Background Research

Sharing Communities

Sharing communities are currently on the rise according to shareable.net (though the article

was written in 2012). A sharing community is a group or community that shares anything

ranging from ideas, objects, recipes, jobs, etc. This concept of a community holding a common

goal and with a sense of help and support from others is something I want in my project. It got

me thinking about making a sharing community where you give a green/eco-friendly service or

upcycled good in return for someone else's. This could also stretch to services such as

gardening help or recycle sorting etc. I saw an Instagram post from a woman I follow who is

raising her own free range farm that sparked the idea for me:

> G I F T C I R C L E // Liam and I used to hold gift circles in our old apartment in Boston
> where we would invite others to share what they need and what they can give. I wanted
> to create that here, on this post, as a place for us all to witness the gifts we have and the
> needs that can be fulfilled when we share with others. The directions are simple: list
> some things you need/wish for and list some things you can gift. If something someone
> says resonates with you, or you can fulfill their need or receive their gift, reach out to
> them! Let's expand our online community and realize this platform can be a healing &
> abundant resource. Feel free to tag any friends that you think may want to join the
> circle.
> MY NEEDS/WISHES: a box of organic & local (to you) oranges, a care-package-penpal,
> scion wood for fruit & nut trees, handmade blanket or quilt, handknit gloves , help
> building a greenhouse MY GIFTS: homegrown strawberry jam or apple butter, dried bulk
> herbs, prepared herbal medicine, new-chicken-mama advice or guidance, nourishing
> recipes, care-package-penpal, small online business advice, eggs (if you're local!) **** I
> just want to chime in after reading a bunch of the comments that I'm so grateful for all
> of you. Literally tearing up over the beauty everyone has to give and share. I'll probably
> do one of these online gift circles once a season!
>   --@lala_earth

This type of sharing is what I want to have in my app with a green and environmentally

conscious basis. The app could then also be used as an info source for local support or

resources such as recycling centers, thrift stores, etc. As mentioned in the article, "It's about people. It's a change in culture" and I want that culture to be one of awareness and action to prevent harm to the earth. A similar idea is that of the app Unstash who says "We're not about connecting strangers to make a few dollars, and we're not even about swapping which can become dependent on a coincidence of wants. We exist to facilitate and enhance the sharing experience for community good."

Databases

I found a California government site with a database of recycling centers that can be searched to find one near you or in your zip code. I don't know any technicalities of how to get this free information into my program but the technology is there online. There are also databases for businesses and information on recycling, composting, and reducing waste on the same website. It seems to be the go to for California, it even has the laws currently that affect waste removal/recycling.

Online Community Inspiring Eco-Friendly Creativity / ReUse Connection

To combine upcycling with a community app would be a fun, interactive and crafty way to include people. In this example, ReUse Connection, a program was made to connect people involved in reusing and recycling. It was more of a means of a business posting "what should I do with this paint sludge" and another user responding to send it to Subaru who uses it to make parking bumpers. This company clearly fell through because I can't find any site for them but I

think their concept is a good one. A place for people to help other people do better for the earth. I would add on resources and what was discussed earlier in this research.

Works Cited

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