

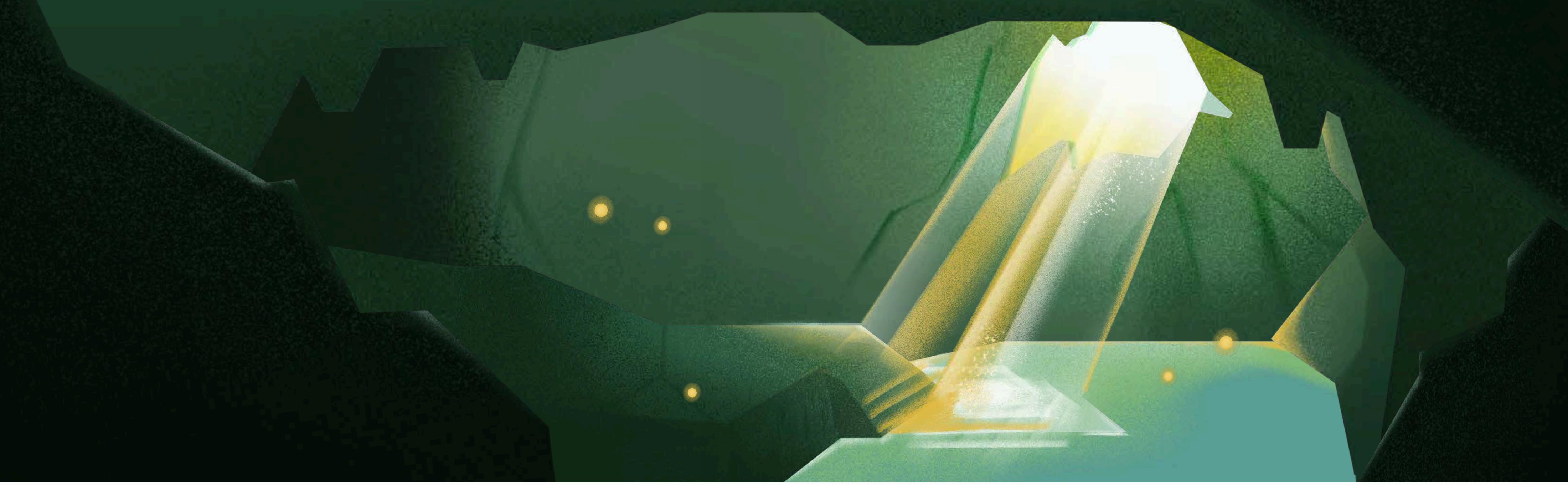


WELCOME TO

 **Hack the North**

September 12-14th, 2025

In-person event @ Waterloo, ON



Presented by:



Techyon is a nonprofit dedicated to empowering the next generation of tech leaders.

Techyon's vision is to foster an inclusive tech culture and community, with the mission to lower the barrier of entry to technology by bridging the gap between individuals and opportunities. Our goal is to have year-round representation of every specialization within technology. Whether your interests lie in hardware, software, design, product management, or data science, we want you to think of Techyon first. Feel free to reach out to hello@techyon.org to learn more!

WATERLOO | ENGINEERING

Our partner of over 10 years, Waterloo Engineering continues to support Hack the North to build a creative, diverse, and unique experience for hackers. The University of Waterloo is home to Canada's largest engineering school — a pipeline for engineering talent for the world's leading companies. Ranked among the top 50 engineering schools in the world, the school's reputation for excellence is built on the foundation of co-op education and a bold history of innovation.

Table of Contents

Welcome to Hack the North 2025!	1
Gold Sponsors	2
Important Information	6
Goose Games System	10
Project Judging	11
Hardware	12
Mentorship	13
Core Schedule	14
Panels	20
General Workshops	21
Sponsor API Workshops & Events	23
E5/E7 Building Maps	27
Outdoor Maps	32

Welcome to Hack the North 2025!



Gear up for a weekend of building, learning, and late-night breakthroughs because Hack the North is officially here! Whether you've just stepped off a plane or strolled over from your dorm, we're so excited you're part of it.

This booklet is your **go-to guide** for all things Hack the North! Here, you'll find details on where to grab delicious food and refreshments, a comprehensive list of workshops and fun activities, and key contact information.

This year's lineup is packed with excitement, from an egg drop challenge to bouncy castles and to the Federato hot sauce showdown, there's something for everyone. Feeling hungry? Head over to the RBC Oasis Tent for some crowd-favourite treats, like walking tacos and Beavertails—a Canadian classic!

If you're still looking for teammates, we encourage you to attend the MLH Speed Friending Activity on Friday from 10:30 PM to 11:30 PM in the Ambient Lounge on the 1st floor!

Whether you're deep in code or jumping between events, we can't wait to see what you create. If you ever need a hand, our team, wearing white t-shirts, is always around to support you. Let's make this weekend one to remember. ❤️

Don't forget to stay up to date this weekend through these channels:

 hackthenorth.slack.com

 my.hackthenorth.com

 hackthenorth.com

@hackthenorth

Gold Sponsors



Y Combinator is where big ideas meet rocket fuel. We've backed over 5,000 startups like Airbnb, Stripe, and Coinbase that started small and went on to change the world. Four times a year, we invest in brilliant founders from all over, giving them funding, mentorship, and a powerful community to help turn wild ideas into reality. Whether you're coding all night, hacking together prototypes, or dreaming up the next billion-user product, we're here to cheer you on. Hack boldly, build fearlessly, and who knows—your project this weekend could be the next YC company we're bragging about in a few years!

Federato

Federato is on a mission to defend the right to efficient, equitable insurance for all. We enable insurers to provide affordable coverage to people and organizations facing the issues of today - the climate crisis, cyber-attacks, social inflation, etc.

Federato's AI/ML-driven platform leverages deep reinforcement learning to help insurance companies optimize the portfolio of risks they insure, allowing them to continue to provide fair and equitable pricing in difficult-to-price areas. Our category-defining 'RiskOps' solution drives better underwriting decisions by operationalizing underutilized data investments and surfacing real-time risk and portfolio insights.



What does it take to be one of Canada's largest banks and support 17 million clients globally?

Reimagined financial services and a future-focused team. That's why RBC is one of Canada's largest tech employers, with over 10,000 technologists who are fueling new ideas and driving massive transformations.

With job opportunities ranging from cyber security to AI and Machine Learning, digital app development and more, we apply imagination, insight, and cutting-edge technology to help our clients thrive and communities prosper.

If you're interested in exploring how you can engage in tangible projects with meaningful impact, visit us this weekend! Our team is happy to connect you to opportunities to learn, grow and work with purpose.

See you there!



Not everyone can do this

Shopify is a company of world-class crafters. We reject the status quo. We experiment, observe, and iterate — at high speeds with high rates of improvement — to make entrepreneurship a glorious thing.

Moving fast to Get Shit Done requires resilience to uncertainty. Growth isn't just an opportunity here, it's an expectation. If you prefer a prescriptive corporate structure and an in-person office environment, Shopify isn't for you. If you're an independent thinker with a hunger for challenge and craft mastery, welcome to the endless pursuit of what's ahead. Let's go.

Make commerce better for everyone.

Important Information

Emergency contacts

University of Waterloo Police: 519-888-4911 Ext. 22222

Hack the North: hello@hackthenorth.com

Good2Talk (Mental Health

Helpline): 866-925-5454

Campus Response Team: 226-339-0462

Internet connection

Network name: Hack the North

Password: HTN2025!

Slack and Communication

Stay Connected All Weekend!

Join the Hack the North Slack to connect with fellow hackers, organizers, and sponsors. Slack is our main communication hub for important announcements, contests, and challenges.

Slack: hackthenorth.slack.com

An invite to Hack the North's event Slack was sent to your email before the event. If you have issues accessing our event Slack, please come to the Help Desk!

Attendee Dashboard: my.hackthenorth.com

Explore our [Attendee Dashboard](https://my.hackthenorth.com) at my.hackthenorth.com for the full schedule, hardware and mentorship tools, and networking features. Set up your profile to meet other attendees and sponsors and make lasting connections!

QR codes and Security

- Your badge and bracelet must be worn at all times throughout the weekend for security purposes.
- Do not lose your badge. If something goes wrong or you misplace it, please visit the Help Desk for assistance. Your bracelet is your backup for entry in case you lose your badge.
- If you lose your bracelet, you will not be allowed into the event.
- You must have the QR code on your badge scanned to redeem food and attend activities and workshops.

Help and Resources

Help Desk

Located by the E7 entrance, our Help Desk will be staffed all weekend with organizers ready to assist with any questions or concerns.

Hack the North Organizers

Look for team members wearing Hack the North-themed black Eddie Bauer jackets or white t-shirts! Whether you need schedule details, directions, or just support, our Hack the North organizers want you to have an amazing experience :)



Volunteers



Volunteers will also be present throughout the event to give directions, serve food, run activity check-ins, and more! If you have any questions or just want to chat, find them wearing a light blue Hack the North shirt.

Additional Help

For quick help or extra info, visit my.hackthenorth.com! You will find all the resources you need for this year's event.

Need real-time assistance? Message our chatbot in the #questions channel or DM it directly for instant support. We're here to help! 😊

Accessibility

At Hack the North, we prioritize accessibility and accommodations. For more details on our policies and how we can support you, visit our Accommodations Policy [here](#).

Meals and Refreshments

This year, we have an exciting lineup of menu items that we can't wait for you to try! From a Build-Your-Own Pancake Bar to Smoothie Bowls to Walking Tacos, we hope you find our meals nutritious and delicious.

We encourage you to bring a refillable water bottle and take advantage of the water fountains conveniently located by the elevators on each floor. Feel free to use the flask that you'll find in your swag bag! **Bottled water will not be available for hackers this year.**

Service times for meals and served snacks are listed in the event schedule. All food will be served in the RBC Oasis Tent.

Snacks and refreshments will also be available at the following locations:

- The Outdoor Workspace beside the RBC Oasis Tent
- Distributed by volunteers with wagons on each floor throughout the event

Detailed Information about Meals and Refreshments can be found [here](#).

Sleep

All sleeping spaces will have blankets, pillows, and air mattresses except for the sleeping bag room located on the 1st floor.

E6: Open from Sat. 12 a.m. - Sun. 1 p.m.

- Floor 1: Men-only
- Floor 2: Gender Neutral
- Floor 3: Gender Neutral, accessible from E7 via bridge!
- Floor 4: Women-only
- Floor 5: Women-only

Lights in E6 will not turn off. If you need them, sleeping masks will be available at the Help Desk in E7.

E5: Open from Sat. 12 a.m. - Sun. 1 p.m.

- Floor 6 - Rooms 6008, 6006, 6004, 6003, area behind the main stairwell: Gender Neutral

E7: Open from Sat. 12 a.m. - Sun. 8 a.m.

- Room 1302: Sleeping bag room. This will be a quiet, carpeted area for hackers who brought their sleeping bag

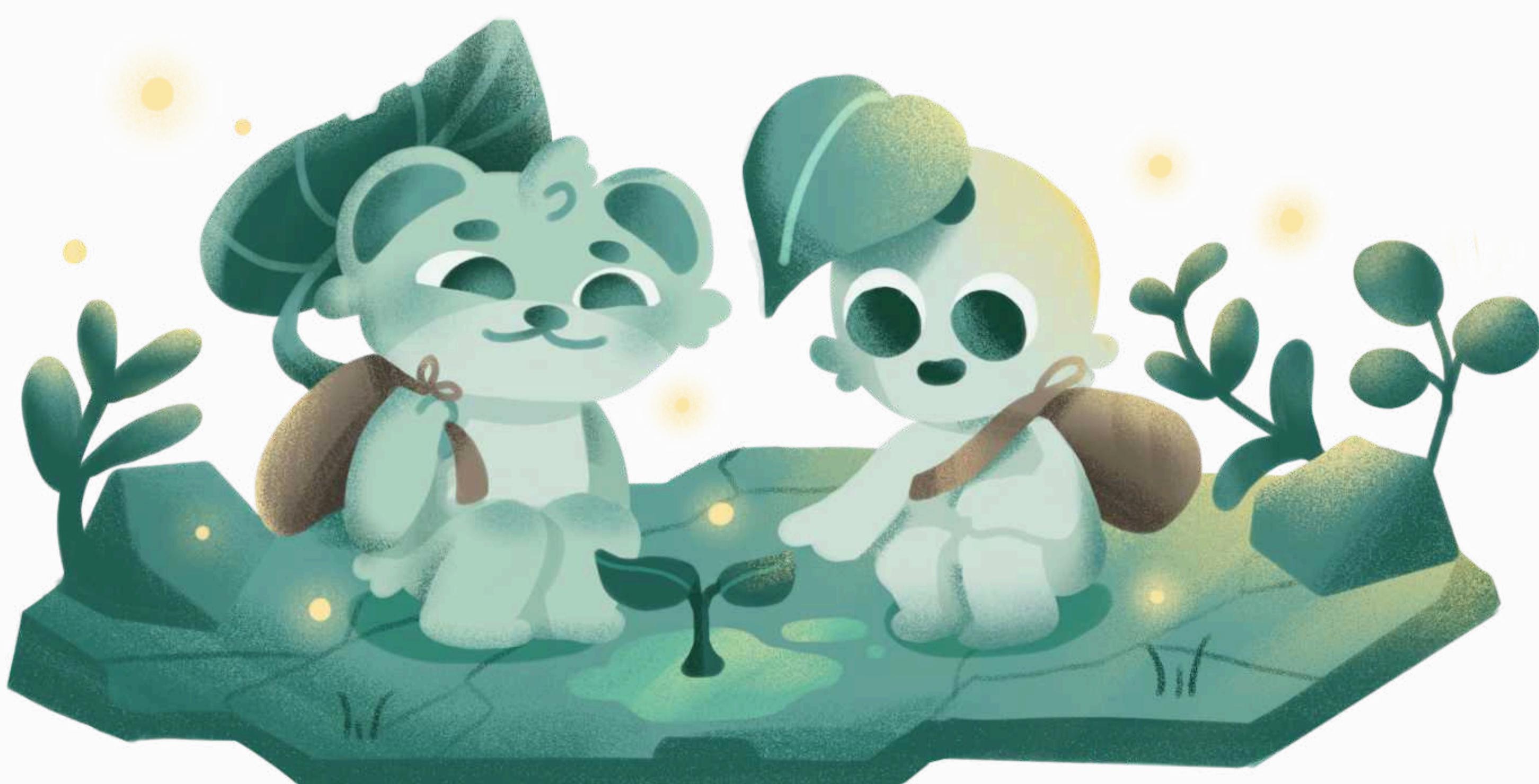
Hacker Luggage Storage

If you are a hacker, you are expected to keep your luggage with you throughout the duration of the event. Please make sure to keep all your valuables near you at all times and ensure that nothing is left behind at Hack the North.

For Closing Ceremonies on Sunday, hackers will be able to store their luggage in the 1st floor Activities Room before the event. This area will be locked and supervised by organizers throughout the duration of the closing ceremonies. After the event, hackers can retrieve their luggage and get ready to depart from Hack the North.

Mappedin Map

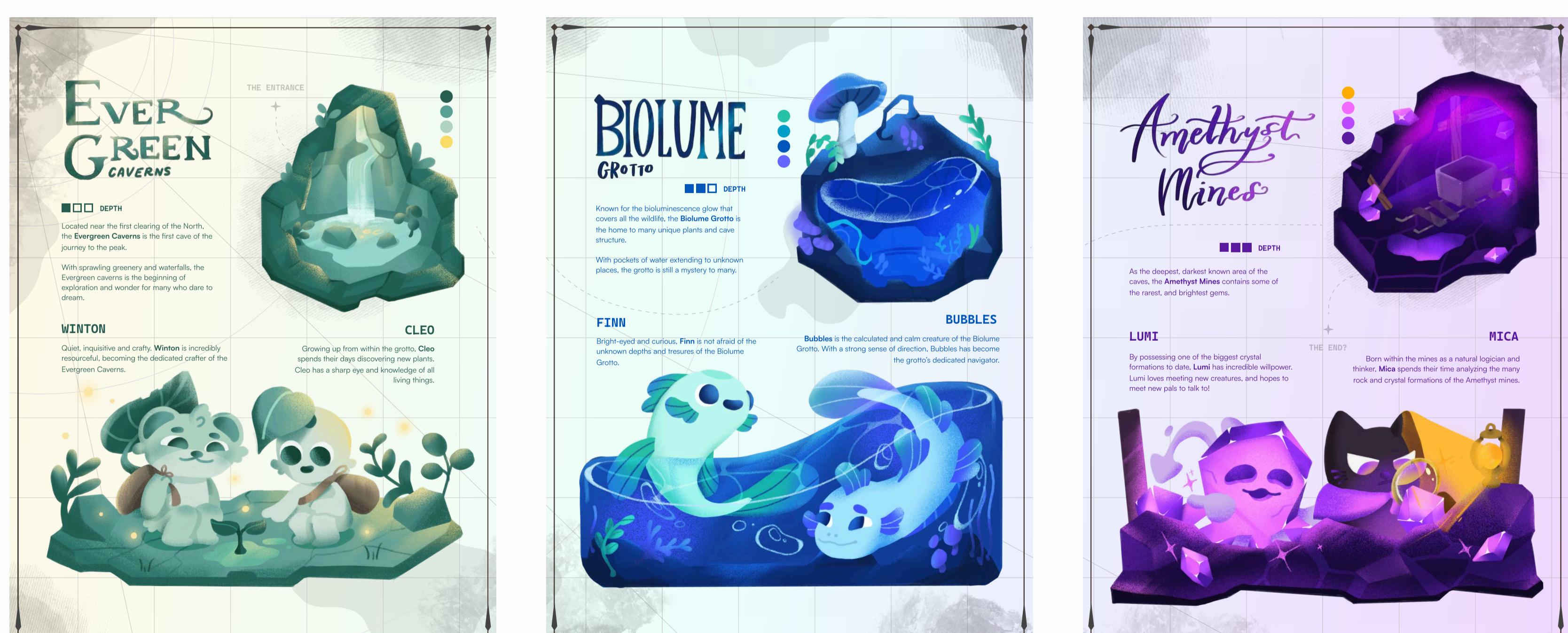
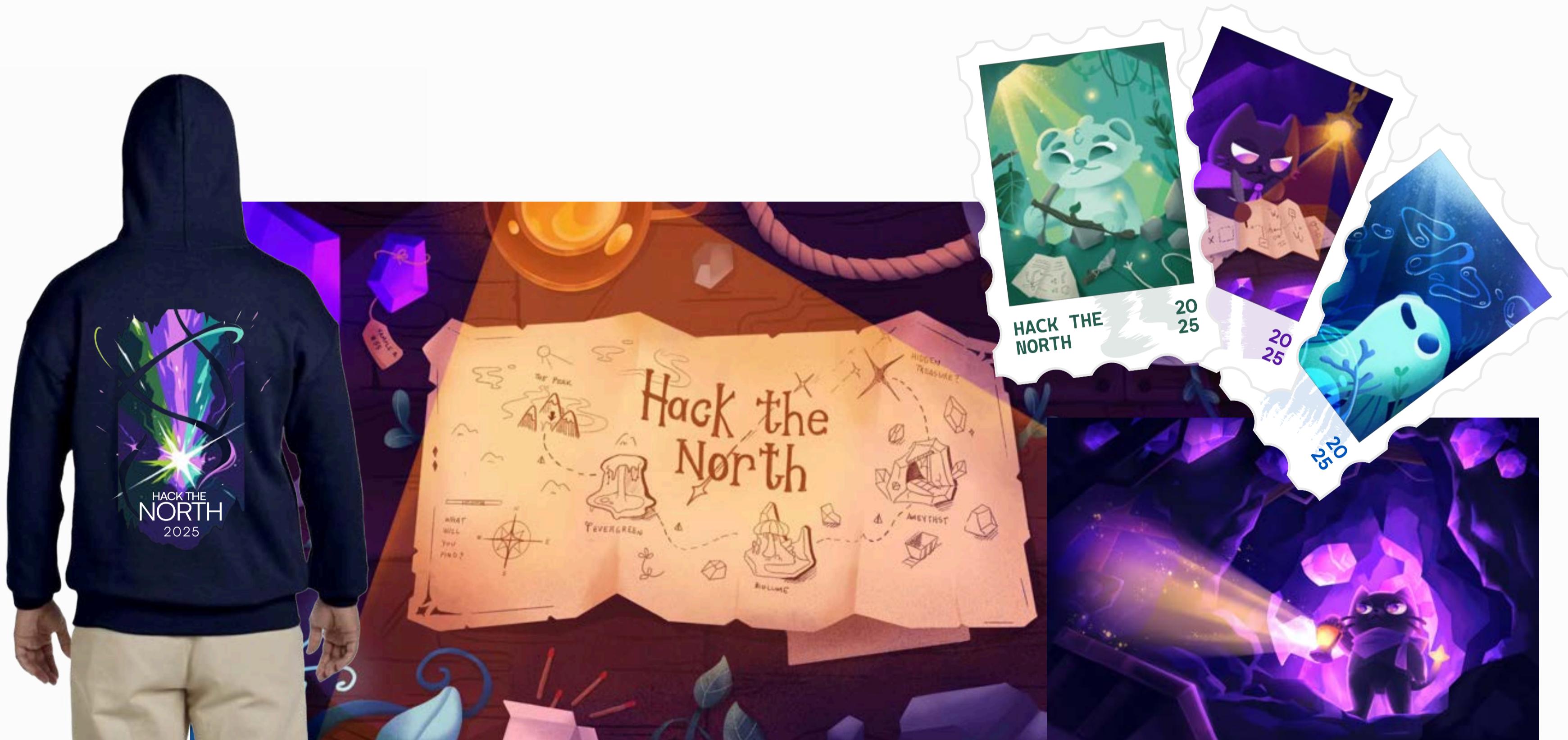
Want a 3D version of our map? Check it out [here!](#)



Goose Games System

This year, we're launching **GOOSE GAMES!** A brand-new layer of missions, challenges, and unexpected surprises is woven throughout the weekend. Earn points, complete side quests, and uncover the unexpected.

Head to the “Goose Games” tab on your hacker dashboard to start completing quests by attending workshops, building projects, and tracking down hidden clues around the venue to earn Gems. Redeem your Gems at the Help Desk on the 1st Floor for **exclusive merch** like hoodies, desk mats, and Crocs Jibbitz!



Project Judging

Please refer to the [Project Submission Rules](#) and the [Hack the North 2025 Devpost page](#) for submission rules and instructions. You must submit your project to Devpost by 8:00 AM on Sunday! No work is allowed after this deadline.

Judging happens in two rounds. In Round 1, you will demo your project to a panel of judges. If you are selected for Round 2, you will present multiple times in a science-fair-style expo where judges and hackers can walk around, see projects, and vote for their favourites for the People's Choice Award!

You can also apply for sponsor API prizes! Many of our sponsors have provided special challenges with their own requirements. You may submit your project to as many prizes as you'd like!

👉 Check out all the sponsor prizes on our Devpost:
[hackthenorth2025.devpost.com](#)

Hardware

This year, we're making hardware more accessible than ever! Whether you're prototyping a robot, crafting a wearable, or just playing with LEGOs, you'll find everything you need in the Shopify Maker Space on the 1st floor of E7, our dedicated space for hands-on building.

We've stocked kits for RC cars, robotic arms, wearables, and, of course, LEGO projects. You'll also have access to:

- Spacious work tables with charging stations (and room for snacks!)
- Soldering irons, glue guns, scissors, and other essential crafting tools
- A hardware checkout packed with sensors, components, and cool tech
- A junkyard filled with LEGO, cardboard, popsicle sticks, and more to fuel your creativity

Need hardware? Submit your request anytime at <https://my.hackthenorth.com/hardware/home>. Once your order is packed, you'll get an email when it's ready for pickup.

Note: For hacker safety, using machine tools and soldering is permitted only in the Shopify Maker Space.

Hardware Checkout Hours

Open throughout the weekend, with brief closures:

- Saturday: Closed from 2:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday: Closed from 2:00 a.m. — 7:00 a.m.

If a piece of hardware isn't working, simply bring it back to the checkout desk and we'll do our best to replace it

And one last thing... rumour has it a mischievous minecart goose has escaped into E7. If you see it wandering, you just might uncover a hidden treasure.

Mentorship

Mentors at Hack the North



Mentors are here to help you dream big! They can help you with ideation, pitching, or technical questions. Find our mentors in our **#mentor-lounge** channel on Slack, use our mentorship tool on your attendee dashboard with the help of this [guide](#), or come in-person to our mentor bay on the **1st floor across from registration**.

You might also see our mentors walking around — they'll be wearing green shirts and will have a mentor badge! Our mentors combine industry experience with a passion for giving back — they've worked at companies like Databricks, Google, Amazon, and Cisco.

Our event isn't possible without our mentors — they help our hackers execute on ideas, allowing them to truly dream big. This year, we want to hear about your favourite mentors — hackers will receive a Google Form where they can nominate the mentors that helped guide them.

Hackathon Hosts at Hack the North

Hackathon hosts are dedicated to nurturing our hackers, guiding you through your projects from start to finish. Working hands-on with the same team throughout the weekend, they offer consistent support and insights to ensure you feel guided and supported during your first hackathon.

They'll answer your questions, provide mentorship, and inspire creativity to make sure you stay on track and feel confident with your project and your pitch to the judges. If you'd like to be paired with a hackathon host and did not indicate so on your RSVP, please join us at MLH Team Formation or message @Emma Xing (Hack the North) on Slack for more details!

Core Schedule

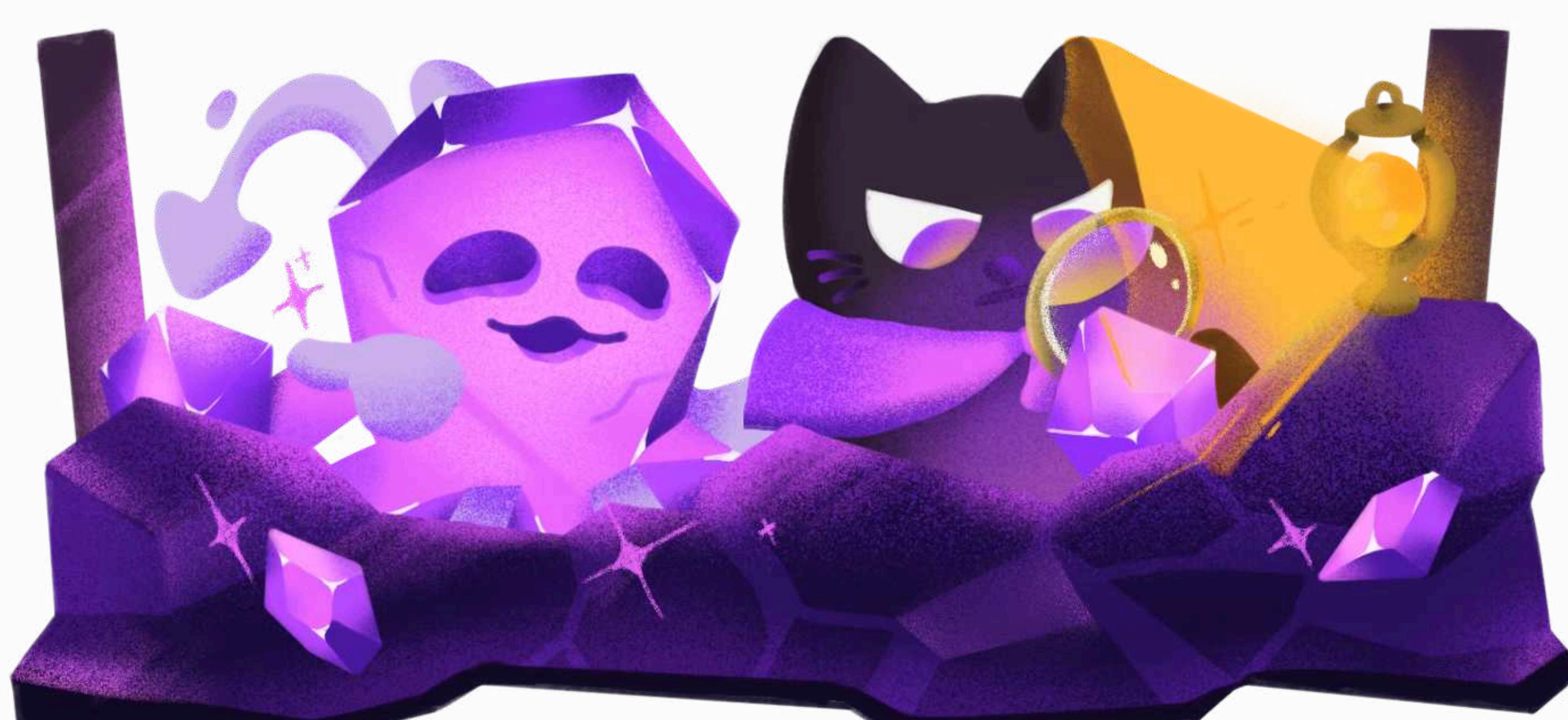
Friday, September 12

5:30 PM - 11:00 PM <i>RBC Oasis Tent</i>	Registration
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM E7 1st Floor	Balloon Animals
6:00 PM - 12:00 AM RBC Oasis Tent	Dinner: Beef & Veggie Burgers
8:00 PM - 10:15 PM <i>Lazaridis Hall</i>	Opening Ceremonies
10:00 PM E7 1st Floor	Ambient Lounge Opens
10:00 PM <i>Shopify Maker Space</i>	Hardware Checkout Opens Reserve your hardware in advance on my.hackthenorth.com!
10:30 PM - 11:30 PM Ambient Lounge	MLH Speed Friending
10:45 PM - 11:30 PM <i>Activities Room</i>	Jane Street Estimathon™
10:00 PM - 12:30 AM <i>RBC Oasis Tent</i>	Snacks: Beavertails & Fantuan Sponsored Bubble Tea
11:30 PM - 3:00 AM Rooms 3A-5B	Sponsor API Workshops See pages 23-26 for more details!

Saturday, September 13

12:00 AM	Hacking starts! See page 11 for project submission rules
12:00 AM - 3:30 AM <i>Rooms 4A-4C</i>	Hacker Workshops See pages 21-22 for more details!
1:00 AM - 2:00 AM RBC Oasis Tent	Karaoke
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM RBC Oasis Tent	Breakfast: Smoothie Bowls
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM <i>Rooms 4C-5B</i>	Lightning Challenges and Tech Talks See pages 24-26 for more details!
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Coffee Chat Rooms A-C	Sponsor Coffee Chats + Meetups
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM <i>Rooms 3A-4B</i>	Hacker Workshops See pages 21-22 for more details!
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM E5 2nd Floor West Exit	Egg Drop Challenge
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM <i>Activities Room</i>	Therapy Dogs
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM RBC Oasis Tent	Lunch: Pasta
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM <i>Parking Lot Beside RBC Oasis Tent</i>	Bouncy Castles & Friendship Bracelets
2:00 PM - 11:00 PM <i>Ambient Lounge</i>	Meetups See page 18 for more details!

2:00 PM - 9:00 PM <i>Rooms 4A - 4C</i>	Panels See pages 20 for more details!
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM <i>Activities Room</i>	Fedarato Hot Sauce Challenge
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM <i>RBC Oasis Tent</i>	Snacks: Cookie Dough
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM <i>E7 1st Floor</i>	Photo Booth
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM <i>Activities Room</i>	Trivia
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM <i>RBC Oasis Tent</i>	Dinner: Fantuan Sponsored Bento Boxes
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM <i>Activities Room</i>	Poker Tournament
8:30 PM - 9:00 PM <i>Activities Room</i>	Capture the Flag Meetup
9:30 PM - 11:30 PM <i>RBC Oasis Tent</i>	Snack: Soup



Sunday, September 14

12:00 AM - 1:00 AM

Activities Room

Lettuce Eating Competition

12:00 AM - 2:00 AM

RBC Oasis Tent

Snack: Walking Tacos

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

RBC Oasis Tent

Breakfast: Pancake Bar

8:00 AM

Shopify Maker Space

Hardware Checkout Closes

8:00 AM

Hacking ends!

Submissions are due on Devpost.

9:30 AM - 11:45 PM

Judging Rooms A-P

First Round Judging Block

Judging rooms will be assigned to each group via Slack and Attendee Dashboard.

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

E7 2nd Floor Events Space

Project Expo: Final Judging Round

See top teams showcasing their projects in front of judges and hackers like a science fair, and vote for the People's Choice Award!

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Shopify Maker Space

Hardware Return

Please return all hardware that you borrowed throughout the duration of the event!

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

RBC Oasis Tent

Lunch: Asian Lo Mein Noodles

12:00 PM

Ambient Lounge Closed

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

The Federato AI Design Bay

Hacky Hour

Get the opportunity to grab a snack, meet hackers, and learn more about each other's projects! See page XX for more details!

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Lazaridis Hall

Closing Ceremonies

Wrap up the weekend and check out live demos of our finalists' amazing projects!

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Shopify Maker Space

Finalist Hardware Return

If you were a finalist, please return all hardware that you borrowed throughout the duration of the event!

Opening & Closing Ceremonies

Ceremonies are the place to be to kick off and wrap up your Hack The North journey! 🎉

At **Opening Ceremonies**, you'll get to hear from our highly anticipated keynote speaker, learn essential information about the event and get the chance to participate in our first-ever **GUINNESS WORLD RECORD™ breaking attempt** 🔒💥

 When: Friday, 8:00 PM - 10:15 PM

 Where: Lazaridis Hall, 64 University Ave W,
Waterloo, ON N2L 3C7

At **Closing Ceremonies**, you'll get to cap off your Hack The North 2025 journey with a bang! 🎉 Expect inspiring finalist demos (which could be you 👀), exciting sponsor prizes and swag giveaways—all in one unforgettable finale!

 When: Sunday, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

 Where: Lazaridis Hall, 64 University Ave W,
Waterloo, ON N2L 3C7

Ambient Cafe and DEI Meetups

The Ambient Lounge will be running this year by the CnD Cafe behind the staircase on the main floor of E7. This is where matcha will be served, as well as where most meetups on Saturday will occur - check out the full list below! Drop by any time for a cozy, safe space for all attendees—have conversations with other hackers, join in on activities, and remember that YOU belong in tech!

September 13th @

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

10:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Meetup

Beginners in Tech

High Schoolers in Tech

Black in Tech

LGBTQIA+ in Tech

Arabs in Tech

Activities

We're excited to bring hackers a ton of exciting activities to allow them to connect with each other and take a break from their projects! Some of these activities include...

● **Egg Drop Challenge:** Hackers, it's time to show off those engineering skills! You'll get a box of scrap hardware and cardboard, and your job will be to protect your egg while dropping it off E7's seventh floor!

● **Lettuce Eating Competition:** Do you think you have what it takes to be Hack the North's lettuce-eating champion? Contestants will get to prove their speed-eating skills by getting through heads of lettuce!

● **Bouncy Castles:** We're bringing you a giant obstacle course and monster slide! Come see our bouncy castles right behind our food tent and live out your summer fun fair dreams.

More activities, including therapy dogs, a poker tournament, a hot sauce challenge, and more, will be announced soon — stay tuned!

Hacky Hour

Let's wrap up HTN with a celebration of the journey, not just the destination (or the prizes). Join us for Hacky Hour at the Federato AI Design Bay, happening Sunday from 12—2 PM right after Round 1 of judging. It's the perfect chance to connect with fellow hackers, share your projects, and swap stories in a relaxed, stress-free setting.

Panels

Saturday, September 13

From Resume to Role: A Recruiter's POV

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM | Workshop Room 3B (E7 3353)

Ever wonder what recruiters actually look for in a candidate? In this panel, recruiters share insider tips on resumes, interviews, and how to stand out in a competitive hiring market.

No Resume is Safe

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Workshop Room 4B (E7 4053)

In this lighthearted, supportive session, panelists will give live feedback on real resumes—gently roasting while offering practical tips. It's a safe space to learn what works, what doesn't, and how to make your application shine.

Startup Hustle or Big Tech Muscle?

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Workshop Room 4A (E7 4043)

Startups move fast and give you a front-row seat to building something from the ground up, while big tech offers scale, resources, and stability. In this panel, hear from engineers who've done both as they share the tradeoffs, surprises, and lessons from navigating these two worlds.

From Idea to Impact: Behind the PM Curtain

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM | Workshop Room 4B (E7 4053)

Product managers aren't just task-keepers. They connect vision, design, and engineering to bring products to life. In this panel, PMs share what their role really looks like, how they partner with engineers, and what hackers can learn to collaborate better, ship faster, and turn great ideas into real-world impact!

General Workshops

Workshops are your chance to learn something new, level up your skills, or get inspired to build. Whether it's a crash course in a new framework, a deep dive into design, or a wild hardware demo, you'll find it here. Check the schedule for what's happening and head to the gold mine-themed workshop rooms on the third floor or the crystal cave-themed workshop rooms on the fourth and fifth floors. Don't miss your chance to learn from some seriously awesome folks!

Friday, September 12

Garbage In = Garbage Out

11:30 PM - 12:30 AM (Sat) | Workshop Room 4A (E7 4043)

Every product, pitch, and decision lives or dies by the trust people have in your numbers. Yet raw data is messy by default, full of gaps, duplicates, and inconsistencies that can quietly sabotage even the best ideas. This session will challenge you to rethink how you handle data from the ground up, showing how software systems from schemas to pipelines determine not just how data is processed, but how it is understood. You will explore why structure matters as much as speed, uncover the hidden traps that turn insights into noise, and see how small shifts in design can completely change the story your data tells. By the end, you will walk away with sharper instincts for spotting broken data and building systems that make your results worth trusting.

Build Your Own Programming Language in Python

11:30 PM - 12:30 AM (Sat) | Workshop Room 4B (E7 4053)

Ever wondered how programming languages actually work under the hood? In this hands-on workshop, you'll demystify interpreters by writing your very own language in Python. Step by step, we'll build up from tokens to parsing to evaluation; no magic, just code. By the end, you'll have a working interpreter that can crunch numbers, run functions, and maybe even surprise you with how little code it takes! Whether you're new to compilers or just curious to learn more, you'll walk away with practical skills, a cool project you can show off, and a whole new appreciation for how languages tick. Come ready to type, experiment, and maybe even invent your own language features along the way.

Pixel with Purpose: A Design Crash Course for Hackers

11:30 PM - 12:30 AM (Sat) | Workshop Room 4C (E7 4417)

Ever wonder what designers actually do besides making things look pretty? In this workshop, you'll dive into the craft of human-centered design through the lens of a hackathon: learning how to design for people, not just pushing pixels. Along the way, you'll get hands-on with Figma to build interactive prototypes from wireframes and components, practice making thoughtful UX and visual decisions, and pick up practical tactics you can use right away to level up your project - whether it's your first hackathon or your tenth.

Saturday, September 13

Ship It With React & Next.js

1:00 AM - 2:00 AM | Workshop Room 4A (E7 4043)

Looking for a way to quickly build a demo for your hackathon project or take it to the next level? In this workshop, you'll dive into the world of full-stack development and learn to create dynamic, high-performance web applications using React and Next.js. You'll leave with hands-on experience building a full-stack app from scratch, plus the skills and confidence to spin up and deploy your own projects in record time.

Plug into Websockets with Socket.IO

1:00 AM - 2:00 AM | Workshop Room 4B (E7 4053)

Want to learn about the tech behind your favourite chatbots and games like Roblox? In this workshop, we'll go over the fundamentals of Websockets on the server and the client, build a real Websocket application with Socket.IO, and talk about how to deploy these in the real world!

From Figma to Function: The New Era of Design Engineering

1:00 AM - 2:00 AM | Workshop Room 4C (E7 4417)

Discover the emerging synergy between design and development with a practical crash course in Figma and AI-assisted coding! So you can design, implement, and iterate faster.

The Bug Hunter's Playbook: A Beginner's Guide

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Workshop Room 3A (E7 3343)

Ready to dive into the world of ethical hacking? We'll jump into the hacker's methodology, guiding you through the complete lifecycle of a bug hunt—from initial reconnaissance and vulnerability discovery to crafting a real-world exploit. You'll learn how the pros find bugs in major companies and get paid for them. This session is designed for the curious and the aspiring, regardless of your background. Leave with a practical methodology and the confidence to find your first bounty.

LeetCode Lessons From 8 Years of Grinding

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Workshop Room 3B (E7 3353)

All the lessons I learned the hard way from grinding LeetCode since 2018. We'll be going over language choice, how often to grind, the best methodology for practicing, which problems to do, how much it takes to be ready for interviews, and even do a few problems live!

Ctrl + Alt + Win!

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Workshop Room 4B (E7 4053)

We all want the same thing: to win. How can you pitch your project in a way that creates an impact, and leaves them wanting more? We'll talk about what to do every step of the way to set yourself up for success. Whether you're a first time hacker or a seasoned professional, we'll cover it all. Do you have what it takes to win?

Sponsor API Workshops

Looking for tools to take your project to the next level? Sponsor API Workshops are here to help you get started fast. Hosted on the first night of the hackathon, these sessions will walk you through how to use sponsor APIs, SDKs, and platforms. To qualify for their awesome prizes, perks, and free credits, **attendance is required!** Don't miss out - check the schedule at my.hackthenorth.com to get ready to build with the best!

Additional Sponsored Events

YC's Fireside Chat

Saturday, September 13, 12:30 PM - 1:15 PM

Room 7A (E7 7303/7363)

 YC is coming to Hack the North! Join us for an inspiring fireside chat with Andrew Miklas, Partner at YC, who will be speaking with YC Waterloo Alumni Michael Chiang from Ollama and Kevin Bai from Slash, along with Max Brodeur Urbas from Gumloop. Come ready to ask questions, gain insights, and hear about how to really make something people want.

Meetups

Pitch Yourself — In Act with Intact

Saturday, September 13, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Sponsor Event Rooms A & B (E7 2324/2328)

Lights, camera, action! Step into the spotlight and get ready to launch your career at our dynamic speed networking event. This is your chance to shine and connect with our recruiters and Tech+Lab team members. Share your experience, showcase your skills and tell us what makes you stand out as a candidate. Join us for an action-packed session, where putting your best foot forward could be the first step toward shaping the future of an industry.

Engineering the Future: On Our Way with Uber

Saturday, September 13, 1:30 PM - 2:30 AM

Sponsor Event Room C (E7 2317)

Curious about what it's like to build at Uber? Hear real stories from senior engineers and former interns through quick lightning talks and an open Q&A. We're On Our Way to the future — and you could be part of it.

Intuit Women in Tech Meetup

Saturday, September 13, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sponsor Event Rooms A & B (E7 2324/2328)

Intuit is cultivating a company culture based on diversity, equity, and inclusion and empowering Women in Tech is one of our biggest focuses. We are actively working to increase the representation and advancement of women in technology through various initiatives. These include the Tech Women @ Intuit (TWI) program, which focuses on attracting, retaining, and advancing women technologists, and partnerships with organizations like Canada Learning Code. We can't wait to be facilitating a bigger conversation about Women in Tech at Hack the North 2025!

Lightning Challenges

HRT Algo Arena

Saturday, September 13, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Workshop Room 5B (E7 5353)

Join HRT (Hudson River Trading) for an exciting lightning challenge where you'll build and deploy trading bots in a simulated market environment. Compete against other hackers in real-time as you navigate volatile markets!

Each round presents a different stock with unique price behavior. Your bot receives a stream of prices and must decide how to position itself to maximize profit. No trading experience required! We provide starter code and the challenge is designed to be accessible to all skill levels. Whether you're interested in quantitative finance, algorithmic decision-making, or just want to test your coding skills under pressure, this challenge offers a unique opportunity to experience what it's like to build trading systems at one of the world's leading quantitative trading firms.

Ramp CTF Lightning Round

Saturday, September 13, 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

Workshop Room 5A (E7 5343)

Ramp's Capture the Flag tournament is back. Solve puzzles to rack up the points—top performers take home exclusive prizes! You can participate throughout Hack the North, but participating during the lightning challenge will earn you a generous boost in points. See htn.ramp.com for details.

Warp Typing Titans: Hackathon Hustle

Saturday, September 13, 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Workshop Room 5B (E7 5353)

The ultimate showdown of typing talent! In this electrifying competition, participants will face off in a battle of speed, accuracy, and agility. Watch as the brightest coders from around the world put their fingers to the test, racing against the clock to craft code at lightning speeds.

Mock the Market: Trading with DRW

Saturday, September 13, 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Workshop Room 5A (E7 5343)

Test your skills in DRW's Mock Trading Challenge. Place orders, and compete with your peers on a simulated exchange. No trading experience needed — just bring a laptop or tablet and see if you can climb the leaderboard.

Tech Talks

Amazon DynamoDB, Latency, and the Speed of Light

Saturday, September 13, 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Workshop Room 4C (E7 4417)

To overcome the performance and scale limitations of relational databases, AWS built Amazon DynamoDB to deliver predictable single-digit millisecond responses at any scale for the most demanding applications on the planet. It is now used by over one million AWS customers, and powers hundreds of applications that exceed half a million requests per second. In this session, learn about how DynamoDB is architected, why the speed of light is a limiting factor and what we're doing about it.

Cohere - Accuracy Gains Without Training Your Own Model: Parallel Reasoning for LLM Apps

Saturday, September 13, 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Workshop Room 4C (E7 4417)

Recent research shows that we can teach large language models to think before responding, to give better, more accurate responses. Despite this improvement in step changes, these models still have flaws and aren't always perfect, especially in more niche use cases. This workshop will show how you can push performance even further without having to perform task-specific model finetuning, by simply scaling the number of attempts the model has at the task.

You'll learn about:

- What is "test-time compute"?
- Different ways of scaling test-time compute
- Verifiers, and how to implement them for your use case
- The tradeoffs of higher accuracy (and how to tune them to your resource constraints)

We provide a starter notebook for a basic toy problem and a more practical but more complex real-world use case.

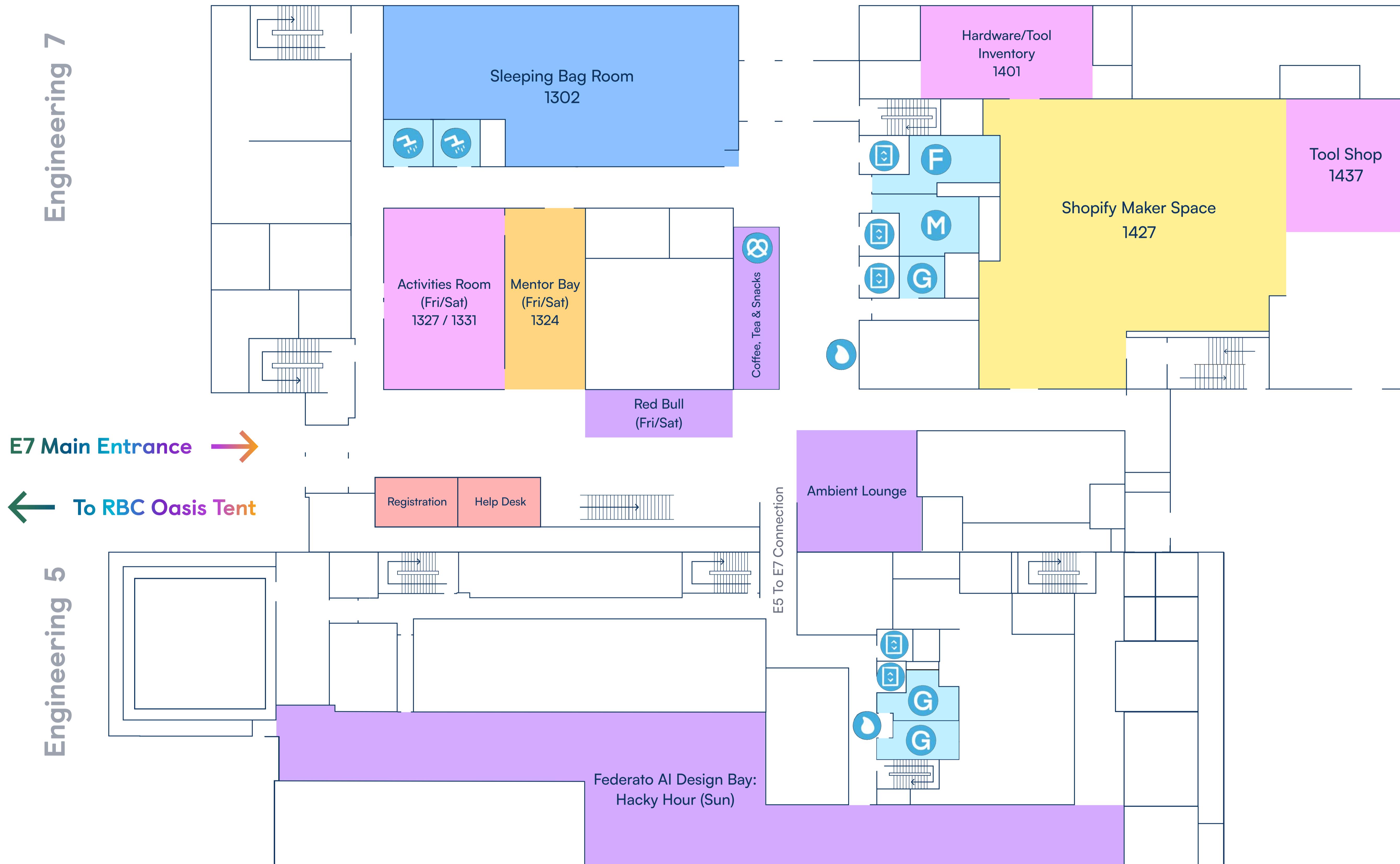
Bloomberg - Graph-Powered AI: Semantic Web, GNNs, and GraphRAG

Saturday, September 13, 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Workshop Room 4C (E7 4417)

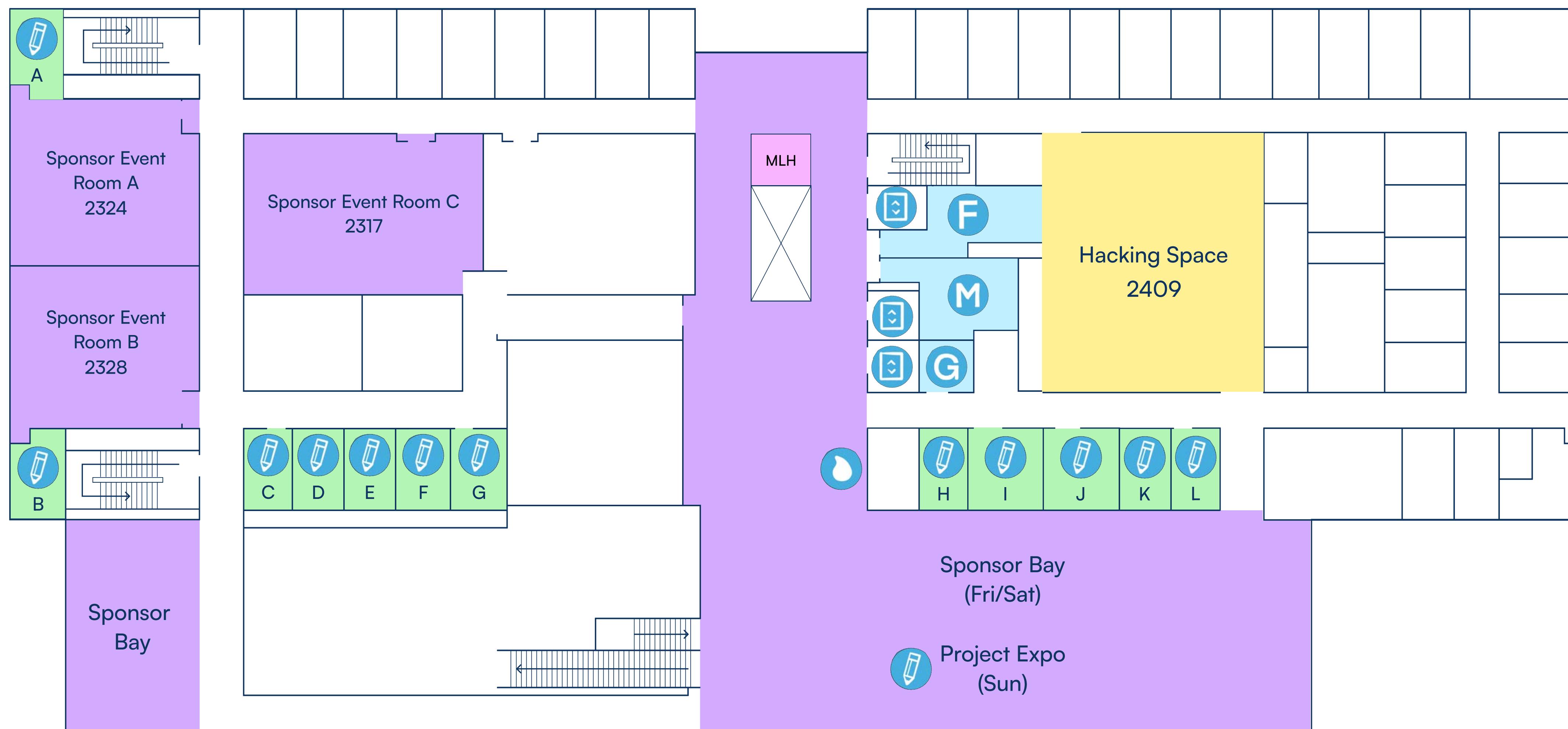
Graph analytics and AI are powerful tools for uncovering insights in software systems, but getting started can be challenging without access to meaningful data. In this workshop, we'll introduce core concepts from the semantic web and demonstrate how to query publicly available graph data from Wikipedia. We'll begin with basic graph exploration and analysis, then transition to advanced machine learning techniques — including Graph Neural Networks and GraphRAG — to reveal hidden relationships and make graph data usable by large language models (LLMs). This is a hands-on session: bring your laptop and follow along with an interactive Jupyter notebook. Whether you're new to graph analytics or ready to experiment with graph-powered machine learning, we hope this tasting menu inspires you to manipulate graph data in your next hackathon project.



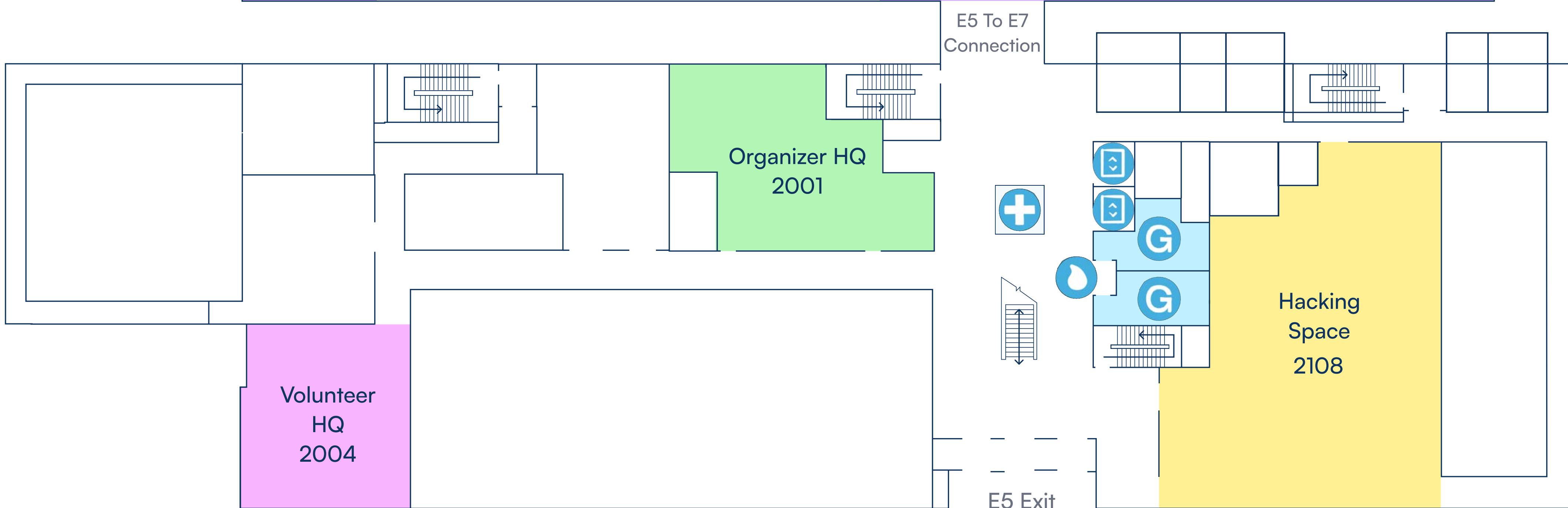


E5 + E7 Floor 1

Engineering 7



Engineering 5



Elevator



Female Washroom



Male Washroom



Water Bottle Filling Station



Gender Neutral Washroom



Judging Room

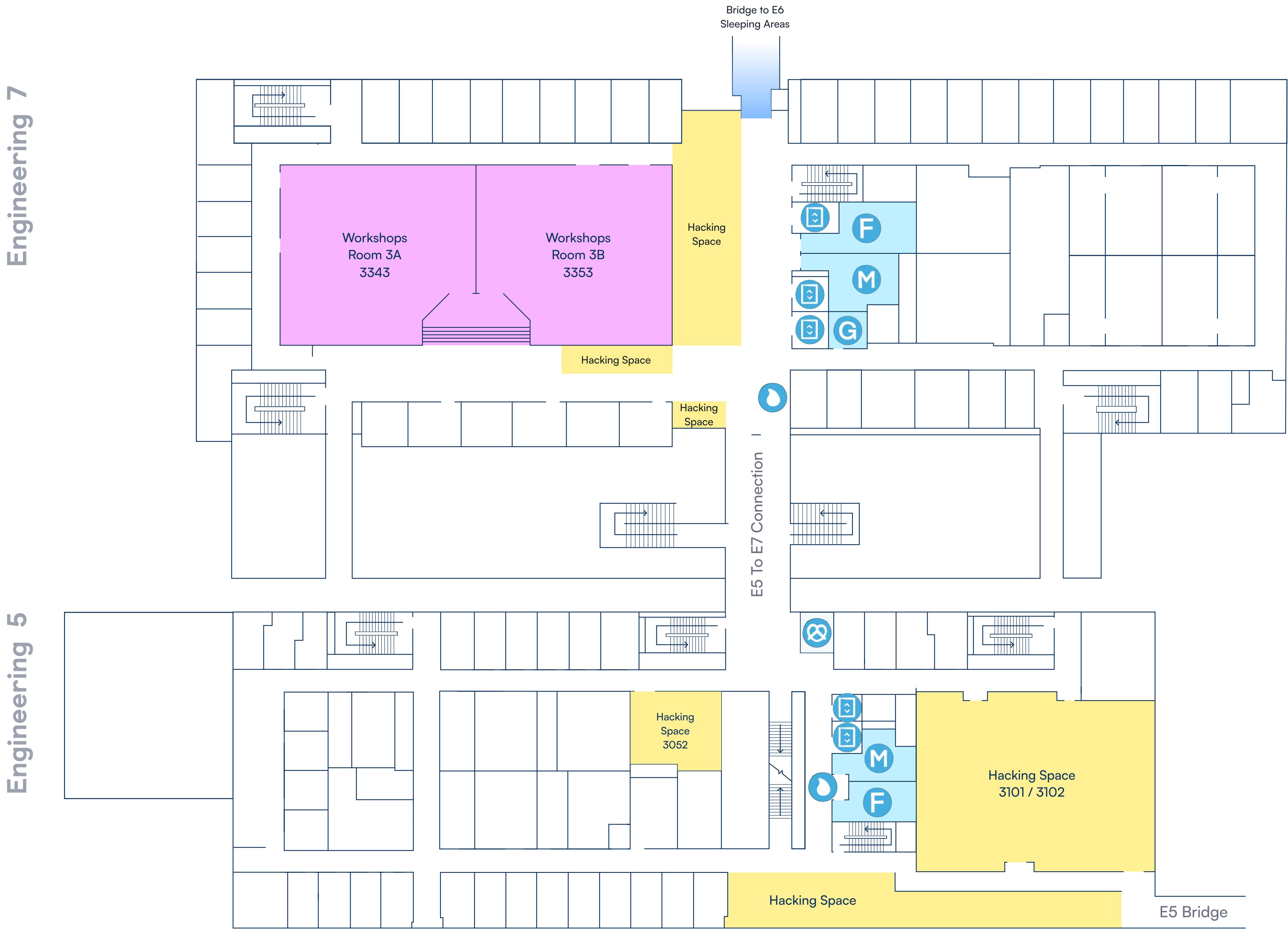


Snack Table



CRT Table

E5 + E7 Floor 2



Elevator

F
Female Washroom

M
Male Washroom

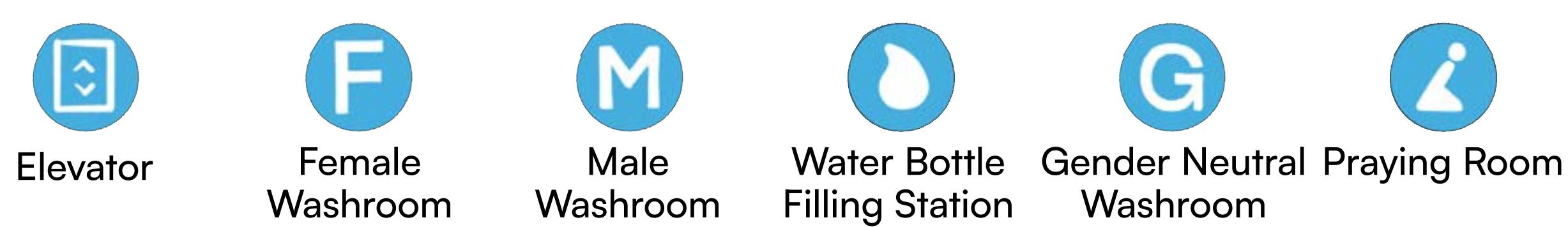
Water Bottle Filling Station

G
Gender Neutral Washroom

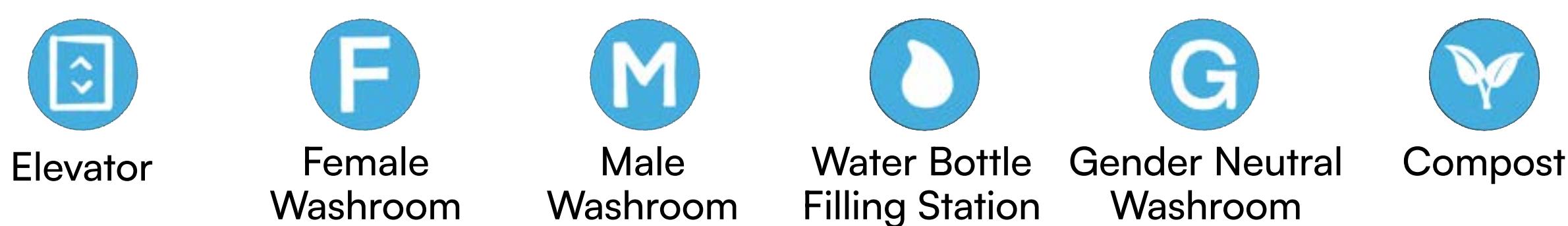
Judging Room

Snack Table

E5 + E7 Floor 3



E5 + E7 Floor 4
The YCombinatorium

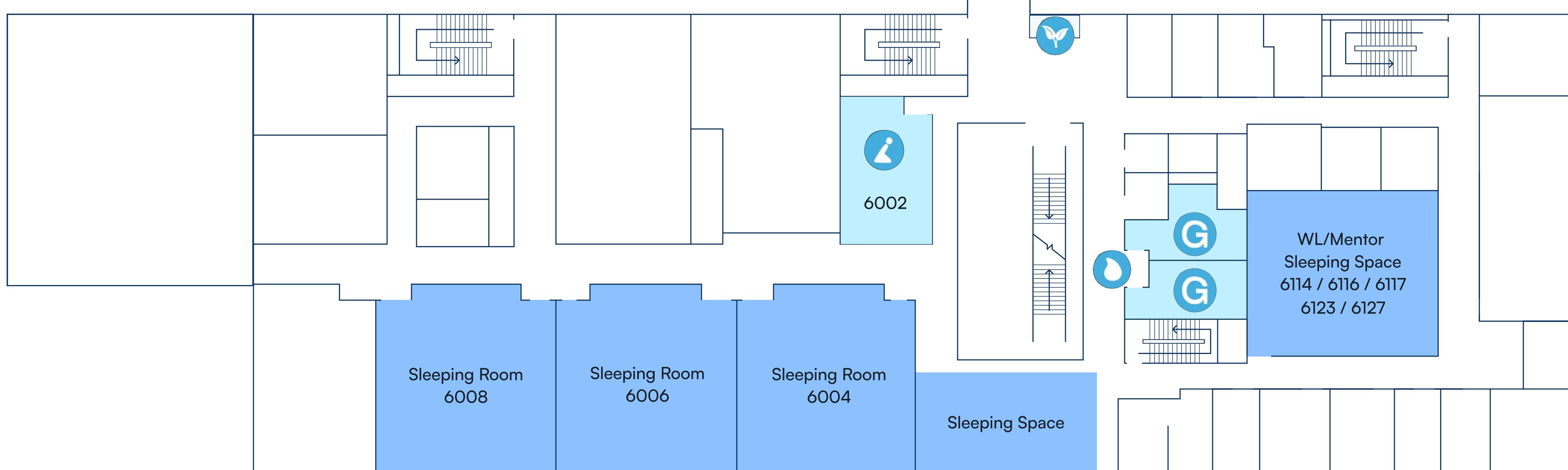


E5 + E7 Floor 5

Engineering 7



Engineering 5



Elevator



Female Washroom



Male Washroom



Water Bottle Filling Station



Gender Neutral Washroom



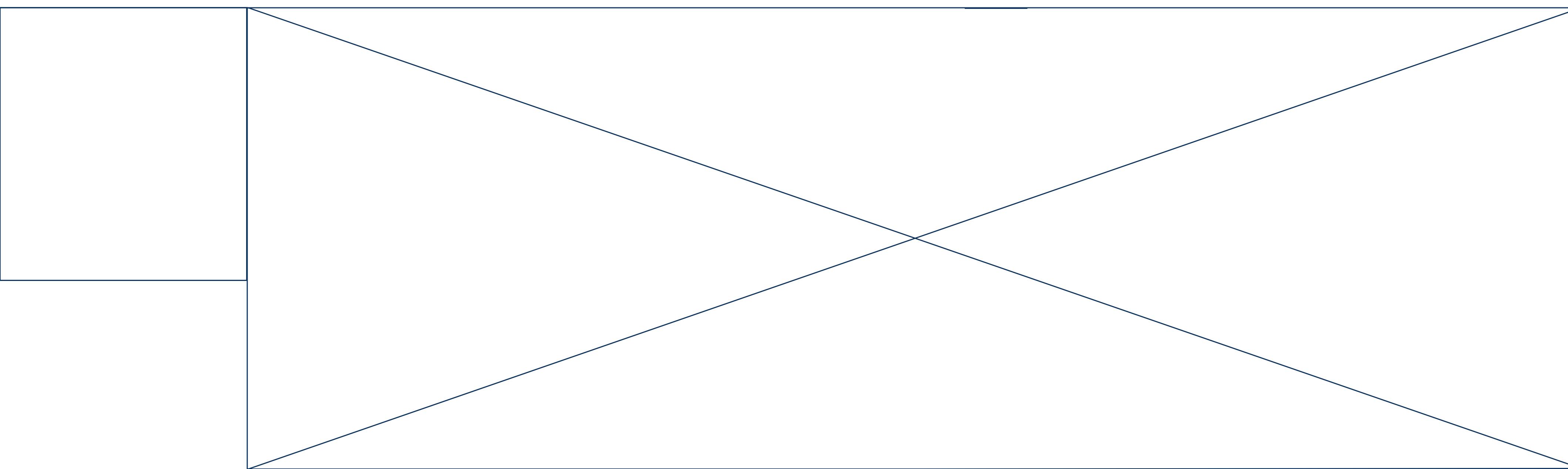
Compost



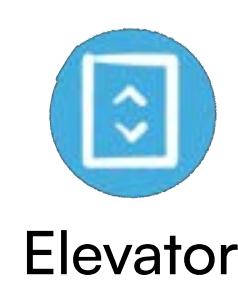
Multi Faith

E5 + E7 Floor 6

Engineering 5



Engineering 7



Elevator



Female Washroom



Male Washroom

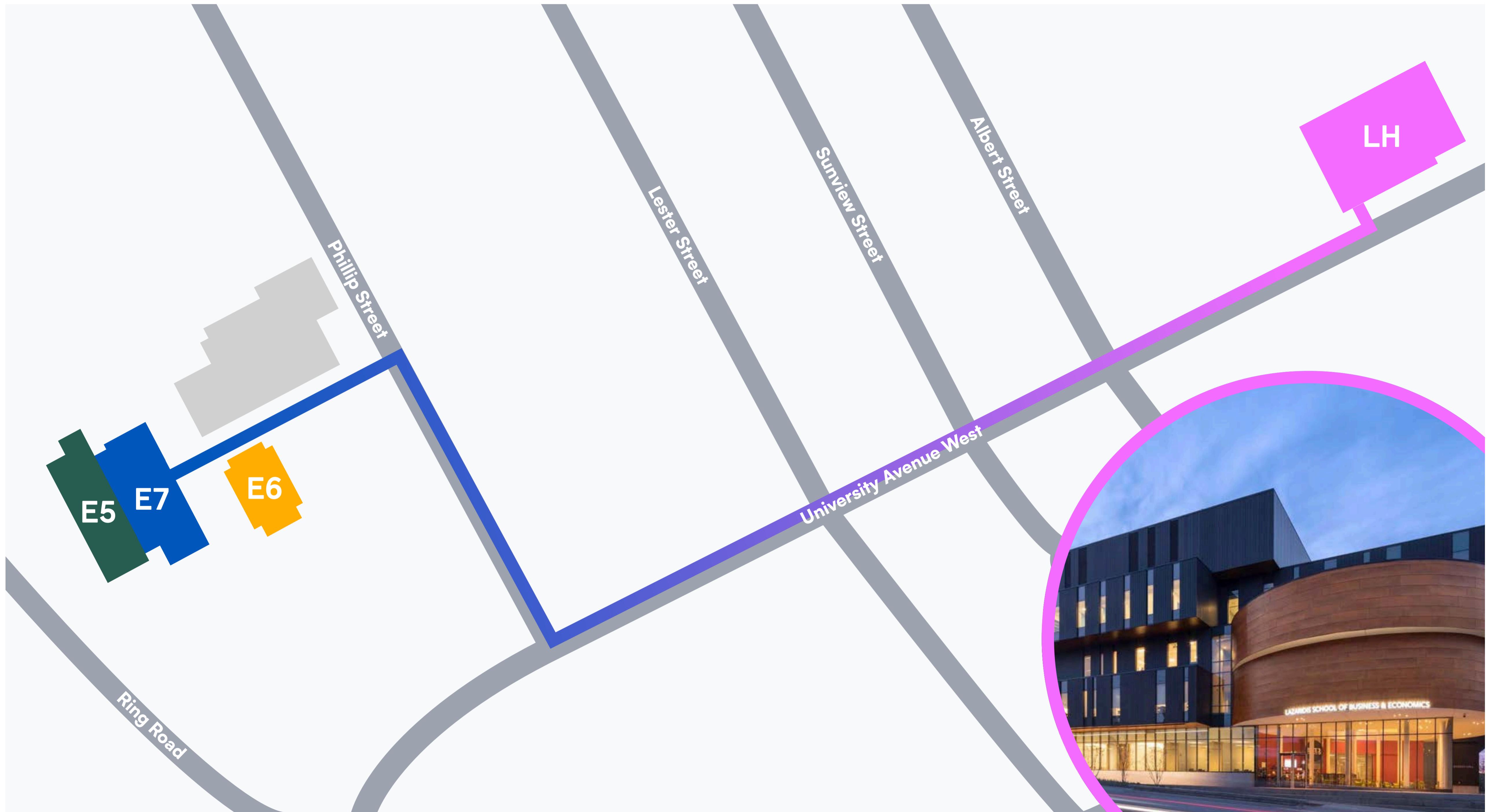


Water Bottle Filling Station

E7 Floor 7

Route

E7 to Opening and Closing Ceremonies



E5 Engineering 5

E7 Engineering 7

E6 Engineering 6

LH Lazaridis Hall

Route to Ceremonies