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HW 8 – Implementing a Web Portfolio/Tool Project

**Part 1**

The purpose of my website is to teach users how to brew their own kombucha tea at home through the use of engaging illustrations and animations. The target audience for this website includes people who enjoy experimenting with food/beverage or are kombucha enthusiasts interested in learning to make their own.

The information that I chose to convey includes ingredients and equipment as well as step by step instructions for making the kombucha. This website differs from traditional how-to recipes for kombucha given that it is purely based off of illustration and shows visuals side by side with textual instructions. I drew all illustrations by hand to create a whimsical and fun feeling for the overall website.

**Part 2**

* Get started button on landing page slides upward on load
  + This can be viewed immediately as the landing page loads. To recreate, refresh the page
* Each page’s title animates on scroll
  + This can be viewed by scrolling down towards each page
* Each page’s “Scroll down” arrow animates on scroll
  + This can be viewed by scrolling down towards each arrow
* Navigate to each page via the fixed navigation bar at the top
  + Clicking on each navigation bar item will smooth scroll you to that specific section
* On the “What you need” page, each icon zooms in on hover
  + Hover over each image
* Scroll back up to the top of the page once you reach the end
  + Scroll down to the “Bottle” page and a “back to top” button will animate on scroll and once clicked, take you back to the landing page

**Part 3**

* Tool: Vivus.js
* I chose to use this tool for animations to create visuals for each step in my kombucha making instructions. This Javascript library creates a drawing animation effect and would be responsive friendly since all animations are based on paths within an image and would therefore be confined by the dimensions of the svg file.
* I used Vivus Instant to first create the animation based on the paths of the svg that I made and was able to customize the type of animation, delay, duration, and path timing function. Then, I redownloaded the svg as an animated svg and was able to place that into my code.
* The animations I created using this library was able to create higher engagement and contribute to the whimsical/fun nature of the website. Furthermore, the animations help the user better visualize and understand each step in the kombucha making process.
* Tool: Aos.js
* I chose to use this tool so that I could create animations on scroll and emphasize the titles and scrolling buttons on each page.
* I downloaded the aos.js file and linked it to my HTML. Then, for each element that I wanted to animate, I added data-aos-\* parameters to customize how I wanted each item to animate, including duration, type of animation, and anchor placement.
* The on scroll animations serve as markers on each page and signal to the user when a new section has begun via title animations. The get started, scroll down, and back to top button animations help signal to the user where to click to enhance navigation capabilities.

**Part 4**

From HW7, I switched the navigation bar to a fixed horizontal bar at the top of the page that would allow for better responsiveness and could be condensed into a hamburger menu on a mobile platform. Furthermore, I deviated from my original stylistic elements, including color scheme, illustration style, and font choices through multiple iterations before settling on the final version that I felt best conveyed the whimsical nature that I wanted to express to users. The last modification I made from my prototype was the inclusion of scroll down arrow buttons at the bottom of every page as well as a back to top button at the end of the website to help facilitate easier navigation for users.

**Page 5**

The greatest challenge I faced in this assignment was striking the right balance between my animations and responsiveness. My initial index.html code had a greater amount of Jquery and aos.js animations that would work at larger screen sizes and then not work for iPad or any mobile sizes (this version can be viewed through index.html). Despite using media queries, it was very difficult to fix and I felt that the trade-off for fancier animations was not worth sacrificing the website’s responsiveness. In the end, I made the decision to not create extra animations as they would be overwhelming to the user and not create any additional value.