Design Journey Part 1

Group name: Give Us 100

Members’ names: Vini Tripathii, Ryan Feldman, Tyler Wang, Lu Yang

Members’ NetIDs:ut33 rpf53 tw325 ly298

Section: 213

**Part 1: Client Selection**

**Client Description**

Tell us about your client. Who is your client? What kind of website do they want? What are their key goals?

Our client is seniorcitizenconnection.com, a social platform designed to connect senior citizens and retirees with potential volunteers, donors, and service providers. The website will be made from scratch, and will primarily serve as an online network for seniors/retirees, retirement homes, potential donors, people who want to perform volunteer work for seniors and retirees, and service providers who view seniors as a key market demographics.

Thus, this website will connect Seniors with: i) Volunteers who want to give their time or skills for Seniors, ii) Donors: people and organizations interested in donating resources and money to help Seniors, and iii)Career -- those who want to seek a job or career in working with Seniors/Retirees.

The client needs the website to be very user friendly for the target audience.

**NOTE**: If you are redesigning an existing website, give us the current URL and some screenshots of the current site. Tell us how you plan to update the site in a significant way that meets the final project requirements.

**Target Audience**

Tell us about the potential consumers of this website. How, when, and where would they interact with the website? Get as much detail as possible from the client to help you find representative users. This will make it easier for you to test your site on potential users and to generate useful personas.

Retirement Homes

Community Centers

Local Government and Non Government organizations helping retirees

All Senior Citizens

Retirees

Donors

Volunteers

Skill Based Service Community interested in helping Seniors/Retirees

**Purpose & Content**

Tell us the purpose of the website and what it is all about.

This website’s goal is to serve the unique needs of Senior Citizens and to match their needs with people and volunteer resources.

The primary goal is to act as a listing website where seniors can list their requests/ needs. Volunteers can list their skills and commitments. Volunteers can also describe project ideas to help seniors and solicit potential partners

Donors can browse the requests by seniors and volunteers and also list their commitment level or provide their criteria for helping/donating.

There will be a listing section for jobs (community centers / medical facilities etc)

There will also be a place for service providers to list their services

The stretch goal is to have a matching algorithm that matches the various groups based on their skills and requirements

**Hosting Plan**

Where will the site be hosted?

Independently; the client has the domain seniorcitizenconnection.com

**Needs and Wants**

In this table, collect your client’s and target audience’s needs and wants for the website. Come up with several appropriate design ideas on how those needs may be met. In the Memo column, justify your ideas and add any additional comments you have. There is no specific number of needs required for this, but you need enough to do the job.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Needs and wants**  (What does your client and audience need and want?) | **Design ideas and choices**  (How will you meet those needs and wants?) | **Memo**  (Justify your decisions; Additional notes) |
| Example:  Client wants to cater to people who speak different languages | Example:  Create web-pages manually in multiple languages, **use google translate to auto-translate the site on the fly**. | Example:  Creating multiple pages manually would require manual skills, effort and time that we do not have. Using auto-translate using Google-Translate API is an easier way to go. Plus, we would like to learn the Google Translate API. |
| Client wants to enable two groups of people (seniors and volunteers) to interact on the website | Differentiate user type when record profile information to the database | Differentiation of user types makes it easier for UX design. Ex. The profiles that seniors and retirees want to view will not necessarily correlate with the target audience of companies. |
| Client wants the website to be easy to use and follow | 1. Identical navigation bar for each page; 2. Set up instruction and FAQ page(s)  3. Large font and buttons for easy-accessibility | A navigation bar allows users to identify the page that they are currently on, and allows users to navigate across pages without the need for a back button. This, in conjunction with larger font and buttons, makes the user experience extremely pleasant for our target demographic. |
| Client wants seniors to be able to post their needs and requirements on the website | 1. On user’s individual page, they can list needs which other people can see 2. A common page on which the users can post their needs (similar to Facebook timeline) | Having senior and retiree users post their needs makes it much easier for companies to be matched to them through keyword searches. |
| Ability to search people/posts | The point of the search is to help find people to connect with. Example: Ms.Hudson, a 78 year old lay in Courtland, NY might want someone to read to her on the weekend.The search (which is more of a form than a simple search) could help her connect to a Amy Jones, a high schooler looking for volunteer opportunities.  The search would have certain options to make the matching process more easy. | Searches also helps expedite the process of connecting seniors and retirees to service providers and volunteers. A refined search engine ideally matches users with the most relevant posts. |
| Ability to add/edit/delete posts | Only the creator and administrators should be able to change posts. The coding for this would be similar to the coding for deleting images in P3 | Ideally, we will also implement a like/comment system to make interaction between users more fluid. |
| Ability for donors to make money transfer through paypal and stripe | When clicking on donating money option, takes you to your paypal account | Donors would be much more willing to donate once they know that the money transfer process is secure. This also allows the client to defer liability. |
| Ability to tag something and come back to that item on a later date | When you log in, there is a ‘tagged’ folder that shows tagged posts. Tagging creates a new album of tagged posts, all subsequent tagged posts go into that album | Tagged posts will be unique to the user, and should also have modification functionality. Tagged posts which are deleted should not be removed from the table, but a placeholder should indicate the deletion. |
| Ability to use the site to send messages or connect with others | Utilize existing functions like phpfreechat | Direct messaging will also change based on whether two users are connected. Privacy settings should be toggled in order to allow messaging. |

**Part 2: Project requirements**

**Design**

What design elements should be utilized? Tell us about the design elements you plan to have for the site. Do they fit your client’s needs? Why did you choose to follow (or not to follow) the client’s expectations? If you chose not to accommodate a need, why did you make that decision?

Since one of the primary users of the site are senior citizens, the site should be easy to navigate, with large font and buttons. A common navigation bar will make the site more user friendly -- the user should never have to use the back button. Furthermore, in the case of deleting any posts, or submitting any forms, there will be an interim page that checks whether the user is sure that they want to do a certain action. This interim page should help minimize accidents. There will be a help page for any question, and every page that requires interactivity (a form, etc.) will have a small explanation.

Since this is a connection platform, where A (senior citizens) and B (volunteers, donors, etc.) are offering different things, the signed pages will look slightly different for each group. Thus, certain features that are visible to someone logged in as a volunteer are not their for senior citizens and vice versa. This will prevent unnecessary cluttering and make it easier to use the site. There are two main groups using the site, but it is possible for a person to belong to both groups; a retired financial account could help other senior citizens manage their estates, but because of his arthritis, he may require help buying groceries. Thus, when setting up an account, the user must specify to which group they belong (they can select multiple groups). The user can later on update their status to include other groups.

**Client’s Edits**

Does the client need the ability to edit the site after the end of the semester? If **Yes**, tell us how you site fit your client’s need. If **No**, write down N/A.

Yes. In order to accommodate the client needs, there will be an admin login that allows the client to change the text on any given page, as well as the Title and Header. These edit features will be available only to the client, and available for all the pages in the website, including button names. To make it easy for the user, a form that looks like the page will be created; the client can then edit the text on the page, and submit it. If submitted, the page is updated with revisions.

**Information Architecture, Content, and Navigation**

Lay out the plan for how you’ll organize the site and which content will go where. Note any content (e.g., text, image) that you need to make/get from the client.

**Note**: As with the Needs and Wants table, there is no specific amount to write here. You simply need enough content to do the job.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Main navigation**  (List your site’s navigation here) | **Sub category**  ( List any sub categories of under the main navigation) | **Content**  (List all the content corresponding to main navigation and sub categories) |
| Home Page | * Create Account * Log In * Volunteer * Donors * Career * Service Providers | Create Account: Redirects to Account Management page; accounts will vary depending on status of user (senior/retiree, donor, volunteer, service provider).  Log In: Redirects to login page for users who are already registered in the database.  Donors: Redirects to a list of relevant donors.  Career: Redirects to a list of people who are not just volunteers, but work with senior citizens  Service Providers :Redirects to a list of companies who provide services for seniors/retirees. |
| Account Management Page (Create Account) | * Login/Logout * Create new account | 4 types of accounts will be available for:   * Senior citizens and retirees * Volunteers looking to help seniors and retirees * Donors who contribute to funding for services * Service providers whose key demographic are seniors and retirees |
| Volunteer Page | * Seniors/Retirees | Seniors/Retirees: a list of seniors/retirees who seek assistance from the website.  Clicking on individual seniors/retirees allows the volunteer to view the profile of the senior/retiree. |
| Donor Page | * Service Providers * Donate Button | Service Providers: Allows donors to check profiles of service providers they would like to donate to in particular.  Donate button: Allows donors to donate through Paypal. |
| Career Page | * Search (same page) | List of profiles of people who want to work with senior citizens, i.e. live in caretakers  Search option |
| Service Providers Page | * Search (same page) | Service providers -- list of companies that specialize in helping senior citizens  Search option |
| User Profile Page | * User information (name, photo, address, etc.) * User posts * Tagged posts * Donation Record | User information (name, photo, address, etc.): Display individual user’s profile  User posts: List posts published by the user  Tagged posts: Allow users who sign in to see the posts they save;  Donation record: Show users their personal donation history, including the donations they make/receive |
| Posts Page | * Post details * Search/Filter forms * Delete/Modify forms | Post details: Similar format to Facebook. Any user can make posts, and other users can comment and indicate support through likes or shares.  Search forms: Similar format to Facebook. Allows users to search for specific posts, people, companies, as well as groups.  Delete/modify forms: Users have the option of deleting and modifying previous posts. |
| Instructions/FAQs Page) | * FAQs list * Contact information | FAQs list: list problems and answers  Contact information: ways to contact the website manager |

**Interactivity**

What interactive features will your site have? What PHP elements will you include?

Much of this is up to you, however, implementing a login system is ***required***. Logging in should not be required to view the site, however it must unlock extra functionality, e.g., admin functionality, comment posting, etc.

Also, describe how the interactivity connects with the needs of the client's/target audience.

Excluding the login system, there are three main interactive features. Firstly is the ability to ‘post.’ This includes posting requests for a particular type of assistance or questions. The second is the ability to search; for an example, searching for volunteers in a particular zip code. The third is the ability to click on, or accept certain posts. Overall, the format is similar to that of eBay. On eBay, a seller posts information about the item; analogously, here seniors citizens can post requests. A volunteer/donor/senior citizen specialized career person can search through and click on these requests, which will initiate a chat form. Likewise, a volunteer can make a ‘post’ about their availability, and senior citizens can search through the available volunteers and select one. The code for making a post is similar to that of uploading new information for an album, like in project 3. Considering that our main user demographic consists of senior citizens and retirees, the addition of a tag option also allows users to “save” their searches to be revisited. The implementation of these functionalities involves the use of GET, HTML forms, and SQL.

**Use of Existing Libraries**

What libraries (e.g. editor.js, jQuery Cookie, Image Sliders, jQuery) are you planning to use for the site? What do you have to do to incorporate those libraries? How much of your own code will satisfy the project requirements?

We will import jQuery for part of website functionality. We’ll use our own code for most functions/schema/design of the website.

**Database**

How will you use a database to improve the functionality of the website? Describe a possible schema that could meet your client’s needs.

A database can be used to store information regarding users. **Users** would be a table which contains uniquely assigned ids, which can then be referenced in other **Posts**, **Groups**, and **Services** tables to check posts made by the user, groups that the user is a part of, and services which the user is participating in. We will use database to store the the following information:

1. The account information of users (seniors and volunteers)

2. Posts of users/volunteers

3. Records for the connection between users

4. Posts tagged by individual user

5. Records for donation

Table 1. users(userID, userType, userName, password, gender, age, address, coverPhotoPath, dateCreated, email, phone)

This table contains the profile information of the users. There are four kinds of “userType”: 1. Volunteer 2. Senior 3. Service Provider 4. Donors

Table 2. posts(postID, userID, userType, postContent, postDateCreated, postDateModified, respondedOrNot)

This table records the posts of each user. The information stored in this table can be used to display the needs/offers of users.

Table 3. donation(donationID, donatorID, receiverID, anonymousOrNot, note, amount, dateDonated)

This table lists each donation made on the website. Users can view the details of donations they make/receive on their profile page.

Table 4. tag(tagID, postID, userID)

This table collect all the posts saved by individual users

**Scale**

How large will the site be (approximate number of pages) and how many hours of work will be required to complete it?

There are in total eight pages (Home Page; Career Page; Volunteer Page; Donor Page; Service Provider Page; User Profile Page; Post Page; Account Management Page(login, create account, etc.); Instructions/FAQs Page) and the work time is estimated to be 80 hours.

**Part 3: Work Distribution**

Describe how each of your responsibilities will be distributed among your group members.

Who will be responsible for backing up other members should someone fail to meet a deadline? How will you communicate with each other? What are your expectations for communication? How will you share your design documents and ensure that no one disrupts each other’s code? How will you manage deadlines? How you would keep track of task completion and the progress within your group?

If you will be using any tools for scheduling, sharing documents, managing tasks, etc., make sure you describe them here. This is also a good time to identify challenges (like who will be unavailable due to religious holidays or sports events), and how you will manage these challenges. Keep updating this on a regular basis for your own benefit.

If you are not tracking tasks (calendars, shared to-do lists, bug trackers or gantt charts, etc.), you might want to use the basic task tracking table shown below.

Set internal deadlines. Whose task needs to be completed first in order for another person’s task to be relevant? Be specific in your task descriptions so that everyone knows what needs to be done and can track the progress effectively. Consider how much time will be needed to review and integrate each other’s work. Most of all, make sure that tasks are balanced across the team.

**Note:** Again, you want the right number of items for the job. The table should have enough information such that each team member understands what is expected of them and by when.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Team Member Names and roles** | **Due Date** | **Status** |
| Mainly responsible for DB | Lu: DB leader; Vini: backup | 4/21 | In Progress |
| Mainly responsible for CSS | Lu: CSS leader; Vini: backup, Tyler | 4/28 | In Progress |
| Mainly responsible for making account | Vini: leader; Lu: backup | 4/28 | In Progres |
| Mainly responsible for the logins (there are several types) | Vini: leader; Lu: backup | 4/28 | In Progres |
| Mainly responsible for profile pages | Ryan, Tyler | 4/28 | In Progres |
| Mainly responsible for search/match | Vini: leader; Lu: backup | 4/28 | In Progres |
| Mainly responsible for way of editing posts for users | Ryan | 4/28 | In Progres |
| Mainly responsible for managing team operations and communication | Tyler | Ongoing | In Progres |
| Mainly responsible for optimizing user experience through testing iterations with client and potential users | Tyler | Window for UX optimization is open until project due date | In Progress |
| Mainly responsible for ensuring that the client can still make necessary edits to the website once the project is finished | Tyler | After meeting with client for initial feedback | In Progress |

**Part 4: Additional Comments**

If you feel like you haven’t fully explained your design choices, or if you want to explain some other functions in your site (such as special design decisions that might not meet the final project requirements), you can use this space to justify your design choices or ask other questions about the project and process.