This website will connect people without homes with available rooms/housing. There are hundreds of thousands of people who evacuate their homes and are currently looking for any place to stay. Current solutions aren’t optimal. The current resources the city of LA has to offer is a spreadsheet of resources and links which is a pain to go through and generally is not ideal in emergencies. Additionally, the housing resources they do have aren’t all free and offer small discounts or full-price hotels, which is especially not ideal for people who lost everything and/or can’t afford paying hotel prices long term. I’d like to make a free website/app that can shorten the process for people in a crisis and get the help they need. The layout of this website will resemble Airbnb in the way there will be a listing for all the available homes. Families or individuals looking for a place to stay can scroll through listing and request interest through an interest form and/or an inbox for messages. This website/app will be designed as a way the local community can support one another in a time of chaos and crisis. People with homes or even local organizations and non-profits can offer any space they may have to the people who lost theirs.

I believe this is a great project to pursue, mainly because of the urgency and importance of the issue at hand. There are too many people affected by these fires to not do something about it. Too many people in my community and too many people in the LMU community are affected by it. I also have a passion for creating projects for issues I see in the world, in this case can’t unsee. This project will also push me to be a better engineer in finding innovative solutions to big problems. A better listener and collaborator since I will be working with a customer/client because this is their idea, and I must gather requirements from them as well as do consistent checkups and updates. I will also be pushed to put out a working and reliable product that can actually be used by the public. This I never actually done before and will be a vital experience for future professional work. In a way this project I’m pursuing will be my first published work if all goes well. In this project I will be utilizing many skills I learned from classes such as web development, data structures, and even topics learned in senior project specifically ones working with customers and planning work. This also won’t be an easy project given the parameters I set for myself. This will be great practice in working on a big project in a short amount of time and appropriately pacing and balancing and even cutting features from the project so I have a finished product in a timely manner.