Design Systems

The Design System initiative seeks to empower volunteers with the tools, documentation and templates for creating and maintaining a design system for their HfLA projects. As Hack for LA continues to scale it has become more essential to create consistent documentation and standards for deliverables.

A **Design System** is a single source of truth for a website's designers and developers– a collection of reusable components, styles, and code guided by clear standards and documentation. Design systems are now an industry standard used by the website teams of most major companies.

History

In August 2020, Hack for LA was in the midst of rapid growth of new volunteers. New designers and developers joined projects without clear systems in place to standardize their work and scale their teams. Leadership recommended developing organization-wide design system guidance to enable all volunteers to learn about, create, and maintain design systems for their HfLA projects.

- In 2021 and early 2022, the DS team **built a visual assets library in Figma** including the basic element of Design Systems so other projects' designers can reference the file as a starter template.
- In 2022 Q1 and Q2, the DS team's researchers conducted generative interviews with HfLA's volunteers in different roles, and the result of the discovery phase revealed the need for a new product initiative called **"HfLA Figma Kit."** HfLA Figma Kit serves as **an educational platform for designers at HfLA consisting of Standards, Starter templates, Tutorials and Examples** on Figma project governance and Design Systems.

Recent Progress

- The HfLA Figma Kit v1.0 was released in Nov 2022.

6 Month Roadmap

- Update the existing UI assets library to reflect the needs of the developers.
- Conduct post- launch user research to identify user pain points and areas for improvement for future releases.
- Create more content and build new sections for the Figma Kit. The identified new sections for the Figma Kit are as follows
  - Establishing HouseKeeping Rules for HfLA Figma files
  - Accessibility Standards
  - Color Style Guides
  - Typography Style Guides