

SCROLL TO BROWSE PROJECTS  
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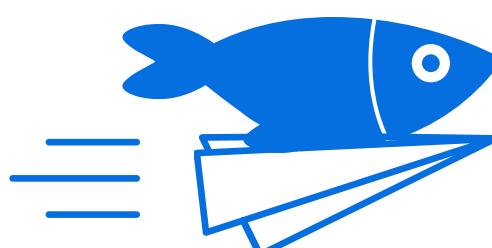
# YupGup

## friendly misc web makers

YupGup is the creative home to **Joni Trythall** and **Michael Trythall**.



This is our portfolio of past client work. We specialize in **brand and marketing design** and custom development for tech startups and developers.



### Joni Trythall

#### CAPTAIN & DESIGN LEAD

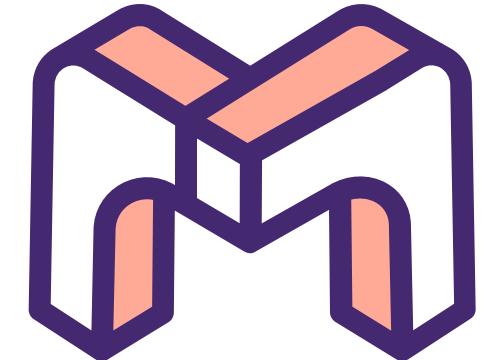
Joni is an author, teacher, brand designer, and former nonprofit administrator. She is passionate about community building and uses her design chops to engage and create change. For years Joni worked to diversify tech leadership through Ela Conf, a conference she co-founded in 2015. She collects animal shaped coffee mugs, raises butterflies, and is the creative powerhouse behind YupGup.



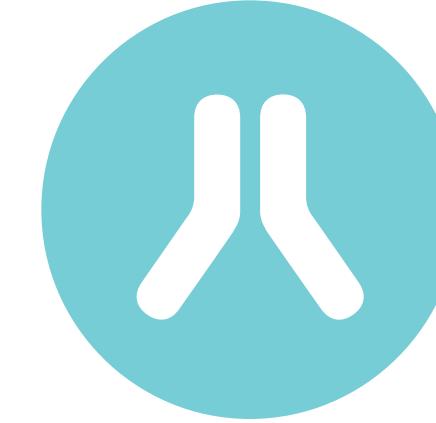
### Michael Trythall

#### UX & DEVELOPMENT

With a twinkle in his eye and clutching a trapper keeper full of dreams, Michael joined his middle school computer club in 1996. His first task was maintaining the school's HTML 2 (!!) website. Since then he's gone on to design and build countless applications, websites, brochures, logos, you-name-its for small, regional, and international brands. He believes in the open web, builds rad LEGO spaceships, and is easily persuaded with cookies.



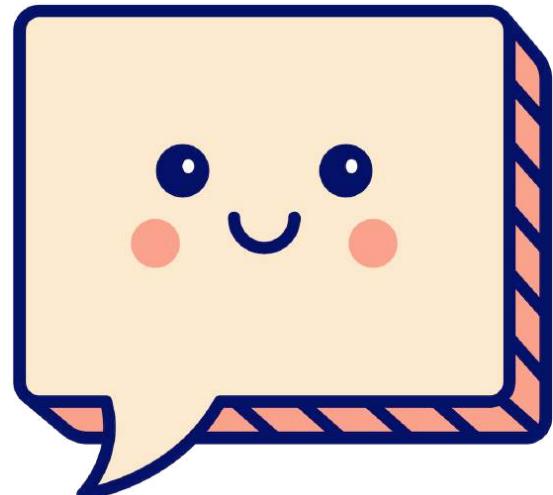
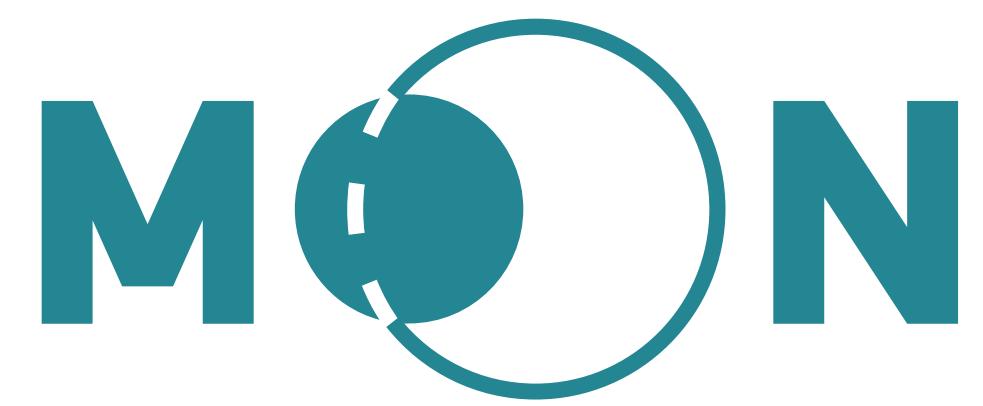
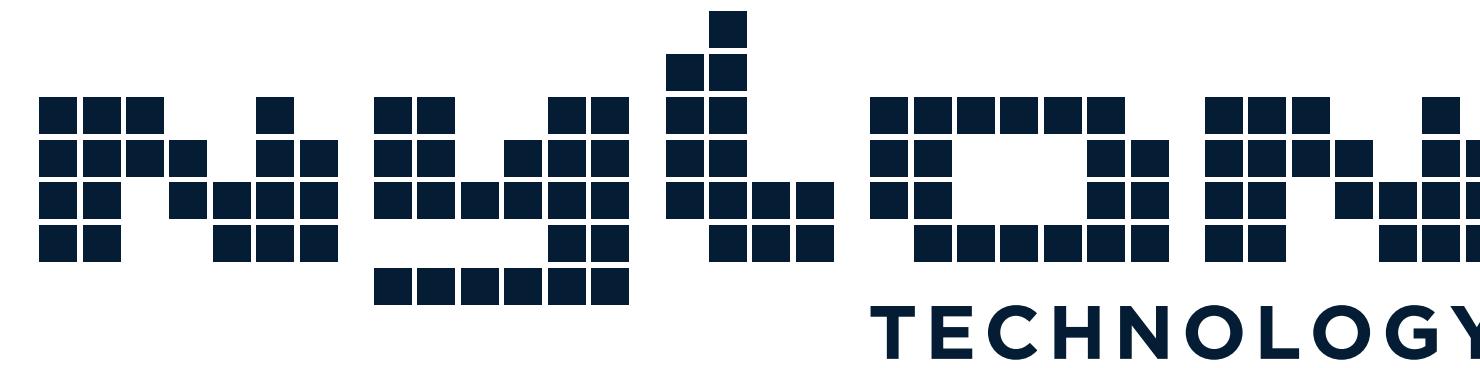
markee



lincoln  
loop

MANAGER  
WEEKLIES

2023  
**djangocon.us**  
DURHAM

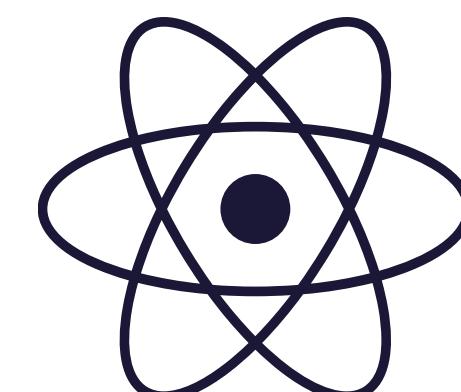


**Soft Skills**  
ENGINEERING

 StepZen

HIGHWAY

 **React**  
Rally //



**REACT**  
CONF 2019

 **React**  
RALLY

01

## DjangoCon US 2023

[View on web ↗](#)

We couldn't exactly choose which single element of this incredible city to focus on, so we decided on a curious lemur—the fan favorite.

After hearing all about Durham on our kick-off calls, it became clear that the Duke Lemur Center was beloved by the group. While this community adores mascots, we also wanted to touch on other aspects of the city such as the downtown area, certain buildings in the tobacco district, and the bull statue.

Conferences like DjangoCon require a full-spectrum of design work, including branding, digital marketing assets, extensive print needs, sponsor materials, and front-end development—we are so happy to be their partner. The design has received enthusiasm and praise, with attendees expressing that it has made them more anxious to visit Durham itself.




02

## Nylon Technology

2023

[View on web ↗](#)

The main challenge of this project was speaking to several audiences at once and not drowning out their client work with a loud visual design.

The kind folks at Nylon Technology, a group of experienced software developers, came to us needing a new portfolio. Their previous site felt dated and didn't properly speak to their services and value. The team also had decades worth of impressive work that no one knew about due to the absence of case studies and visuals.

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03

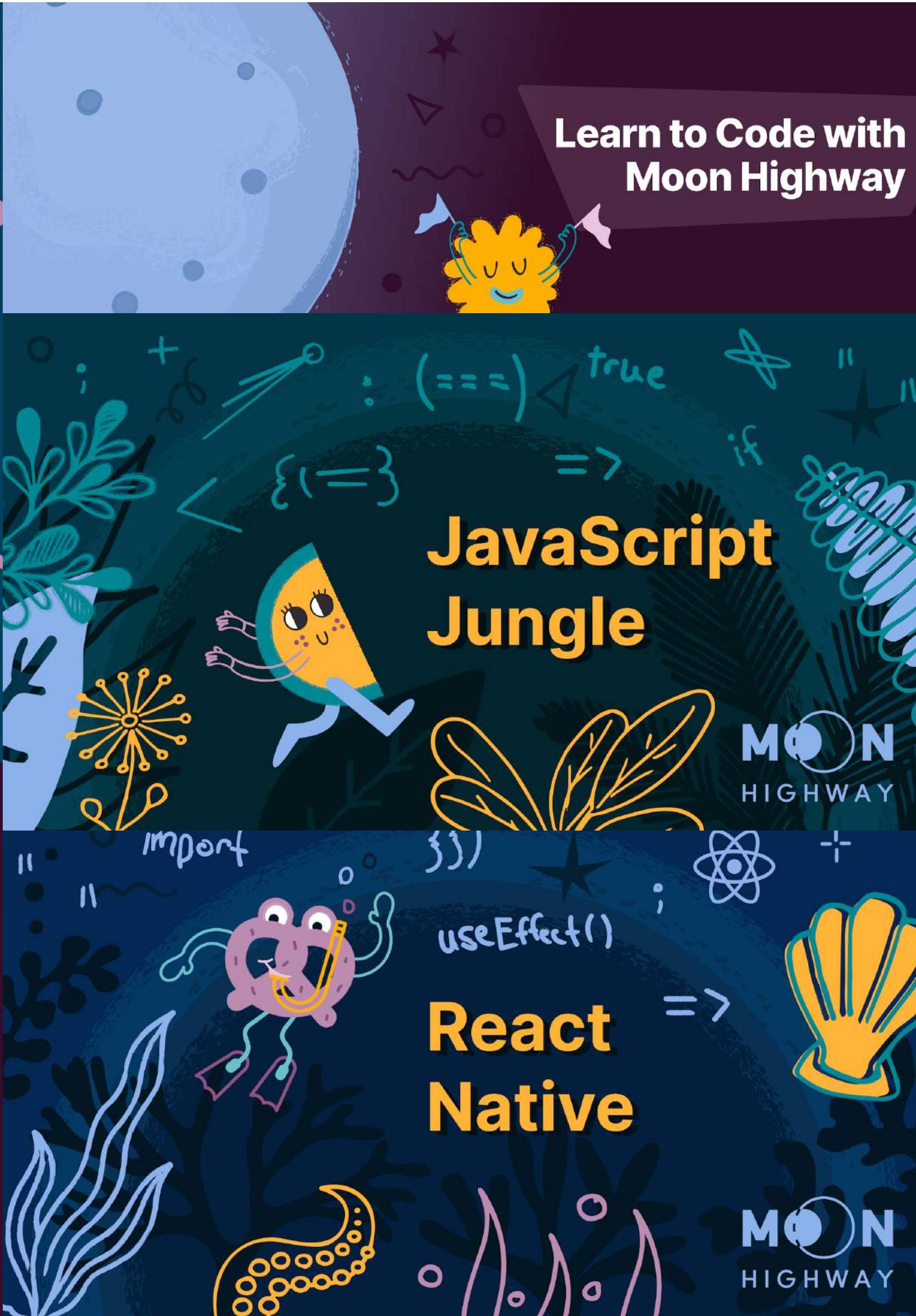
## Moon Highway

2022  
View on web ↗

What a dream to be told nothing is too weird and that there are no creative restrictions for a project. PLUS, getting to create little moon ecosystems—doesn't get better than this.

Eve and Alex needed a new visual identity that better reflected their personalities and connected with their audience on a fun, personable (and weird!) level. They had a strong existing logo, but lacked just the right color palette, typography, and supportive graphic elements to round out and enrich the brand identity experience.

Character design was a requirement going into the project, though there were no specifics beyond that. Where we landed fully leans into this no boundaries approach to the project. Should they be fruit? Sure! Vegetables? Sure! Random objects? Yes, definitely!



04

## Manager Weeklies

2021

[View on web ↗](#)

**MANAGER WEEKLIES**

**MANAGER WEEKLIES**



It was essential that the Manager Weeklies brand capture Jen's personality—this product is her in notebook form!

Manager Weeklies are a Plucky product by Jen Dary. Jen had created several working prototypes of these weekly guides for managers and came to us ready for it to officially come to life through design. We focused on a bold brand identity and layout that's optimized for writing, doodling, and brainstorming. The visual direction pairs well with the content that is intuitive and transparent.

We were inspired by Plucky's use of rough Sharpie writings to communicate on a personal level. Jen often publishes her Post-Its and writes personalized notes on outgoing packages. It's brilliant, simple, and fun. Manager Weeklies needed to embody this.

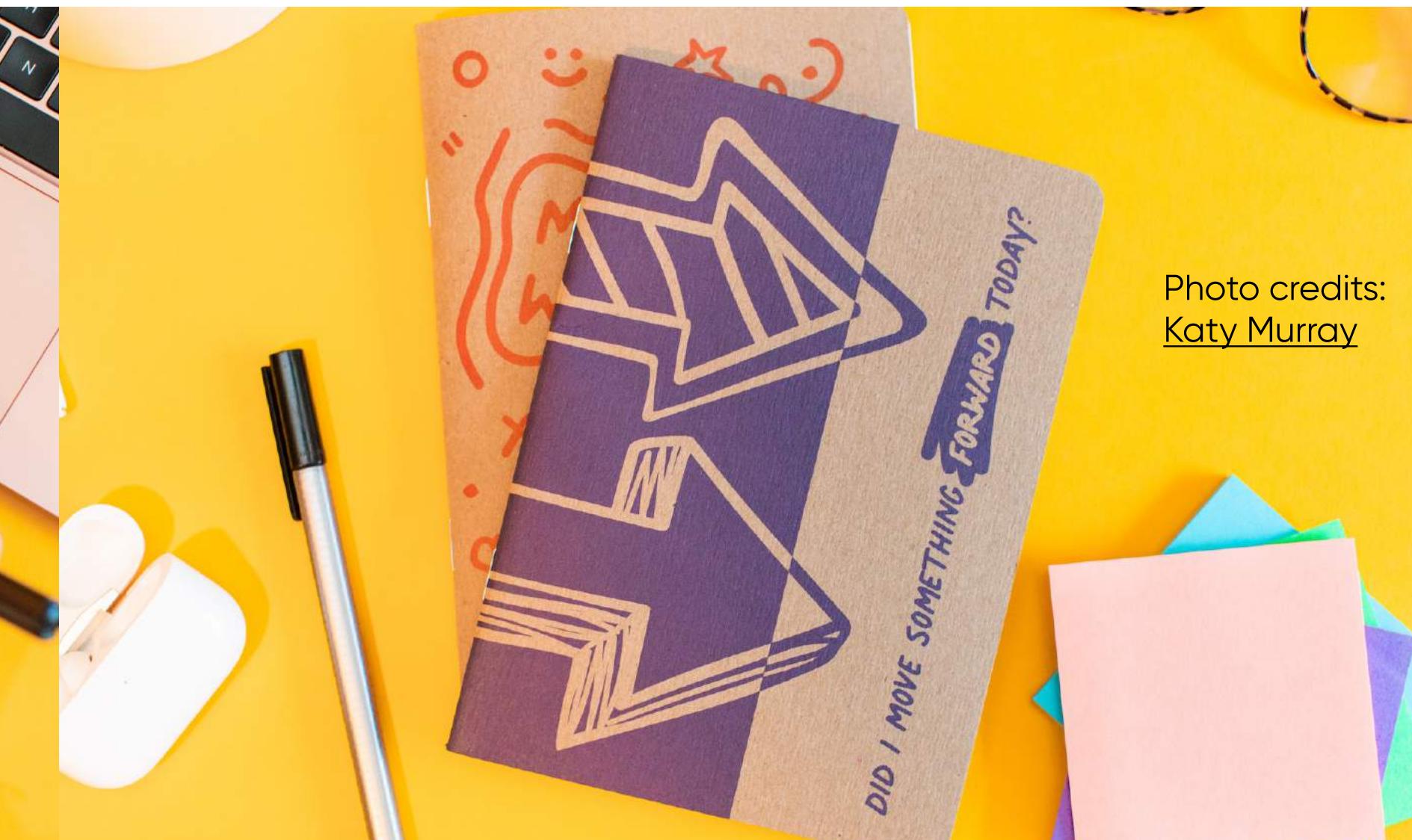


Photo credits:  
Katy Murray

05

## StepZen

2020-2023

[View on web ↗](#)

WHITEPAPER


**StepZen**

**A NEW APPROACH TO  
GRAPHQL FEDERATION**

A fresh new look and site for a startup of ex-Googlers. The main challenge of this project was hitting a look, feel, and tone that was bold and technical, yet still soft and approachable.

It was clear after initial sketches that there was something special about the flow of an S and Z together, creating a space of endless opportunities to explore, pitch, and iterate upon. In the end, we narrowed in on the symbol that was softer and less busy than initial sketches.

Through a journey of unused icons, we were able to evolve from a more nature approach to possibility speak to a "zen" experience and to dots to convey movement, before exploring and deciding on manipulating code brackets to depict the shapes of an S and Z.

## Declaratively build GraphQL APIs from backend building blocks

The quickest way to get started is to autogenerate your schemas and resolvers. Specify an existing data source using the `stepzen import curl https://... -H "..."`

### REST Endpoints

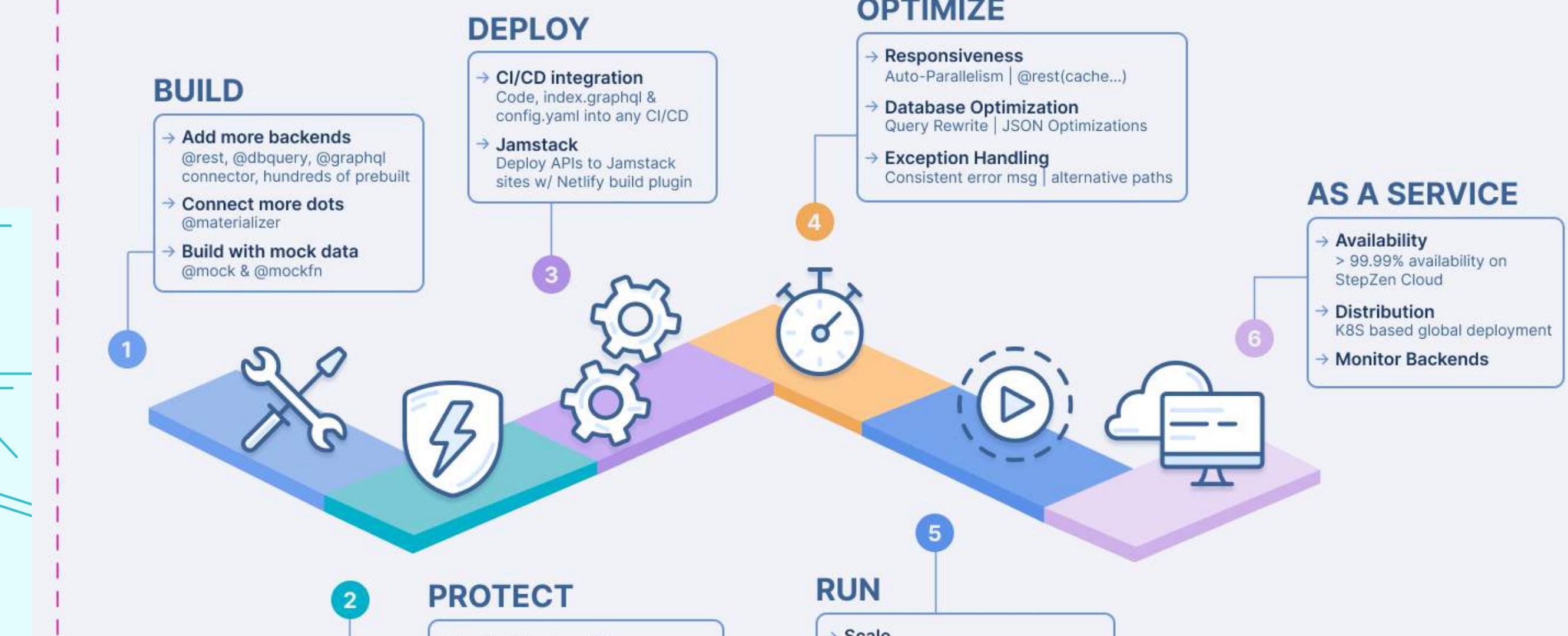
```
stepzen import curl https://... -H "..."
```

### Databases

```
stepzen import database
```

### GraphQL Endpoints

```
stepzen import graphql
```



06

## React Rally

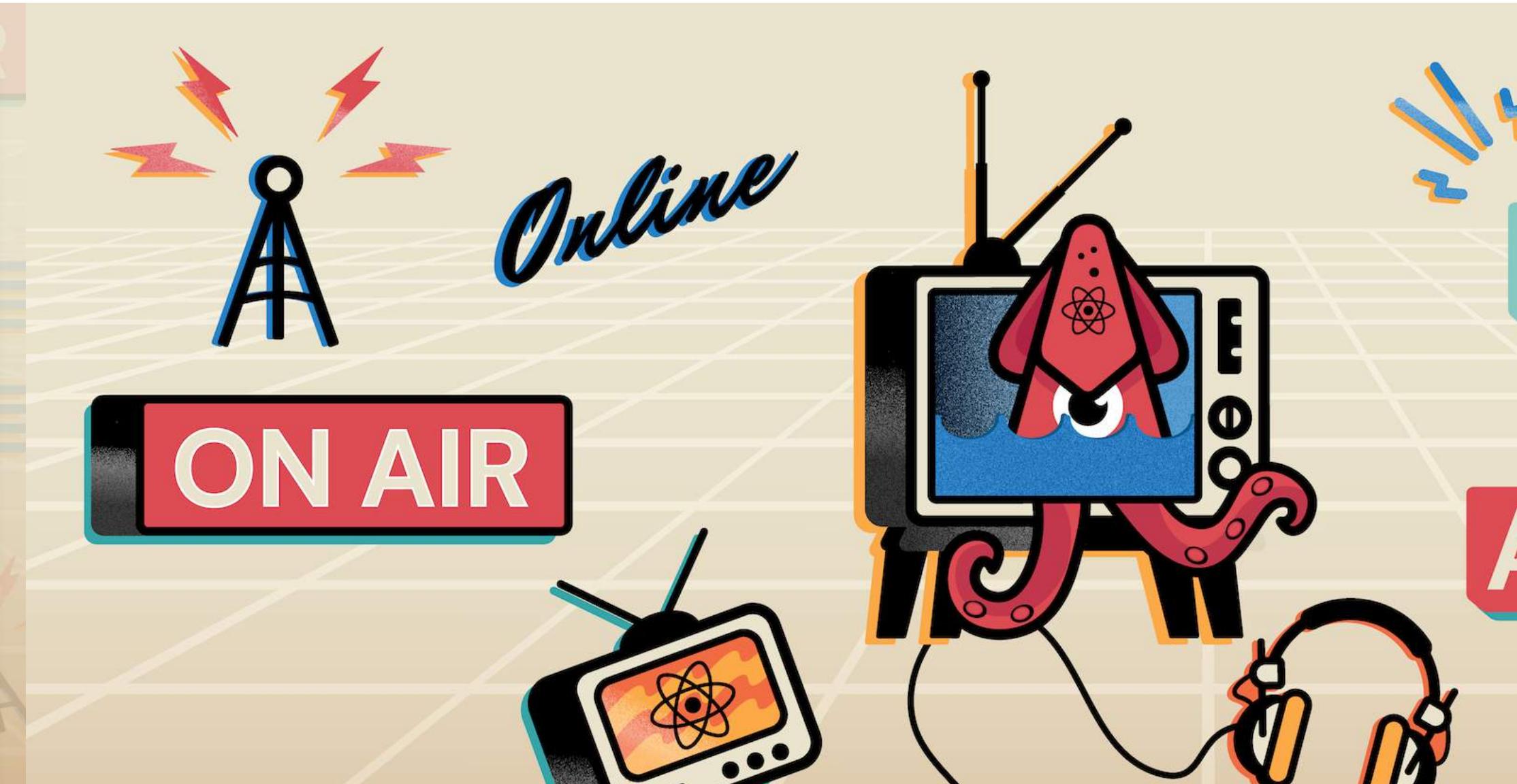
2020

[View on web ↗](#)

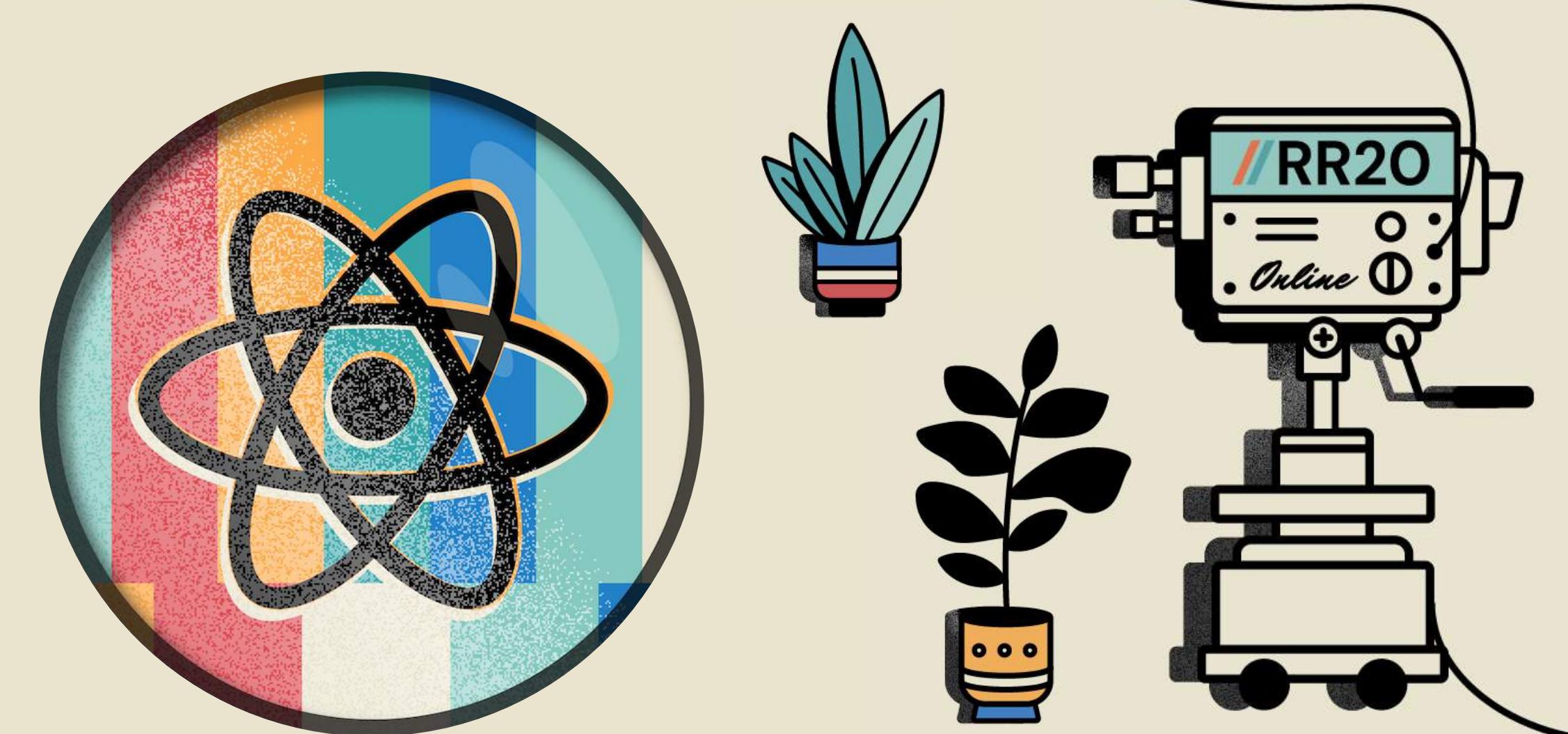
A logo and palette inspired by old PBS designs while leaving room for a widely celebrated deep sea mascot.

We pitched two potential directions. One was very 80s, wordart-y, and surreal. The other one, which was chosen, was more inspired by old PBS designs and the comforting retro feel of old TVs and community center shows. The mascot needs to be recreated each year to match the updated theme and these TVs presented a unique opportunity.

Significant identity elements were created, such as the color, palette, avatar, social banners, hero illustration, and t-shirt design. From there, individual design assets were prepared so that the team could carry the theme through all other materials like slide decks, video covers, and speaker announcements.



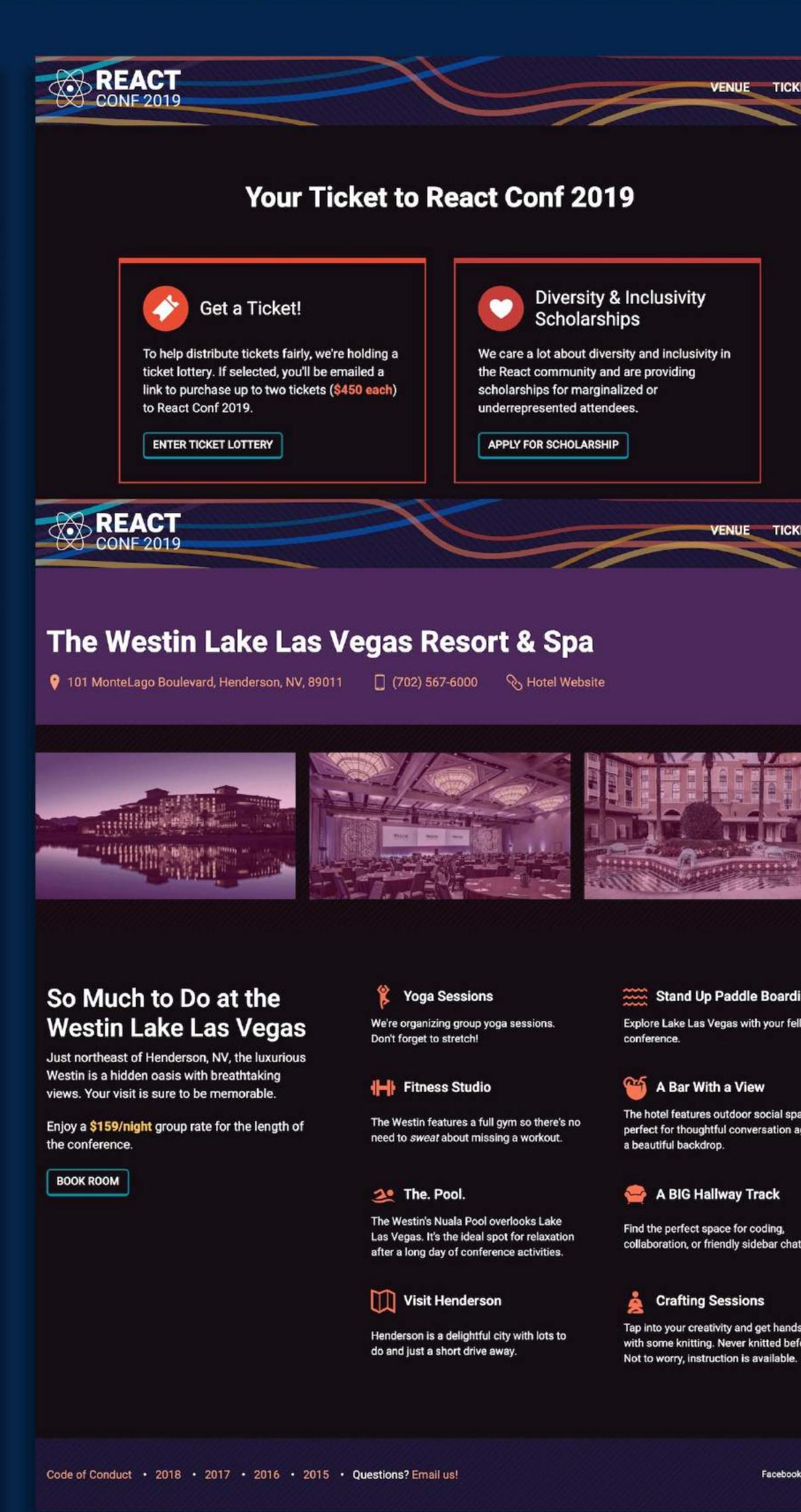
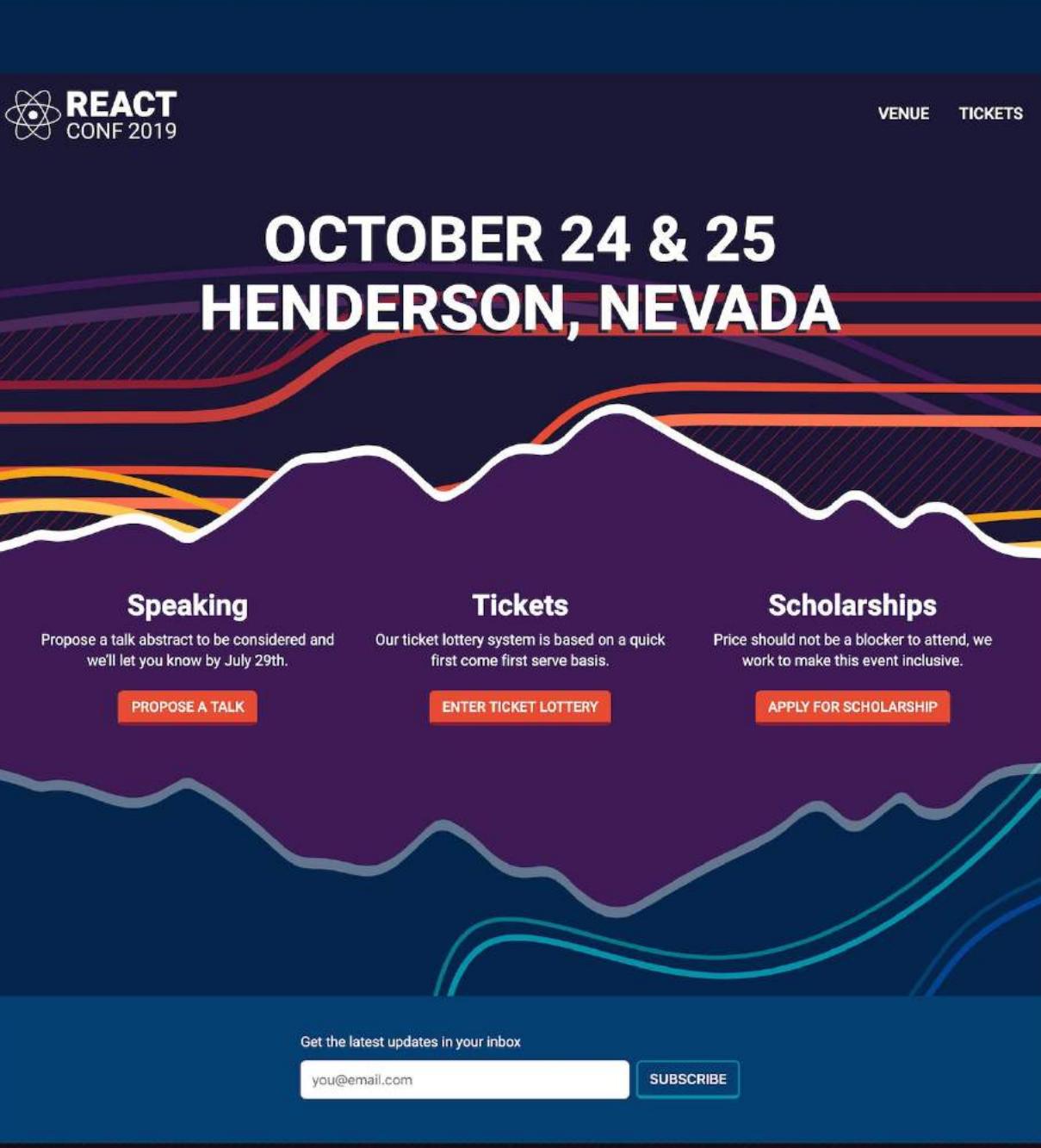
**ALL ACCESS  
ONLINE  
AUGUST 2020**



## React Conf

2019

[View on web ↗](#)



We teamed up with the organizers of React Conf for a second year in a row to complete the branding, site design/development, swag, and graphic design for the event. From banners to t-shirts to speaker slide decks this was an all inclusive project for us.

It was important that the design commit to a darker color palette while also feeling warm and inviting and cohesive with the previous year's mountain theme. We would be hard pressed to think of a more unique event location than Lake Las Vegas, and the visual design inspired by this was chosen after pitching five initial concepts.



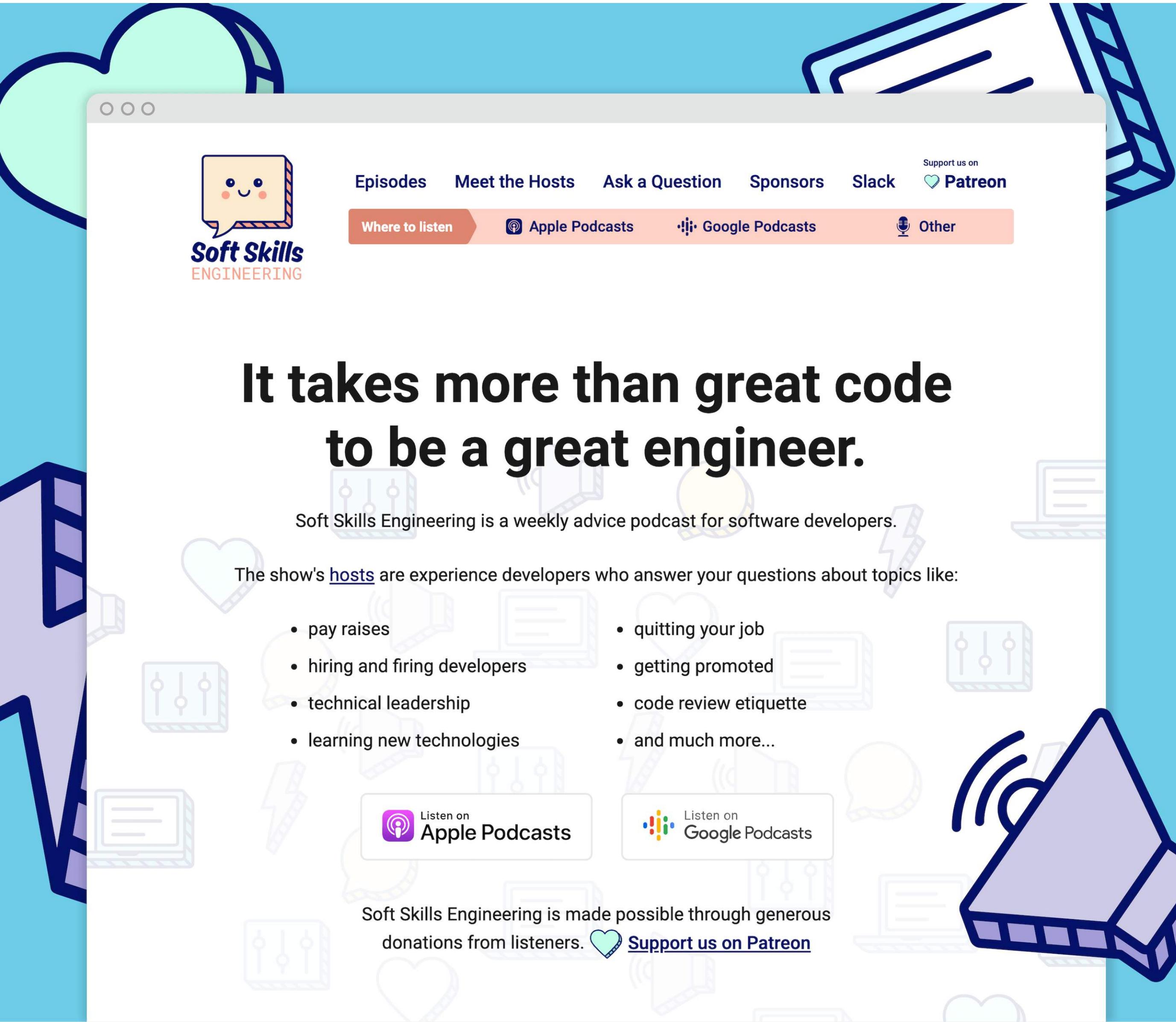
## Soft Skills Engineering

2019  
[View on web ↗](#)

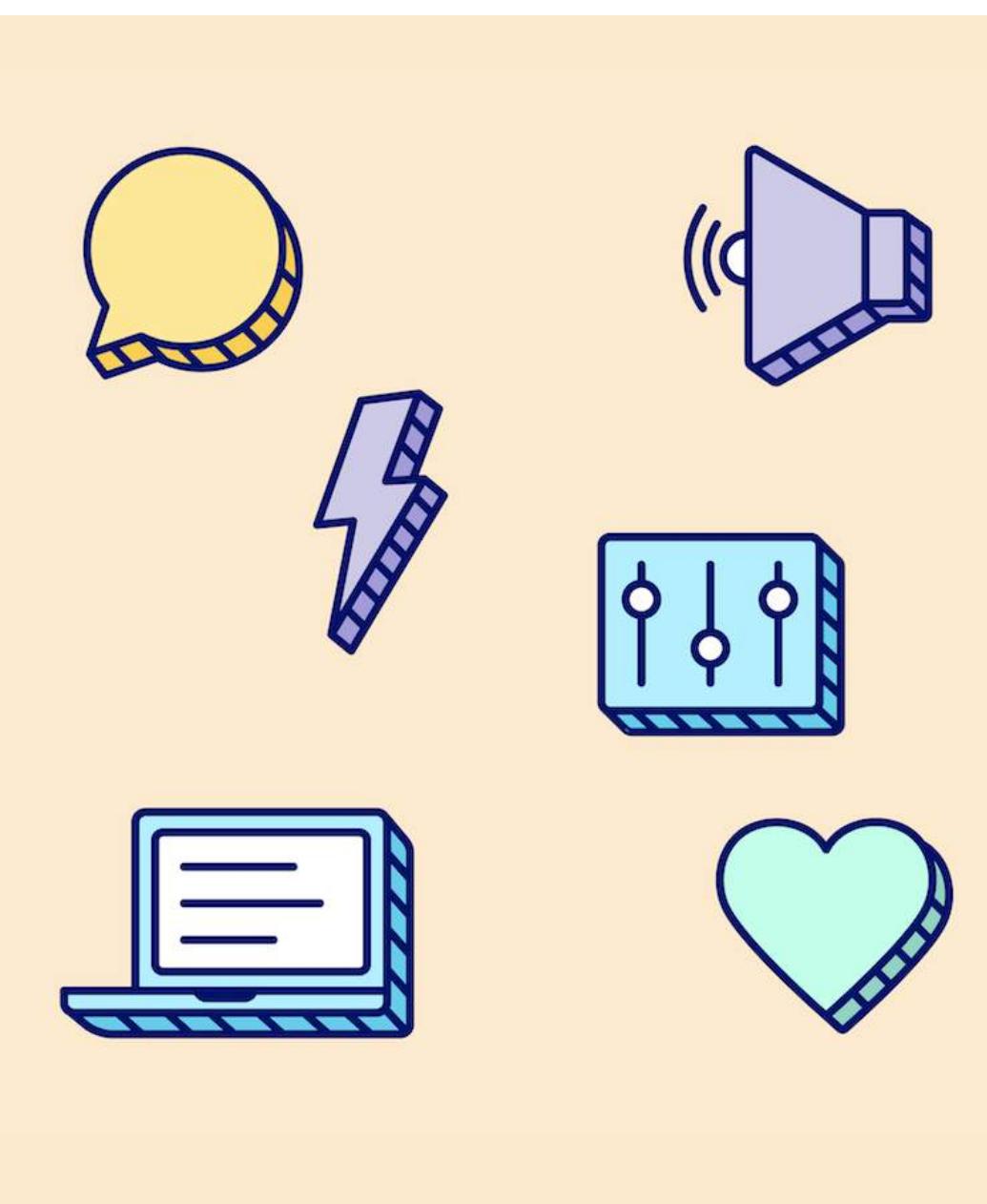
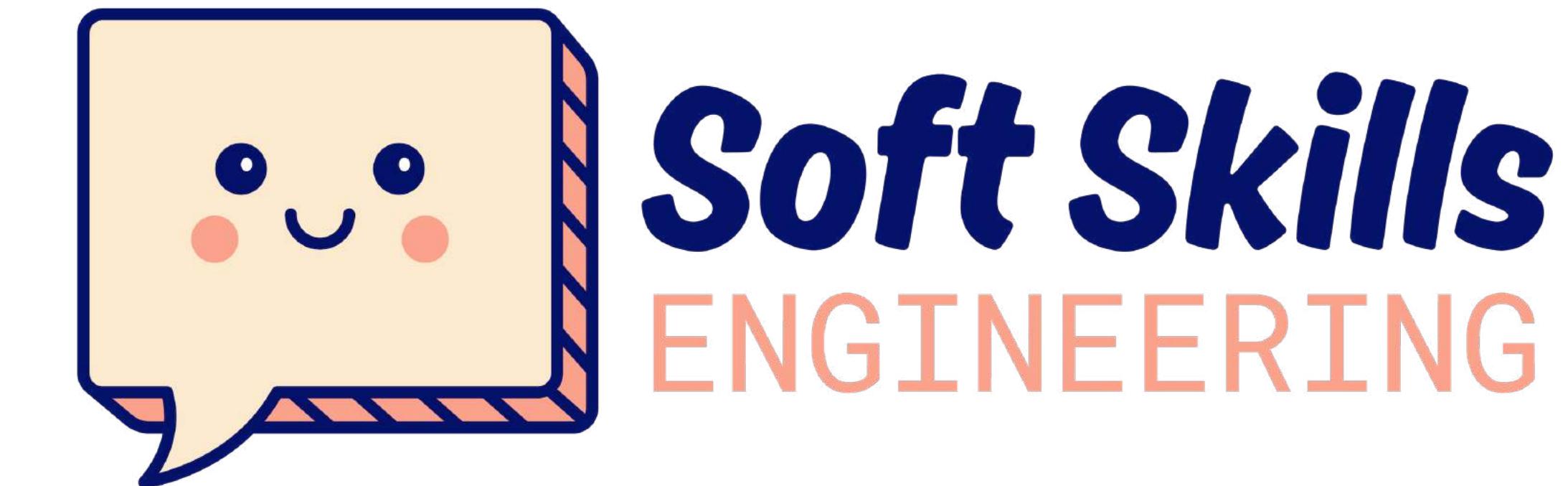
While this podcast is for tech folks it's not about the technology, which allowed for interesting exploration into visual representations of "soft skills".

It takes more than great code to be a great engineer, and that's what the Soft Skills Engineering podcast is all about. After our initial pre-design questions and research we developed a true sense of what sets this podcast apart from the others: the hosts are very personable and humble, working hard to make sure guests are comfortable.

The common element across all picked concepts was the use of a softer color palette, contrasting what can typically be seen in this space. In the end the chosen concept fell somewhere in the middle, capturing the conversation element of soft skills in a fun, lighthearted way. The brand speaks to the spirit of the hosts, the feedback of the listeners, and the overall tone of comfort and friendliness.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Soft Skills Engineering website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Episodes, Meet the Hosts, Ask a Question, Sponsors, Slack, and Support us on Patreon. Below the navigation is a section titled "Where to listen" with links for Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Other. The main headline reads "It takes more than great code to be a great engineer." Below the headline, a sub-headline states "Soft Skills Engineering is a weekly advice podcast for software developers." A list of topics the hosts answer includes pay raises, hiring and firing developers, technical leadership, learning new technologies, quitting your job, getting promoted, code review etiquette, and much more. At the bottom, there are links to listen on Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts, and a note about donations from listeners.



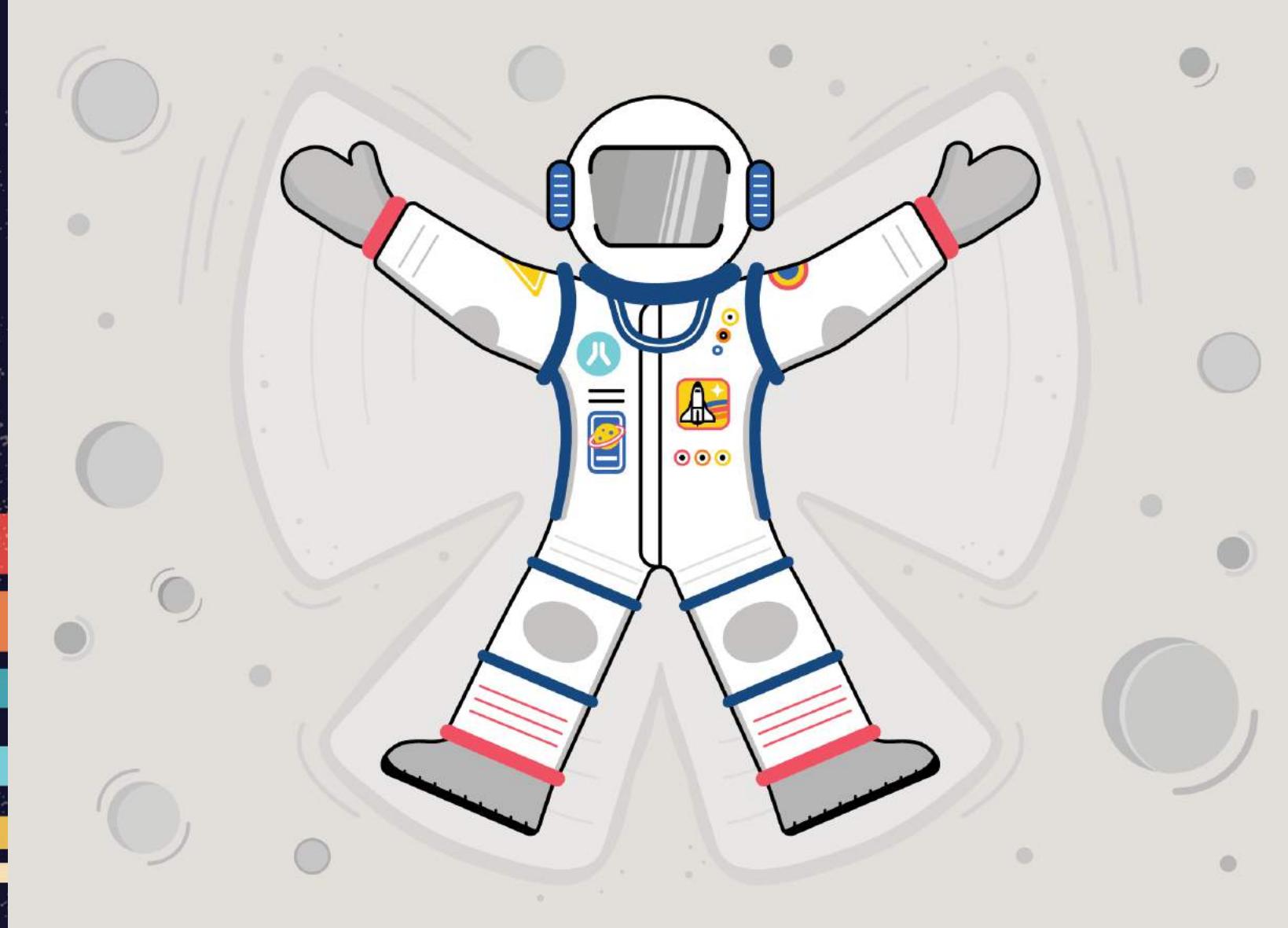
## Lincoln Loop Marketing

2014-2022

There is endless potential while working within the space theme. We wanted to make items that stood out amongst a sea of swag at conferences and cards that clients actually want to keep.

As frequent conference goers the Lincoln Loop team is also often in need of swag, stickers, notebooks, custom slide decks, and promotional flyers. We even put together a custom coloring book to be distributed to kids (and adults!) at PyCon in 2017.

The space theme has been a consistent and enjoyable constraint within most of these designs, but occasionally the team is looking to promote their own products as well.



## Testimonials

Nice things said by nice people

**“**We had a daunting task to rebrand our organization and develop new digital and print materials as well. Joni and the team at YupGup were amazing to work with! She took the whole project and broke it down for us into easily managed pieces that she guided us through.

She truly listened to our ideas and requirements and her creativity with both the design and implementation was impressive. Her ability to allow us flexibility while still keeping us on target was so refreshing. On top of everything else, she kept this project going even when we were hit with a pandemic!

Joni and her team are incredibly organized and created a home base we could access at any time to see where we were in the process, check on task progress, and share elements with our board of directors. Through it all, she kept a positive, fun attitude that kept us all excited and motivated throughout the process.

In a nutshell, Joni made a difficult task easy for us, made the experience enjoyable, and delivered truly extraordinary content that exceeded our expectations.

**–Paige Baione, former Embrace Executive Director**



**“**I got the impression that YupGup understood my target audience better than I did. Joni went above and beyond to create a brand that my customers love.

**–Jesse Shawl, Founder of UpDog**



**“**Working with YupGup was a joy. We worked together on two different projects with much different scope, budget, and audiences. In both cases, they took great care in understanding the feeling we were trying to communicate. We couldn't be happier with the work they produced.

**–Jamison Dance, React Conf Organizer  
Soft Skills Engineering Host**



**“**I've had a great experience working with Joni and Michael. Their excellent design and code skills are a perfect combination. They were easy to work with and knowledgeable every step of the way and I am very happy with the result!

**–Katherine Michel, DjangoCon US Website Chair**



**“**Joni has collaborated with the DjangoCon US team going on four years. She is meticulous, is a gifted designer, has a keen design eye, and her organizational and art direction skills are better than anyone I have ever worked with in my twenty-plus years in the industry.

**–Jeff Triplett, partner at REVSYs**

hello@yupgup.com

