

Makena Harris

Collection Proposal: Relationship Receipts

Chosen Collection:

I have decided to utilize a selection of receipts and other small mementos that have accumulated over the past few years from trips I have made with my boyfriend. These keepsakes have been stashed in the passenger-side compartment in my boyfriend's car. These mementos range from receipts from the local taco truck to stubs from concerts and movies to even a receipt for a diamond necklace that was gifted to me on Valentine's Day in 2014.

Emphasized Content:

The accumulation of the many keepsakes is meaningful because it exposes the truth that relationships are made up of mostly seemingly insignificant, but also “real life” moments rather than expensive dates and dinners. I plan to emphasize this fact through the presentation of the buildup of receipts and stubs because the vast majority of them are in fact small and rather unimportant things. Whether it was a quick trip to Bimart to grab some Raid Insect Spray or a midnight trip to Taco Bell, the collection is not based on the “importance” of the event, but instead documents the small and trivial moments that make up 99% of all relationships and celebrates them for what they are.

Layout & Organization:

I plan to create a main home page that displays scanned JPEG images of each keepsake. These will be organized by date- from most recent to oldest. All of the images will be on one page, inviting the viewer to scroll down the page to view all the receipts that have accumulated over time. The title of the collection: “Relationship Receipts” can be read from the top of the page.

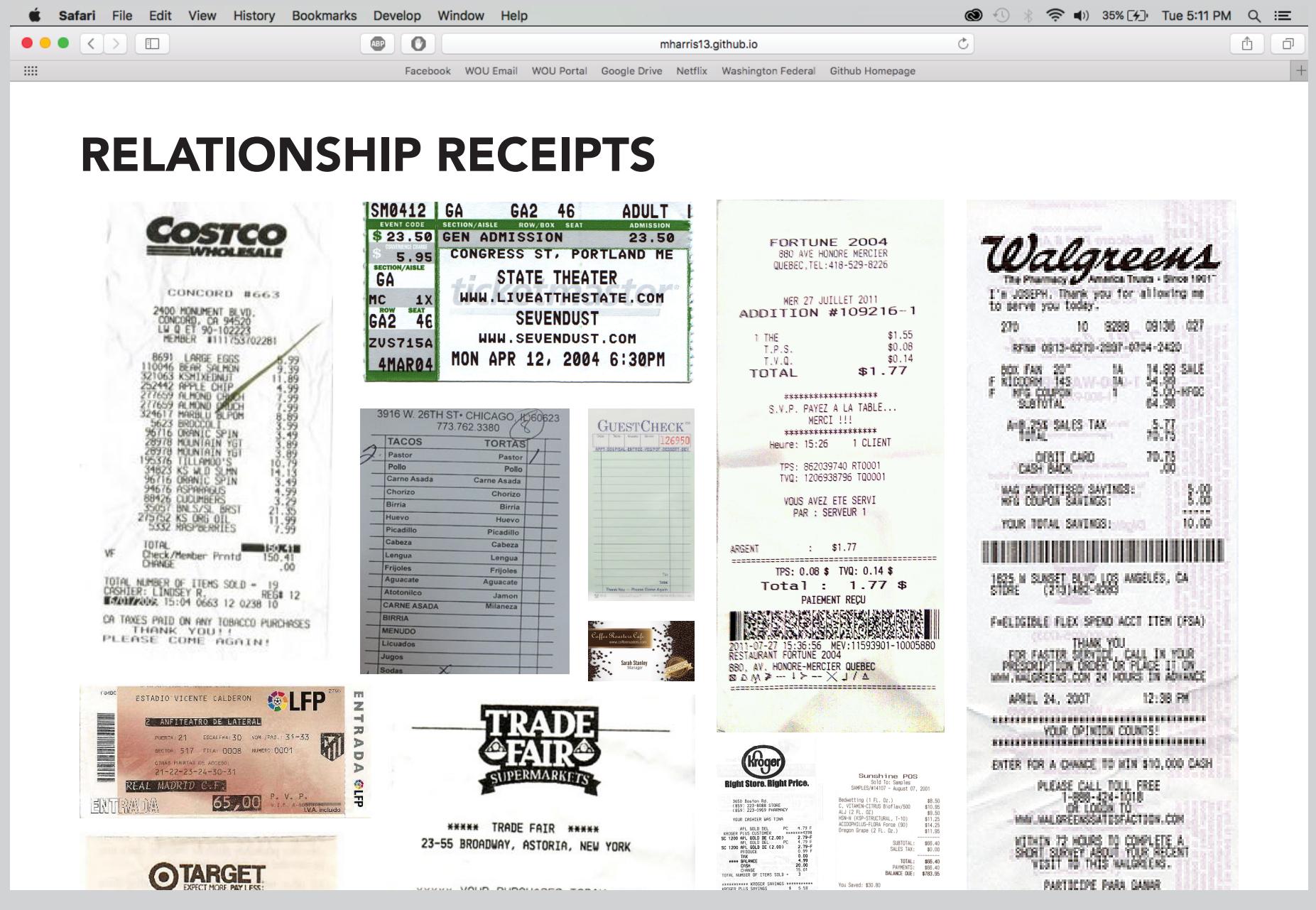
User Interaction:

If a viewer hovers over one of the receipts, the JPEG will expand and take over the majority of the screen so that the viewer can see it at a larger scale. Additionally, everything behind the enlarged receipt will be darkened and dulled down to serve as somewhat of a shadow to the focal point receipt. Though the receipts will be activated upon hover, they will not be links that direct you to a new page.

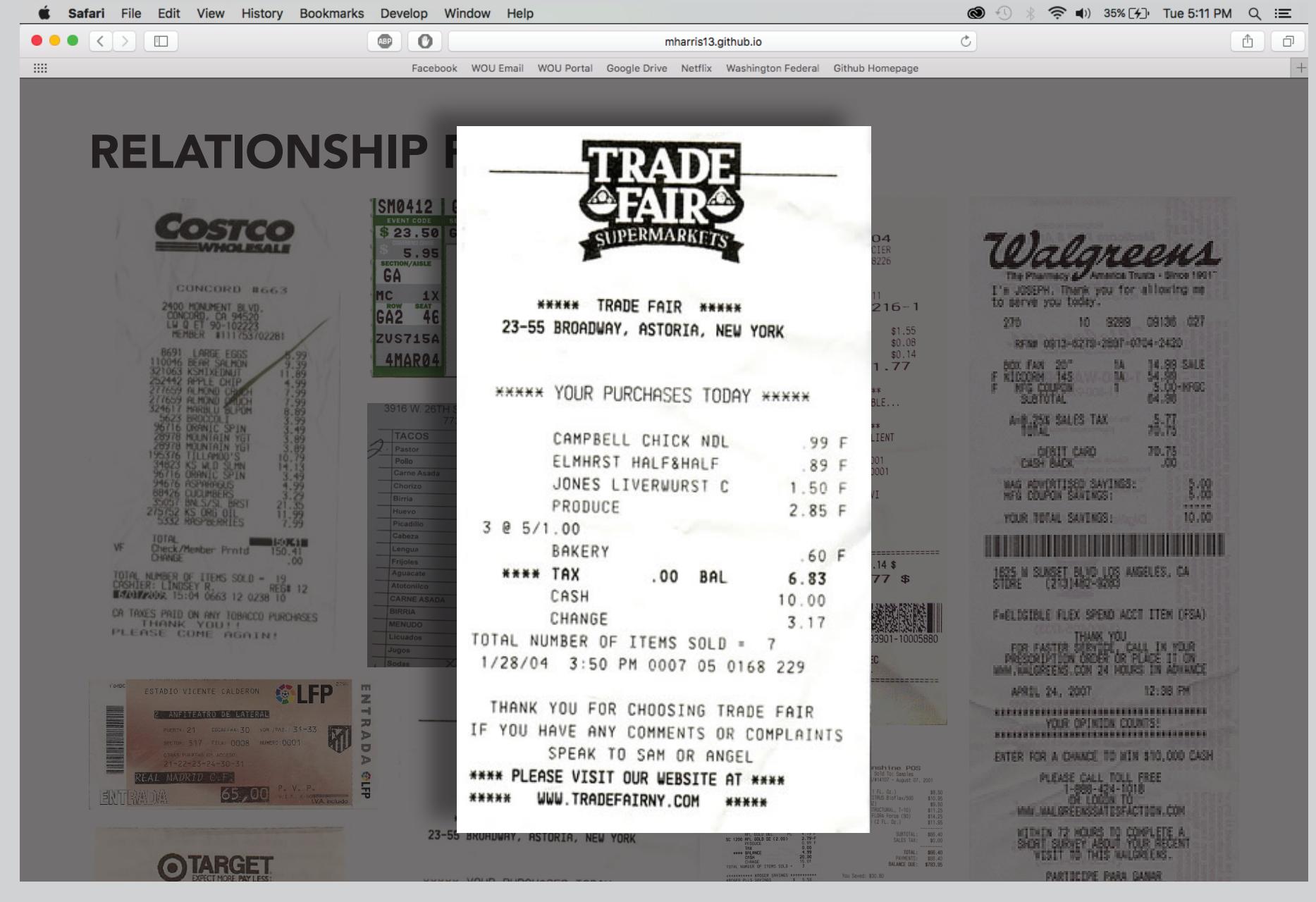
Additionally, because there are so many receipts on a single page, the user is invited to scroll through the page to see the abundance of mementos.

**But What Will
It Look Like?**

Mock-Up Page



Hovered-Activated Receipt



Maintenance Of Collection:

“Will your site be an archive for a fixed and finite collection or will it grow over time?”

Because of the nature of this collection, it is not fixed and finite, but will instead grow and expand as the course of my relationship does the same thing.

“Who will manage the collection? You? An institution? Public users?”

I will be managing this collection as the owner.

Who Started The Collection?

I started the collection initially because I had fun teasing my boyfriend by leaving what he called “trash” in his car. However, now it has become more than that. We were, unknowing to both of us when it began, documenting our relationship. Now that we realize that, it has become something meaningful and important to both of us.

What Makes It a Collection?

The fact that these mementos are all from expeditions that we took in his car make these a collection. Additionally, the things that we did either together or for each other that resulted in these receipts and stubs, which give all the items a common ground and makes them belong to a single collection.

Whether all we did was go get a shitty pizza from Little Cesar's or took a spontaneous trip to the beach and stopped at a cafe while we were there- these small tangible reminders are there to preserve those memories. The collection has no criteria aside from the fact that we went and did something together.

What Makes It Personal?

These keepsakes are small things that I have held onto throughout the course of my relationship with my boyfriend. The nature of the collection makes it personal. Additionally, it is personal because it is representational of the whole relationship.

What Makes It Universal?

Although, yes, these receipts are from my own relationship and no one else's, they are relatable to other people because everyone can understand the concept of going out and doing absolutely nothing with the person you love. I am hoping that my viewers can find similarities between my relationship through the receipts to their own relationships. I want people to be able to either say, "hey, I do that too!" Or "I didn't realize how much we do that too".

What Makes It Interesting?

The fact that there is no criteria that prevents any single receipt from belonging to the collection makes it interesting. There are so many varying mementos from lots of different places and occasions. However, in the end, the viewer will realize that regardless of whatever extravagant things may have occurred, the small and every-day receipts mean the most.

What Does Each Piece Add To The Collection?

On their own, the receipts don't mean much for the most part. For example, a receipt from a trip to Bimart would usually be considered trash, but when all the receipts are put together, they tell a story. It documents a relations. It shows the awesome and exciting things we do as well as the smallest and most insignificant things.

Do Any Other Collections Like This Exist?

Yes, I know many people who keep all of their receipts. However, I don't know anyone else who keeps their receipts for the same purpose that I have; to document and preserve a relationship. Everyone else that I am aware of holds on to their receipts to document their spending.