan the QR code to experience Synthetic and our full presentation.



Kiva LeFors & Loc Nguyen
Design Research Methods

Queering Design by Colin Putman

Capstone | INDL | Professor Braden Trauth

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, USA
PARTICIPANTS
Students: Colin Putman

2025
DAAPcares

Inclusive Excellence
Award

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Queering Design explores the intersection of neurodiversity and queerness, while providing a set of guidelines and an example product on how design professionals are able to queer design.



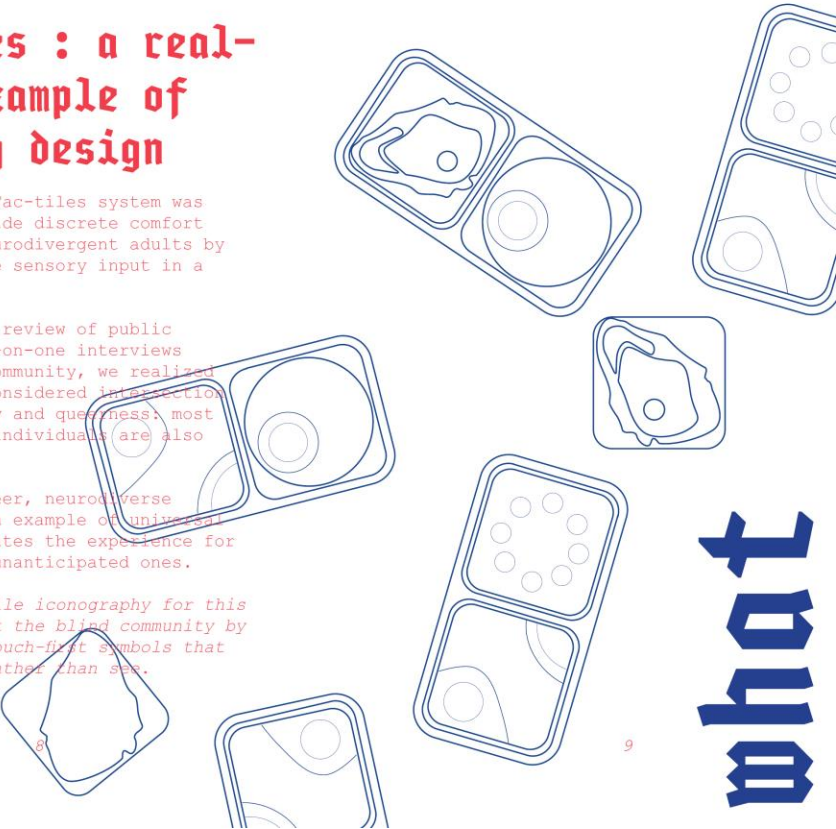
Tac-tiles : a real-world example of queering design

Originally, the Tac-tiles system was designed to provide discrete comfort and refuge to neurodivergent adults by providing tactile sensory input in a stylish way.

Through in-depth review of public research and one-on-one interviews with the queer community, we realized there was an unconsidered intersection of neurodiversity and queerness: most queer and trans individuals are also neurodivergent.

Designing for queer, neurodiverse individuals is an example of universal design- and elevates the experience for all users, even unanticipated ones.

***designing tactile iconography for this system can benefit the blind community by providing them touch-first symbols that they can feel, rather than see.*



what

Have a Good Death! By Grace Marshall

Studio | INTD 5002 | Professors Amanda Woltjer

LOCATION: Queens, New York, NY, USA

PARTICIPANTS

Students: *Grace Marshall*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

There is one thing we all have in common, we all will die. Conversations surrounding death, dying and grief have been deprioritized due to societal taboos, which ultimately harms those who are struggling with loss. My interior design project Have A Good Death!, envisions spaces of death not only for the lost but also for the living - where every emotion is given the space to be felt, honored and transformed.



Fig Alley Steps: Tasting Wonder by Rachel Carr

Edible Ornamentals | HORT 3031 / LAND 7064 | Professor Brian Grubb

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, USA

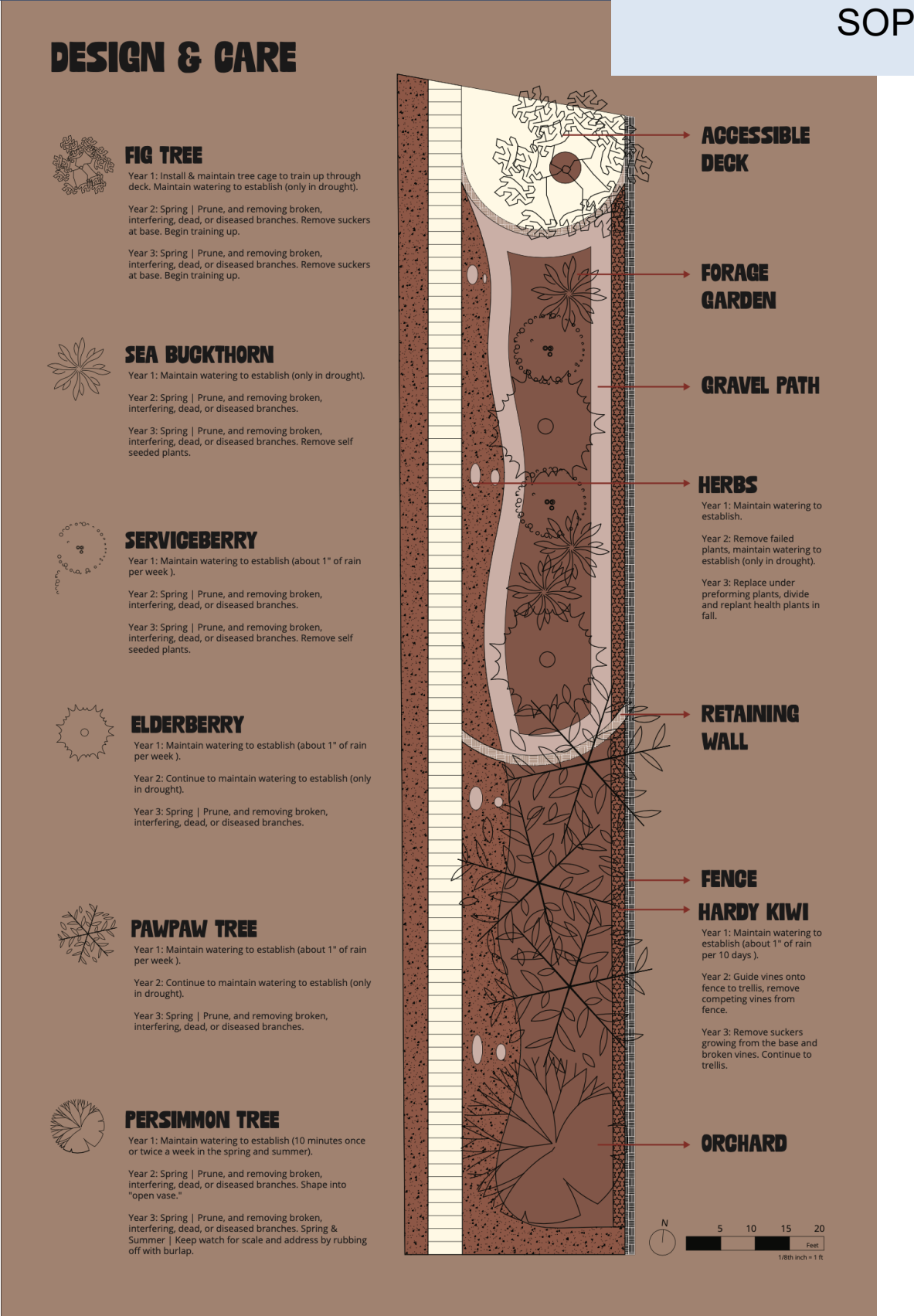
PARTICIPANTS

Students: Rachel Carr
Organizations: Spring in Our Steps
Advisor: Barry Kew



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

An edible food forest design for the Fig Alley Steps reimagines adjacent the vacant lot to be a space of wonder to encounter unusual plants on ordinary commutes. The design includes spaces to engage with the plantings through walking up the steps, lingering within the site, or using the lookout platform. The lookout platform provides both a physically accessible space for visitors to use and a historic nod to the former elevated sidewalk on the site.



Elevating UC's Historic Front by Flanagan, Koprulu, & Patino

DAAPcares | Student Organization

LOCATION: University of Cincinnati

PARTICIPANTS

Students: Claire Flanagan, Kayra Koprulu, and Mauricio Patino

Organization: University of Cincinnati Planning Student Organization/Urbanism Club

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Our goal with this project was to continue University of Cincinnati's goal of creating a comfortable and accessible environment for its students. Throughout our experience as students, we have found that the area in front of the Arts and Sciences building has paths that can be inconvenient, and the space overall could be further utilized. This project shows an example of how this space could be advanced to meet the needs of its community.



Interdisciplinary

Bearcat's Pantry by Dougherty & Weaver

Design Research Methods | CODE 4021 | Professor D.J. Trischler

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH, USA

PARTICIPANTS

Students: Cara Dougherty and Maggie Weaver



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In America, 13.5% of households struggle with food insecurity. On average, 30% of college students are food insecure—that's roughly 16,000 students at UC. They face barriers in accessing nutritious food and therefore experience negative effects on their overall well-being. UC students experiencing food insecurity who use the Bearcats Pantry (BCP) want to learn how to create nutritious meals with available ingredients, but encounter barriers due to the lack of accessible and engaging information. With design, we can help! This project utilizes printed recipe cards organized in a recipe box, containing easy-to-make recipes made from ingredients found in the pantry, paired with educational tips/facts regarding nutrition.



Your Ticket to Free Bus Rides by DAAPcares

Independent Project | DAAPcares Student Organization

LOCATION: Cincinnati, OH

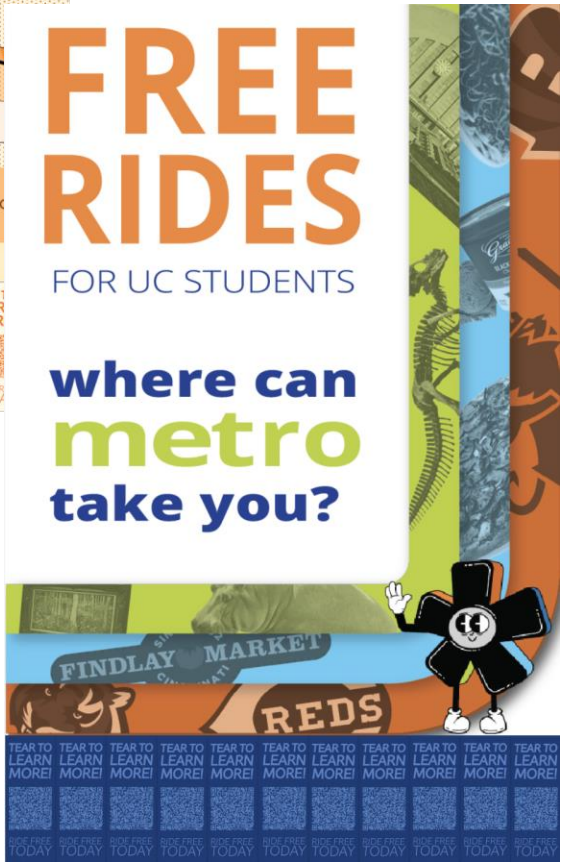
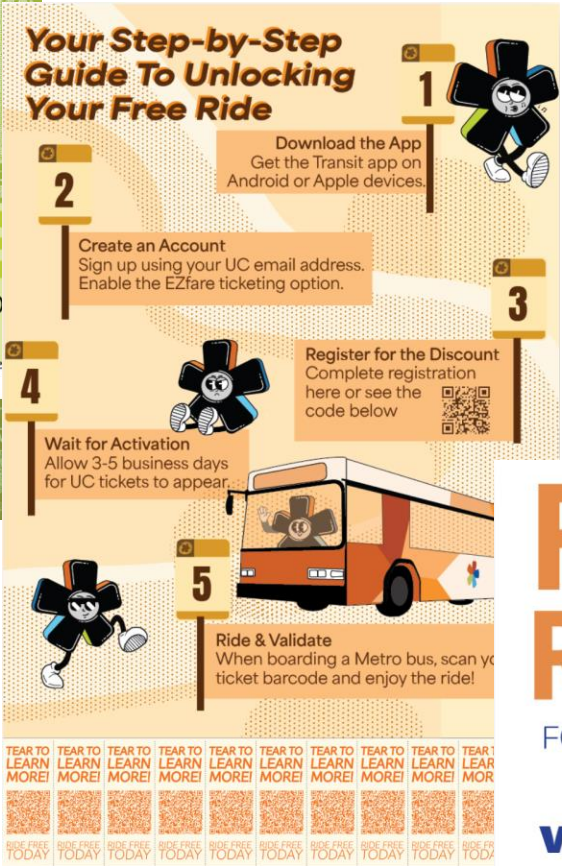
PARTICIPANTS

Students: Margaret Dull, Kayra Koprulu, Wynn timer Serra, Joe Limbach, Sophie Doenges, Evelyn Boller, Daniel Kirchhoff, Sophia Pesta, JoJo Sudler, Dehlia Ferrante, Leah Kubitz, Anna Caito

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DAAPcares is launching a vibrant and engaging flyer series to spread the word that the bus is free for UC students, faculty, and staff! Through bold visuals and catchy messaging, these flyers will highlight the convenience, savings, and ease of hopping on the bus instead of paying for Ubers or dealing with parking. Whether heading to campus, grabbing food, or exploring OTR, students can ride stress-free and keep their money in their pockets. This project aims to make public transit feel exciting, accessible, and the go-to choice for getting around as a more sustainable option.

Interdisciplinary



DAAPcares: Activities through the Year

Past events

DAAPCARES

Wednesday
15
5:30 - 7



PARKS SERVICE
VOLUNTEER DAY



Join us as for a service hour opportunity at Eden Park as we team up with Cincinnati's Parks Department for a design charrette and brainstorm session for upcoming park's projects!

IF INTERESTED, SCAN
HERE TO SIGN UP!





DAAPcares

&

Cincy Nature Center

service event

Come join us for a willow tree
woodworking session!

Beautiful scenery and minimal
hiking included!

No experience needed and
service hours provided.





Message Margaret on GroupMe
via QR code if interested or have
any questions!

Friday, February 23, 12-2pm

at Cincy Nature Center in Milford, OH

DAAR
cares