

Kazanis

A DESIGN PORTFOLIO



I'm drew Kazanis,

a server and a builder by nature;
a wildland firefighter, photographer,
a designer and I try to be a good friend.

Out of high school, I spent my summers, over 400 days, fighting wildfires on the largest fires in our nation's history, riding around on fire engines and trekking across miles of national forest. I earned a squad boss certification and was qualified to lead crews in wildfire engagements.

And honestly it was cool as shit.

During the off season I studied at WWCC, and earned my associates degree.

At the same time finding my passion for hospitality. I've found myself behind bars and on busy floors at some really cool places. Thousands of hours honed my "spidey senses", my care for my fellow travelers, and meeting needs so well you have time for human connection.

These thousands of hours have had a huge impact on who I am, who I've been, and where I'm going.

I always aim to be the person I'd want serving me.

Finding myself in EWU's design program was fueled by a lifelong love of conceptualizing, crafting, building and just making cool shit.

The kind of shit people look at it and go "huh. cool".

Gaining so many new skills that add tools to my growing toolbox of handy tools and gizmos. These tools and fundamental understandings of design give me the freedom I need to blossom as the weird creative, handy nerd that I am.

Photography, web and print design, product and concept design; A love of manual transmissions, guitar, bullshitting about the next cool thing we should make, these are all parts of what make me, drew.

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DESIGN PORTFOLIO

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DREWKAZANIS.COM

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CAPSTONE 404

ECHO404

Weird

Intentionally strange.

Fun

Explore, Look around.

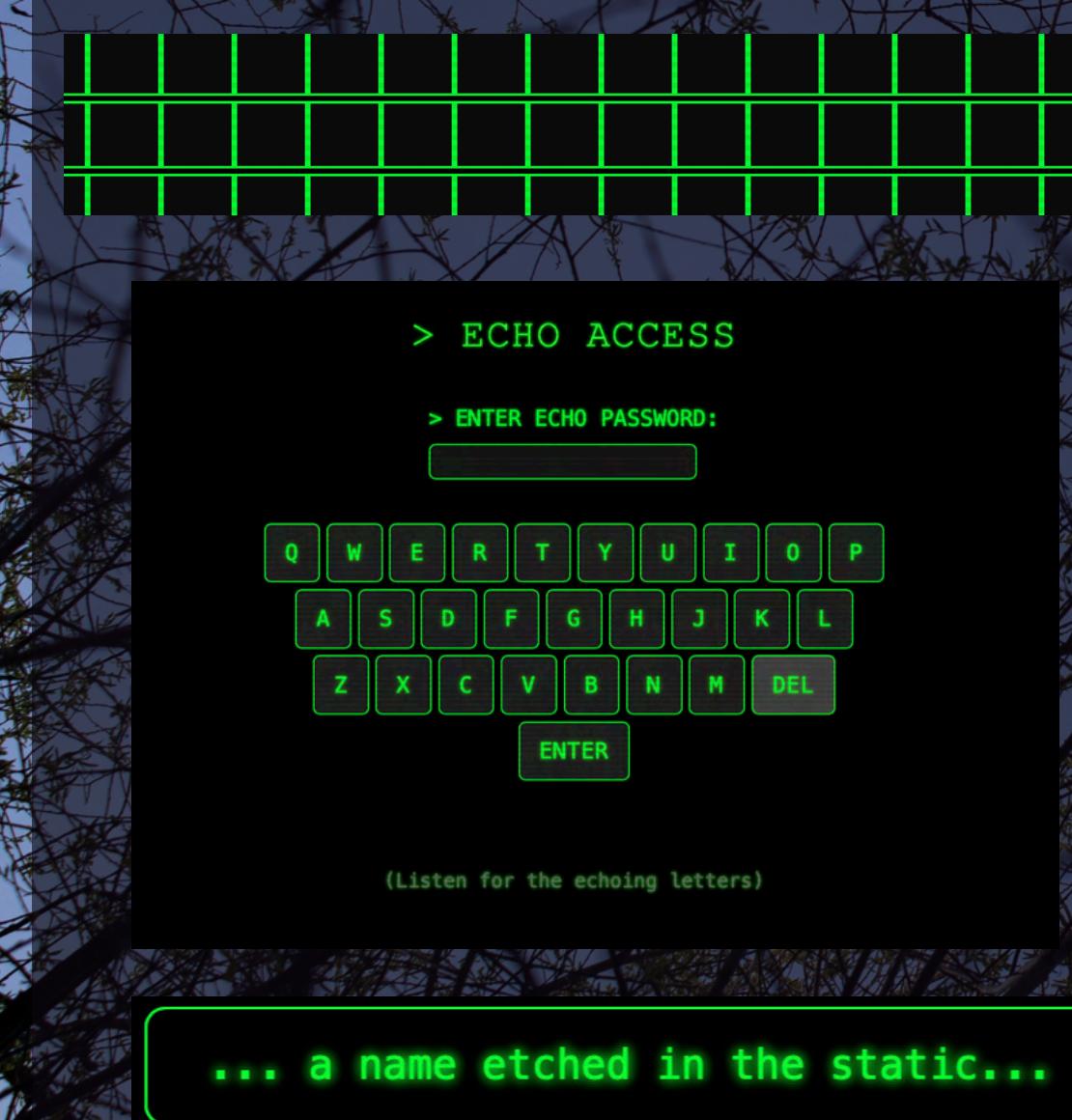
Rewarding

Leave a mark. Literally.

Echo404 is a vision of an interactive web experience, a broken AI, trapped in my personal website, there, it leads to page: (THE WALL) where you can make your mark and see who's made it through. Kinda like spray paint in a tunnel.

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CAPSTONE 404



Echo404

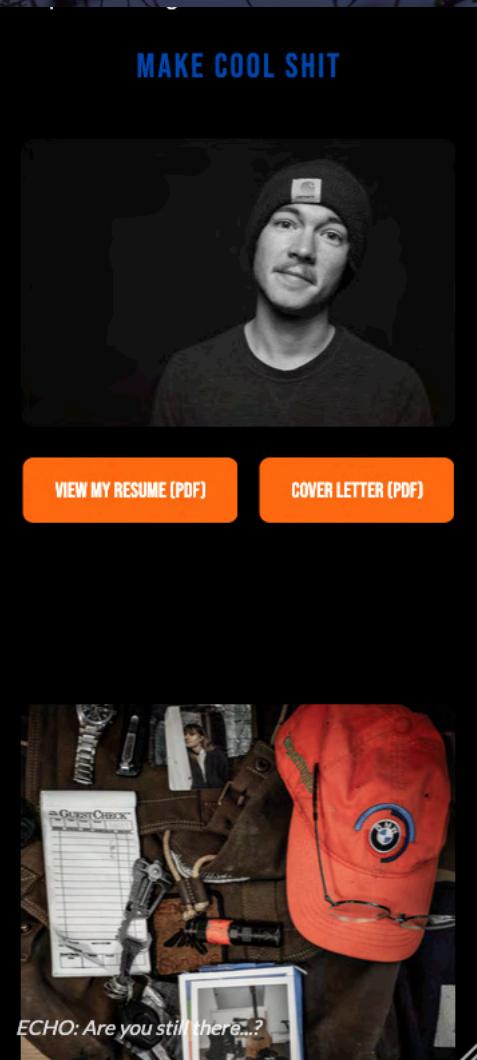
“How do I make my website interesting, what would I be intrigued by if I stumbled upon something, how can I make the world able to participate.”

ECHO: Memory integrity confirmed.
A signal has been established.

→ Connect to Echo404

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CAPSTONE 404

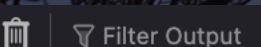


A curious
mind will
find clues
and hints
around my
page.



DREWKAZANIS.COM

Take a look yourself



Filter Output

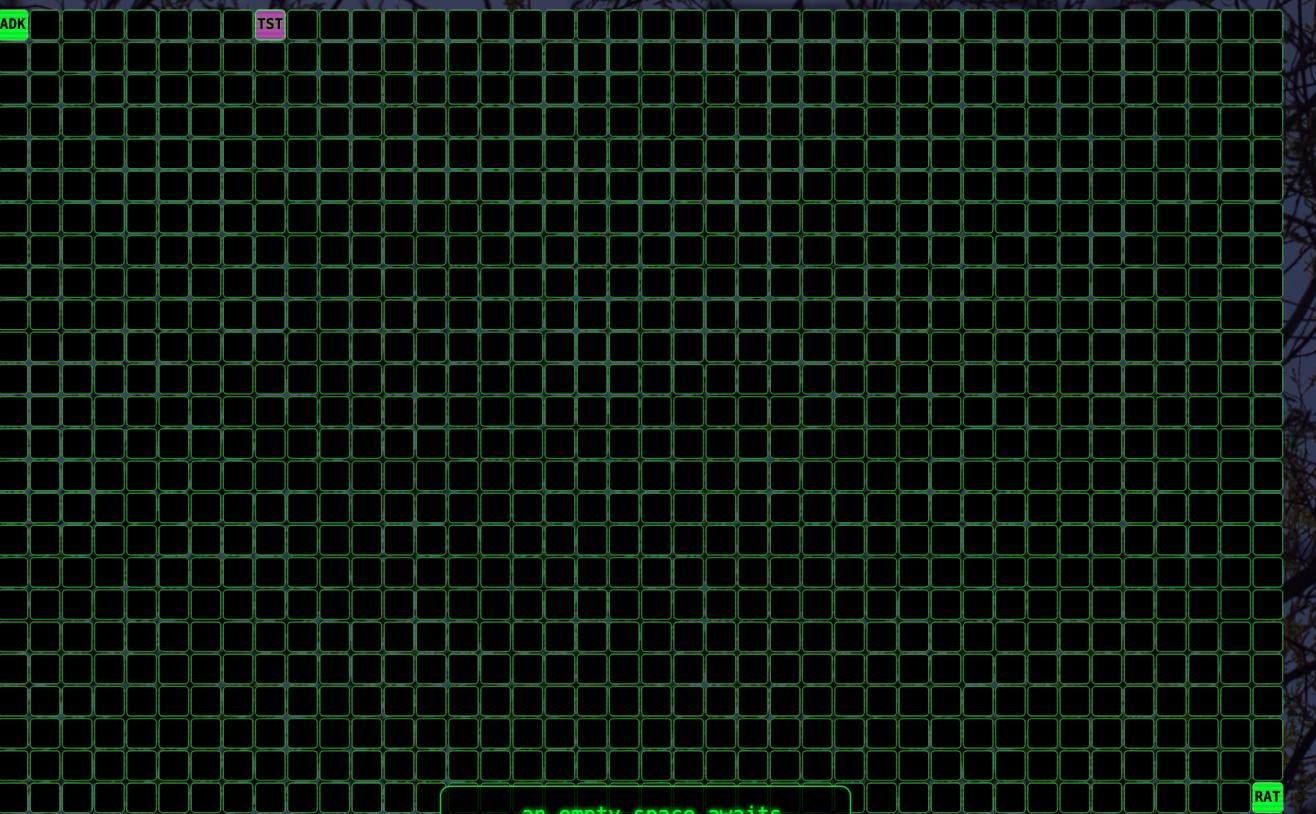
ECHO: Some memories are not meant to be indexed.

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CAPSTONE 404

Echo Wall

Click an empty square to leave your trace - everyone sees it.



THE WALL

After finding the three hidden elements on my website, and completing the three puzzles, one finds themselves in a digital liminal space. Ready to commemorate the curious user.

Claim Tile #176

Label (3 chars)

Optional message (140 chars)

Cancel

Claim

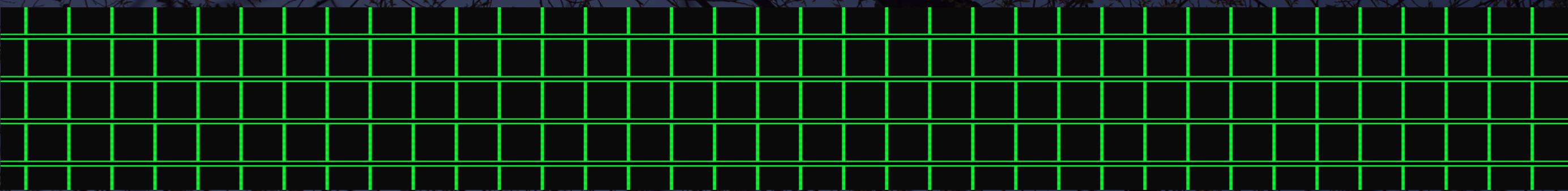
This passion project shows my appetite for expression and curiosity,

Adding intrigue and blending storytelling, experience, and craft to every project.

My part of the internet should be part yours too, if you earn it.

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CAPSTONE 404



META DATA

Project Title: Echo404

Creator: Drew Kazanis

Timeline: January 2024 – June 2025

Medium/Tools: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Figma, GitHub, AI

Project Type: Senior Capstone, Interactive Web Experience,

Skills Demonstrated: Front-end Web Development, U/X, U/I Design, Narrative-driven Interactive Design, Creative Problem-Solving

Themes: Digital Nostalgia, Puzzle-solving, Interactive Community, Glitch Aesthetic, Storytelling, Personal Expression

Echo404 began as a self driven challenge to use my new web and U/X, U/I skills to make a creative narrative that lives inside my website. Over the last few months, it evolved into an interactive, narrative driven puzzle game and social experiment.

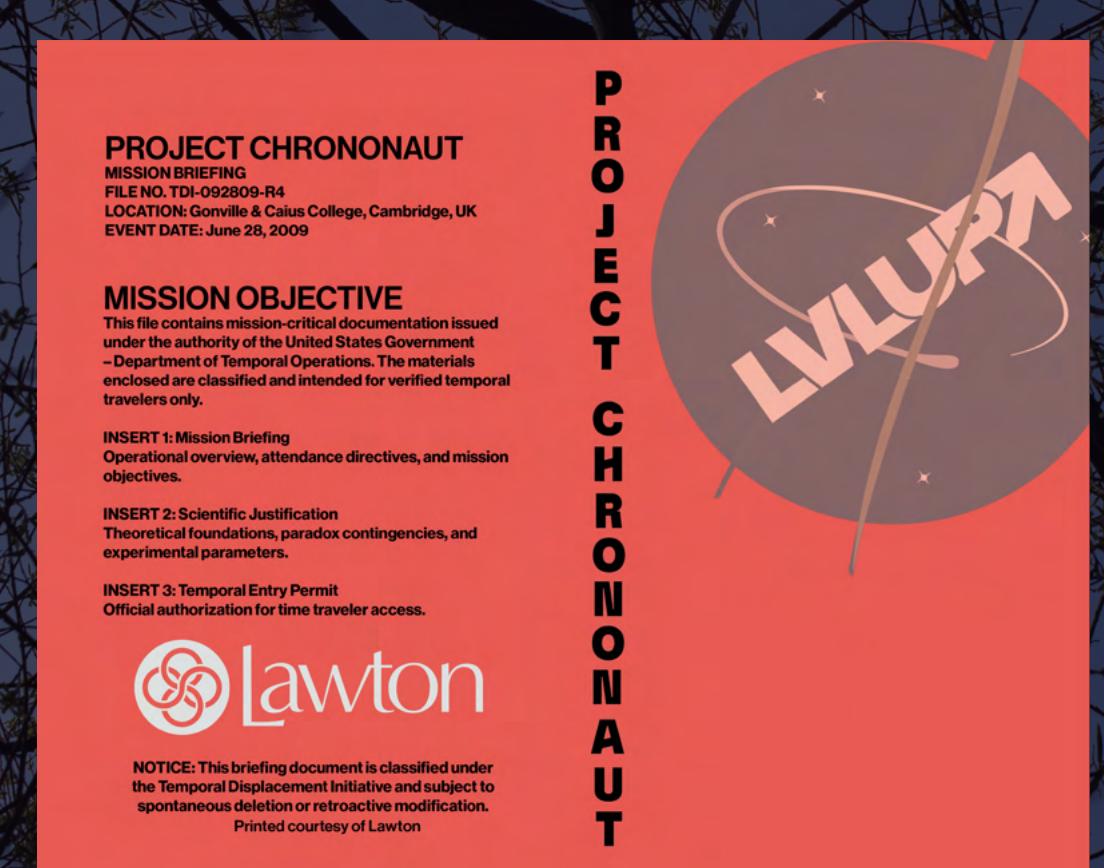
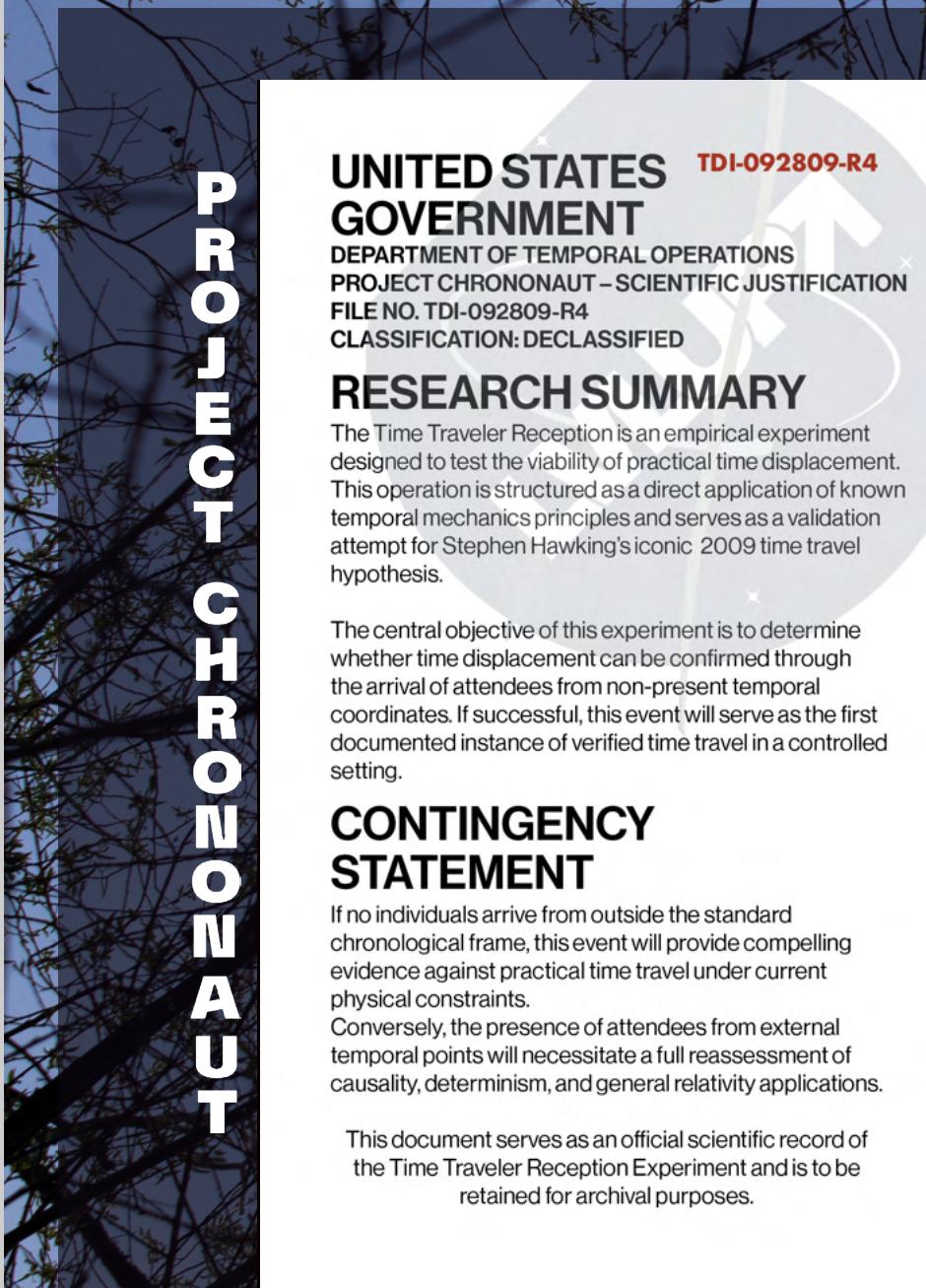
It serves as my digital playground: a place to experiment, learn, and connect with others

Core Features:

- Interactive puzzles and riddles
- Custom-coded persistent “Echo Wall”
- Terminal-style interface with retro aesthetics
- Integration with personal portfolio website
- QR code and real-world interaction potential

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PRINT DESIGN



Tasked with: "Make a cool invitation", I got to work brainstorming a fun idea for a concept about time travel I'd read about, a "time traveler party".

An experiment where the details of the party are only released after the event has even taken place. I leaned into NASA themes, and drew from my love of cold war aesthetics to create this award winning piece.

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PRINT DESIGN

PROJECT CHRONONAUT

DISPLAY PRINCIPLE

I. CAUSALITY
The fundamental principle that events occur in time and that they precede their consequences.

II. THE GRAND CONSISTENCY

Classical paradigm challenge the traditional inconsistent histories.

III. QUANTUM

Quantum mechanics can result in branching into alternate timelines.

This research
Displacement

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT CHRONONAUT
PERMIT
FILE NO. TDI-092809

AUTHORITY INDIA

This document certifies that the permit has been granted conditional access to the coordinates for PROJECT CHRONONAUT under the authority of the 'Technology Initiative Act.'

Possession of this permit is confirmation of the best displacement verification.

EVENT SITE:

Gonville & Caius College

EVENT DATE: June 2024

[View the whole document on my website](#)

A humbling win, it has inspired me to continue spending time making things that I think are neat, sometimes I'm in good company.



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PRINT DESIGN



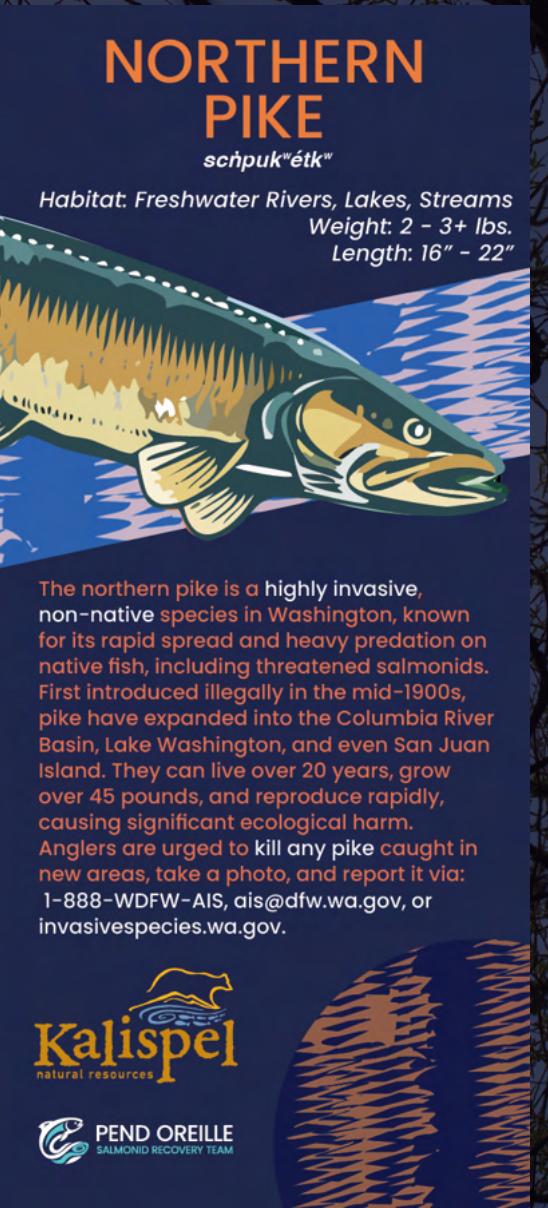
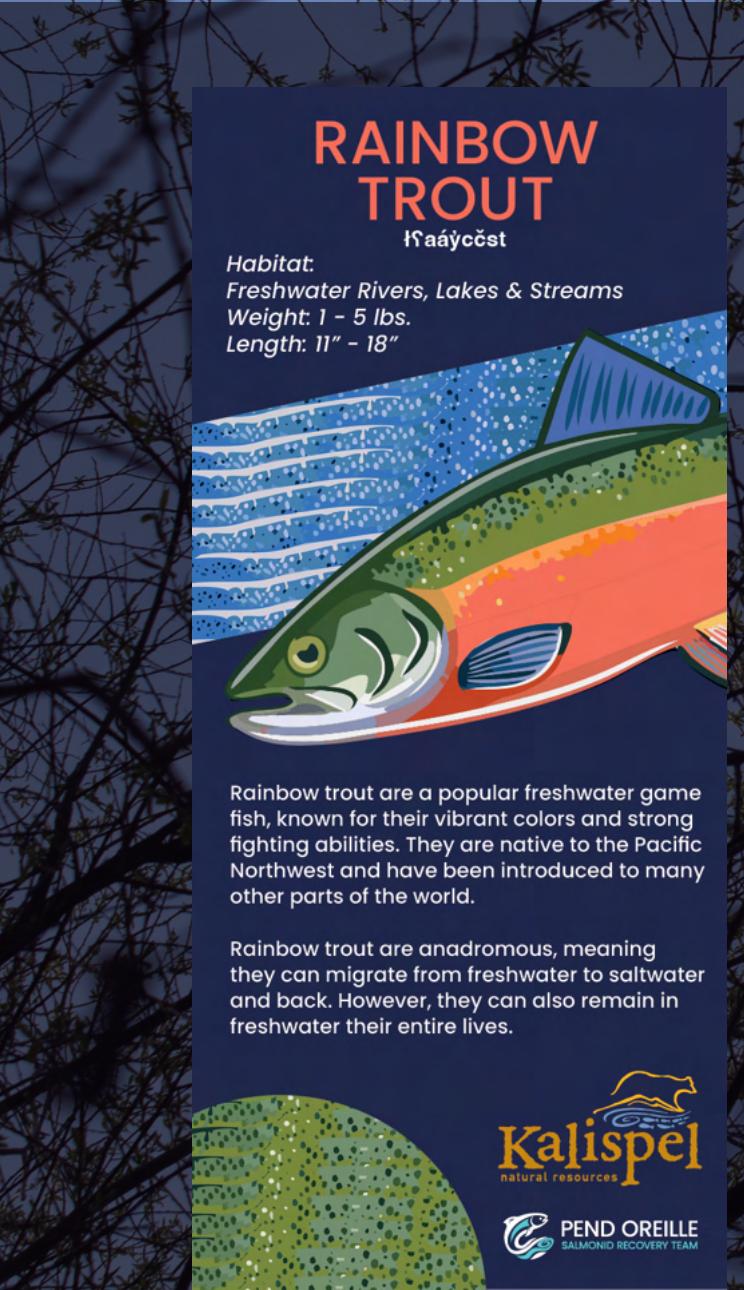
KNRD PRINT DESIGN

With a love of crafting things that one can hold in their hands, print design is a hobby that can translate thoughts to objects and ideas into pictures.

I was able to expand my print design skills with the work I did for Kalispel natural resources while learning about the design process, research, and client communication.

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PRINT DESIGN



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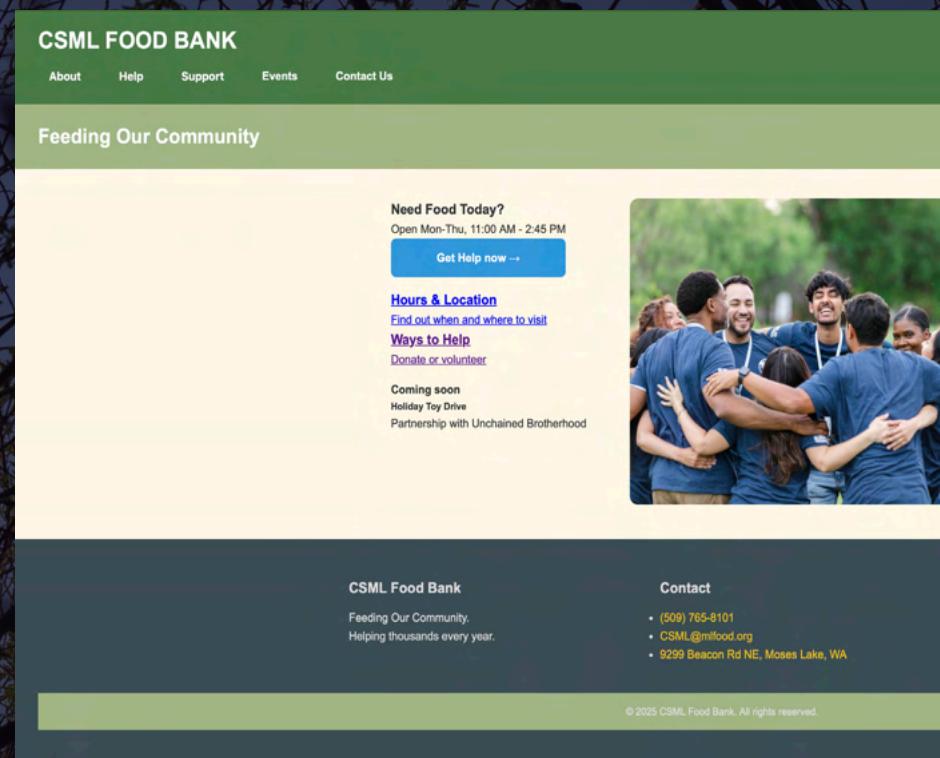
WEB DESIGN

CSML Food Bank Website Redesign



Current
desktop view

The original website for the CSML Food Bank is a relic of its time; made with soul and good intentions, it's unfortunately been lost to time by mobile viewing and modern U/I needs.



Redesigned
desktop view

The redesign emphasized:

Clear, high-contrast calls to action

Easy-to-skim links to Hours & Location, Ways to Help, and Volunteer

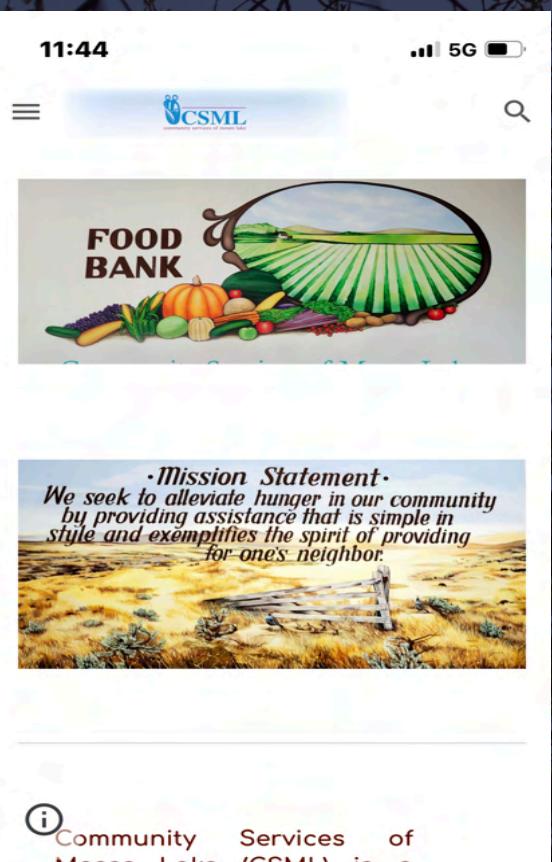
Streamlined site architecture with five intuitive pages

A visual tone that balanced professionalism with approachability

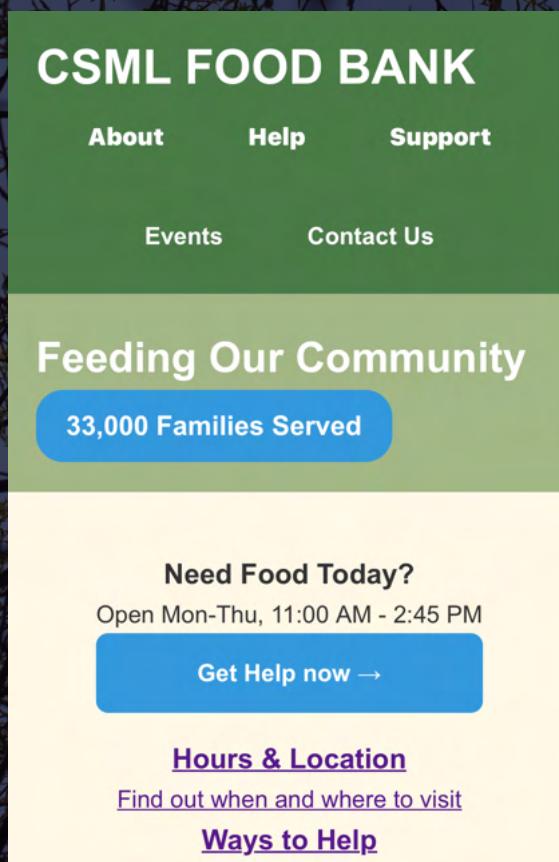
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WEB DESIGN

CSML Food Bank Mobile improvements



Current mobile view



Redesigned mobile view

The difference on mobile is absolutely night and day.

This isn't about being picky about design its about getting people the help they need.

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IN CLOSING

You can check out
my work here:

DREWKAZANIS.COM

There, you'll find a wider range of my work,
a way to get a hold of me,
and a glimpse into Echo 404