Provide a brief statement of why you are interested in this project. Please address your interest in creating social impact in this organization, what qualifications you possess that will qualify you for the selected projects, previous community service experience, or what you hope to gain from this experience. Limit to 200 words.

1. Illinois Legal Aid
   1. The US legal system can be extremely difficult to navigate- it has poor user experience by design. Illinois Legal Aid Online’s mission to provide Illinois residents with access on the information they need to better navigate this complicated system is inspiring. If the information architecture or the UI of their website is confusing, however, it will be difficult for them to succeed in this mission. I am excited by the opportunity to work with ILAO in developing a style guide because it can have a direct result on carrying out their mission. Last semester, I took Interaction Design, which helped me develop a stronger understanding in information architecture and the various stages of the design process. I also volunteered to assist a non-profit, SummitIDG, in redesigning their website for accessibility, where I learned how to teach myself the development skills necessary to complete a project, which at times seemed overwhelming and out of reach. By working on this project, I hope to gain more experience in developing a consistent, navigable UI with a client, and I hope to make a significant contribution to the Illinois residents seeking information on their legal system.
2. Mediaburn
   1. With academic and professional experience in documentary filmmaking and photography production, I am particularly excited by the opportunity to work with Media Burn in updating and improving the usability of their website. As a film studies minor during my undergraduate studies, I specialized in documentary filmmaking and spent two out of three summers interning with documentary filmmakers in New York City. During those internships, I learned a lot about how documentary filmmakers band together to create and promote their films, and how much perseverance their line of work requires. By working on this project, I would bring my experience with and empathy for the documentary filmmaking process to facilitate the network that Media Burn’s website provides to documentary filmmakers. This project seems to be a perfect transition point as I seek to leverage my previous experience in media production into a new career as a user experience designer.
3. Newberry Library
   1. I am intrigued by the optimization of mobile-first interactions with library systems after working as a Media Lab assistant in my undergraduate library. At that time, mobile phones were still relatively new. I worked on a number of projects where I redesigned the interactive maps of our facilities and services on the library website. It would be exciting to return to this domain, but in a mobile-focused context. Moreover, I’ve really enjoyed learning CSS in Complex Web Design, and have developed my own portfolio from scratch. I would hope to further develop these CSS skills by developing a code sheet for Newberry Library.

Please provide a brief statement that describes your level of preference for your project choices above. Examples: "I would not mind any of the three projects." OR "I will only go on ASB if I get my 1st or 2nd choice." This information is very valuable in the project matching process, so please be as specific as possible. Limit to 200 words

I would be excited to work on any of the three projects, as they each provide the opportunity make a significant contribution to their domains while also allowing me to improve my web development and design skills. I am most excited by Media Burn due to my previous experience in documentary filmmaking, but I would also welcome the opportunity to develop my skills in the legal and library science domains.