**To:** SI 339 Instructors

**From:** Austin Leslie

**Subject:** Portfolio documentation of accessibility and enhancement of experience

Embarking on the journey of constructing my portfolio website have been trying but rewarding. There were a lot of considerations, decisions, and requirements that had to be included in the code for it. I tried to envelop my philosophy that less is more throughout the entire portfolio. I did not want users to feel overwhelmed by the content. That is why simplicity can be seen in each and every page. My media queries reflect simple decisions by me to enhance the user experience. The navigation bar is the crux of how a user is able to interact with my website. I decided to apply inline flexbox to the navigation bar depending on the screen size. On a smaller screen size (like mobile), the navigation bar will appear vertical. This allows the user to easily navigate the five pages without having to slide the page to access the links. They can see all five pages clearly displayed. On a desktop screen, the navigation bar will be horizontal which allows the user to feel the page is not lacking in content by eliminating extra unused space. This responsive design automatically applies depending on the screen size the user is viewing it on. It requires no extra action from the user.

The next decision I made was to trigger the images to behave in a responsive way. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. I did not want to lose this principle throughout my website. Therefore, I decided to place my images in a grid container on the gallery and strategy pages. Depending on the size of the screen the user is using, the number of columns will adjust accordingly. For my Gallery page: On a desktop screen, a 3x3 grid will appear. This will allow for a uniform view of my images. Without the grid, the images would have appeared in an awkward way. When you shrink the screen to tablet view, the images will appear in a 2-column format so the images will appear all on the screen without getting cut off. On the smallest size screen (mobile), the images will appear all in one column which keep the images displayed in full. For my Strategy page: the three bottom images are contained in a grid. They are supposed to communicate an equation for producing outstanding UX strategy. I had the images appear in 3 columns in a desktop view so the user can visualize the pieces in the equation *Austin Leslie + UMSI = Outstanding UX Strategy.*  On a tablet view, I had the columns go down to 2 to prevent the images from cutting off the screen. I included the descriptive text beneath the images so the user can understand the images’ meaning. On a mobile view, the images are contained 1 column to have the user see the images clearly on their screen. Again, the descriptive text aids the user in following along.

You can find my utilization of grid on the Strategy and Gallery pages. You can find my utilization of Flexbox in the navigation bar which is contained on all five pages. I have explained how the decisions to use these two features *improve* the pages above. All of my pages validate on W3C, Wave, and Axe.

 All 5 pages use the same header, navigation bar, and footer. The user is able to clearly see which page they are on in the navigation bar. They can further skip to the main content of the page as needed. I applied the text-shadow feature to my footer for every page to make it subtly stand out and have that copyright feel. Please use Google Chrome to view my website.

I decided to have a grayscale theme throughout my website to match my logo as well as keep everything muted and cohesive. Too much white space has been proven to make users go crazy as well as perceive the page to be lacking in content. Also, staring at white screens all day is hard on the eyes.

My CSS animation of the brief flash of maize and blue in the header communicates my love for the University of Michigan. The subtle parallax image of the block M drives home the point as well. The University of Michigan has allowed me to be in the wonderful position I am in and I will always pay homage to this world-class university!

The flip card animation of my headshot on the landing page allows the user to get a quick snapshot of my credentials: education and upcoming experience with UX Design. They know what they are getting themselves into right away.

My decision to have a strategy page is pivotal as I am an incoming UX Strategy intern. I want to be able to have users know my thought process and why it’s distinguishable from any other person. The equation on the page sums up why they should get in touch with me for their next UX endeavor. I ask questions throughout the page to keep users engaged.

I ask questions on my Work page to have the user engaged from the start. I then embed all of my research projects as a PDF on the page for easy readability. Users can click on the title to take them to a separate page which allows them to download the PDF file for later use if need be. I summarize what each report is about and its findings. This acts as an abstract to let the user mentally prepare themselves for what they will be reading.

My gallery consists of images that provide snapshots of different aspects of my life. I decided to apply a pseudo class and filter to the grid of images. When the users hover over the image to invert the colors to provide an unexpected and trippy experience! After reading my meticulous reports on the previous, it was due time for something fun to take them by surprise.

Lastly, users can get in touch with me with a contact form. The accompanying thankyou.php file allows it to be sent to my email and provides responsive feedback when the form is submitted. Please have a PHP reader installed. The LinkedIn icon takes them straight to my LinkedIn. And my resume is embedded in a PDF format for readability.

Throughout this portfolio website, I have considered the user on every page and made decisions that reflect my consideration of the experience and accessibility as explained above.

Sincerely,

A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated

Austin Leslie