

Project: Chirp.

Objective:

To create an extremely brief light show that feels like the passerby had unintentionally startled an unknown lightning-bug-like insect species.

Key ideas:

- organic
- surprising
- fleeting
- placemaking

Process:

- 1) system is off (or eventually charging) daytime.
- 2) From ~10pm to ~3am, the systems will be on
- 3) When on, motion sensors will trigger by pedestrians heading along sidewalk from north/south ends
- 4) When triggered, they will spark a quick 3 colour flash of RGB light from a random nearby light
 - This is to replicate the feeling as if an insect had sounded an alarm to others that there was a nearby threat. This is the “call”.
- 5) As a “response”, another RGB set flashes an echo in another zone.
 - We’ll start with 1 response and expand to more later
 - Time between each response should be between 1-3 seconds (unweighted)
 - RGB responses should differ from the initial flash so they feel organic and reactive
- 6) The system should go silent for a random period of time (I’d prefer weighted like 2d6)
 - this is to further reinforce an organic feeling that people can’t just generate mechanical responses by simply tripping the signal over and over again.

Considerations:

- Can’t annoy neighbours
 - no sound
 - lights not too bright
- power
 - can we make this self-sufficient or will it need hidden AC?
- hardware for
 - central arduino board and possible sub-boards
 - how many lights/sensors can we do?
 - motion sensing
 - controllable RGB light flashes
 - outdoor durable lights, sensors, wiring and casing for arduino(s)
- Software
 - Manage time of day
 - Generate random “organic” reactions
- Cost
- Keeping “feature creep” low

Venue:

My front garden with the brains of the project hidden in LFL and the lights and sensors spread the garden itself.

