**The RoR Project**

**Project Description:**

I will be working on a proof of concept for a website that will feature meeting spaces that are available for the public to rent for gatherings, meetings, parties, weddings, or other functions. The project will feature a website with several sample meeting spaces and will outline the various features that the venues offer. Websites of this nature already exist. However, they feature hip, posh spaces that one can rent for a corporate event. However, there are a lot of other spaces that do not fit that mold of the current web offerings. Grange Halls, VFW, and other fraternal halls, community centers, and church basements, are all left out of the mix of the current crop of websites. This proof of concept will include these venues as well as corporate meeting facilities, convention centers, hotels, and cool converted meeting spaces like old barns that are for rent.

Another aspect that the current sites lack is detailed information on the venue for the professional. A caterer would want to know if the venue allows outside catering, if they do allow catering what facilities do they have, refrigerators, stoves, prep areas? A DJ may want to know how many circuits are available for their lights and audio, and if there is a fee for their use? In big halls that allow things like truss to be flown it is important to know where the rigging points are, this website will feature a repository so that professionals can download files right from the website for their Vectorworks program. Meeting planners also want to know how many people a room can hold in the various configurations that the room can be set. The website will also provide the size of the room along with the various configurations, U-shape tables vs. theater style. The meeting planner would also want to know what other amenities are available to support the gathering, hotel rooms, food, parking, and the like. The ROR project will work to provide these answers in one comprehensive website.

Since Project ROR is a demonstration project, that is testing the waters on whether the idea is feasible Project ROR will limit its scope to a small sampling of locations that will be displayed on a website that features a working database created in PHP. In addition, the project will feature a feasibility study. A feasibility study is designed to reveal whether a project is feasible. It is an assessment of the practicality of a proposed project. It typically contains:

1. Executive Summary
2. Description of the Product/Service
3. Technology Considerations
4. Product/ Service Marketplace
5. Identification of the Specific Market
6. Marketing Strategy
7. Organizational Structure
8. Schedule
9. Financial Projections

Given that this project is to be completed over five weeks it may be unrealistic to complete all nine sections of the feasibility study. Some sections, like the marketing strategy, do not fit in with the purpose of the class. Given this, it may be realistic to focus on an executive summary, description of services/product, specific market, and potential schedule for going forward.

The emphasis of the feasibility study will in part be dictated by feedback from the Techstars program. Depending on what they want for submission into the program. The feasibility study will work to meet their requirements.

## **Rough Feature Timelin**e

**Week 1**

* Have a conversation with a member of Techstars
* Talk with a potential user of the website
* Meet with a web designer (fellow student) for consultation
* Decide on elements to be included in the website

**Week 2**

* Wireframe website
* Find sample facilities, gather information on those sites
* Start HTML for the website
* Design database

**Week 3 & 4**

Get website and database working

Week 5

Write feasibility study

**Worst-case Scenario / Best-case Scenario**:

In the best-case scenario, I will be able to meet with lots of folks and learn what they would want in a website as well as receive some light mentoring from a representative from a tech startup. In a best-case scenario, I will not be swamped with work and will have the opportunity to get my code working the way I want and all will be right with the world. However, since work seems to be full throttle right now, and I have minimal coding skills, exploring a minimum case for success is relevant.

As a minimum, I will plan to write an executive summary for the feasibility study, create wireframes for the website, and create a website backed by a database with most of the elements that would be in a comprehensive website. The website will have functionality and will be backed by a database.

**Additional resources**:

The resources needed to complete the project are relatively basic. I will need a web hosting service with a database and room for storing HTML files, which I already have access to. I hope to connect with professionals and get their feedback on their needs as well as connect with a tech startup professional to see what items they require in order to consider a proposal. I hope to also meet with people who would be end-users as well as individuals who would be posting information about their rental space.

**Why Is This Project Important**:

Co’mon wha da ya mean why is this important? Of course, it’s important.

Every new company or product works to do one thing, solve a problem. Currently, there is no holistic website for venues, yet, people get married, have birthday parties, have sales meetings, or get together for any of a thousand reasons. This site will work to close this gap and solve the problem of allowing people to find a venue as easily as they can check the weather online.