

Community Impact Reflection – Inclusive Acres Hub

For this project, my main goal was to build a website that actually helps the community I focused on, rather than just looking nice or showing off technical skills. Using what I learned in Week 5, I focused on two big things: organizing content with CSS Grid and adding JavaScript features that make the site interactive and useful.

Technical Decisions & Why They Matter

I decided to use CSS Grid because I wanted the site to feel organized and easy to navigate. On the homepage, I set up a layout that puts the most important stuff front and center—like upcoming events, community resources, and announcements—so users don't have to hunt for what they need. On the resources page, I created a different grid so different types of resources (like mental health support, educational programs, and local services) are clearly separated. I also made sure both layouts work on phones, tablets, and older computers because I know not everyone in the community has a fancy new device.

For JavaScript, I added features that actually help people use the site instead of just being “cool.” One is a filtering system so users can quickly see resources by category. Another is an interactive event calendar that shows more details when you click on an event. I made sure these features work for keyboard users and give clear feedback when something happens, like highlighting selected filters or showing loading states. I also made sure the site still works even if JavaScript doesn't load, so nobody gets stuck.

Testing & What I Learned

Getting feedback from real users was really helpful. I had two people from the community test the site, and they pointed out that some labels and sections weren't super clear at first. For example, they weren't sure which resources were ongoing versus upcoming events. I fixed this by adding clearer headings, refining the grid layout, and making interactive elements more obvious. They also reminded me that some people might have slower connections, so I optimized images and made sure the site runs smoothly even on older devices. Overall, testing showed me that real users notice things I might never think of on my own, and making adjustments based on feedback really improved the site.

Data, Privacy & Giving Users Control

Even though the site doesn't collect personal data, I still thought a lot about privacy and user control. Features like the filters and calendar let users control what they see without giving away any personal info. I also tried to make sure the site represents the community fairly, without accidentally prioritizing one group over another. Giving users control while keeping things simple and private felt really important to me.

Overall, this project taught me a lot about designing with purpose. CSS Grid and JavaScript weren't just tools to make the site “look good”—they were ways to make sure the community can actually access the info they need and interact with it easily. Listening to real users, thinking about accessibility, and making iterative improvements helped the site feel more intuitive and

genuinely useful. I learned that building something for a community isn't just about coding—it's about understanding people's needs and making technology work for them.