



Strategic Planning for iLAB Revitalization

The iLAB team, Student Innovation Idea Labs, Office of Academic Innovation



Summary:

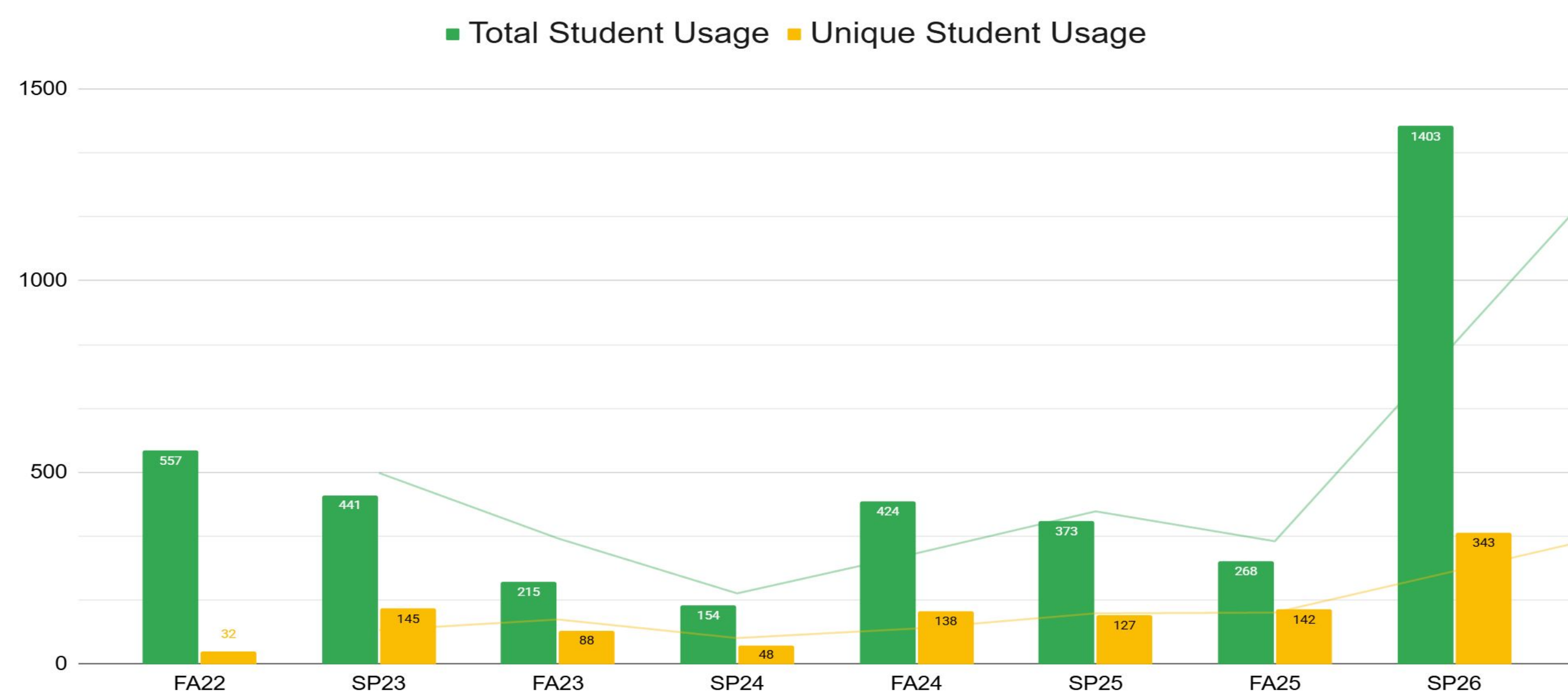
In past years there has been a notable under-utilization of the iLab, despite it being the original space. Strategic, student-centered planning was devised last Winter and implemented this Spring to great success! **Unique student count has more than doubled and overall usage nearly tripled any semester post-Covid** (fig 1). Notable action items include:

- Reorganizing Front Desk and overall space for Human Use (fig. 2)
- Catering stations that reflect local users (fig 3.)
- Cultivate interest through experimentive stations and innovation (fig 4.)
- Displaying student creativity as art and history (fig 6.)
- Collaborating with a diverse range of Clubs and Projects

Examples of these five details can be found to the left, Slugs, behalf of the iLab can be found below (fig. 7) **Please take one!** :)

User Data (fig 1.)

iLab Student Usage since COVID (From sign-in data)



Note: Data does not reflect non-sign in users and should only be viewed as an **estimated minimum** of space usage, for all semesters.

Notable Career Competencies

Critical Thinking:

Much of the action items were strategized over winter, based on years of observation and critical thought, to be implemented long-term

Equity and Inclusion:

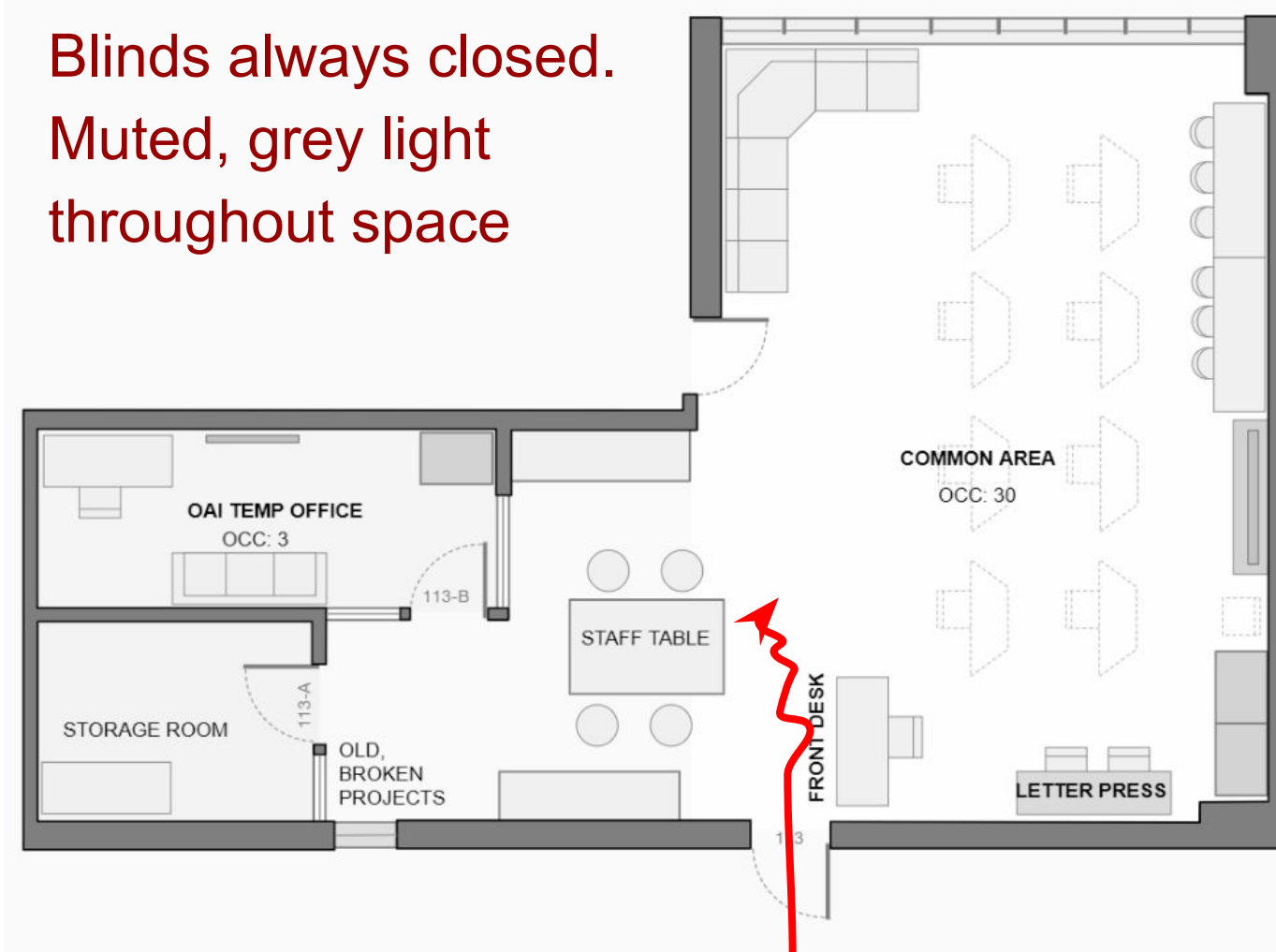
Nearly all decisions came from the question "how do we make this a place students of diverse backgrounds *look forward* to being at

Leadership:

Everything was made possible by the work of the entire SIIL team. Clear goal setting, strategic delegation, and positive attitudes made progress efficient.

Spacial Re-organization for Humans (fig. 2)

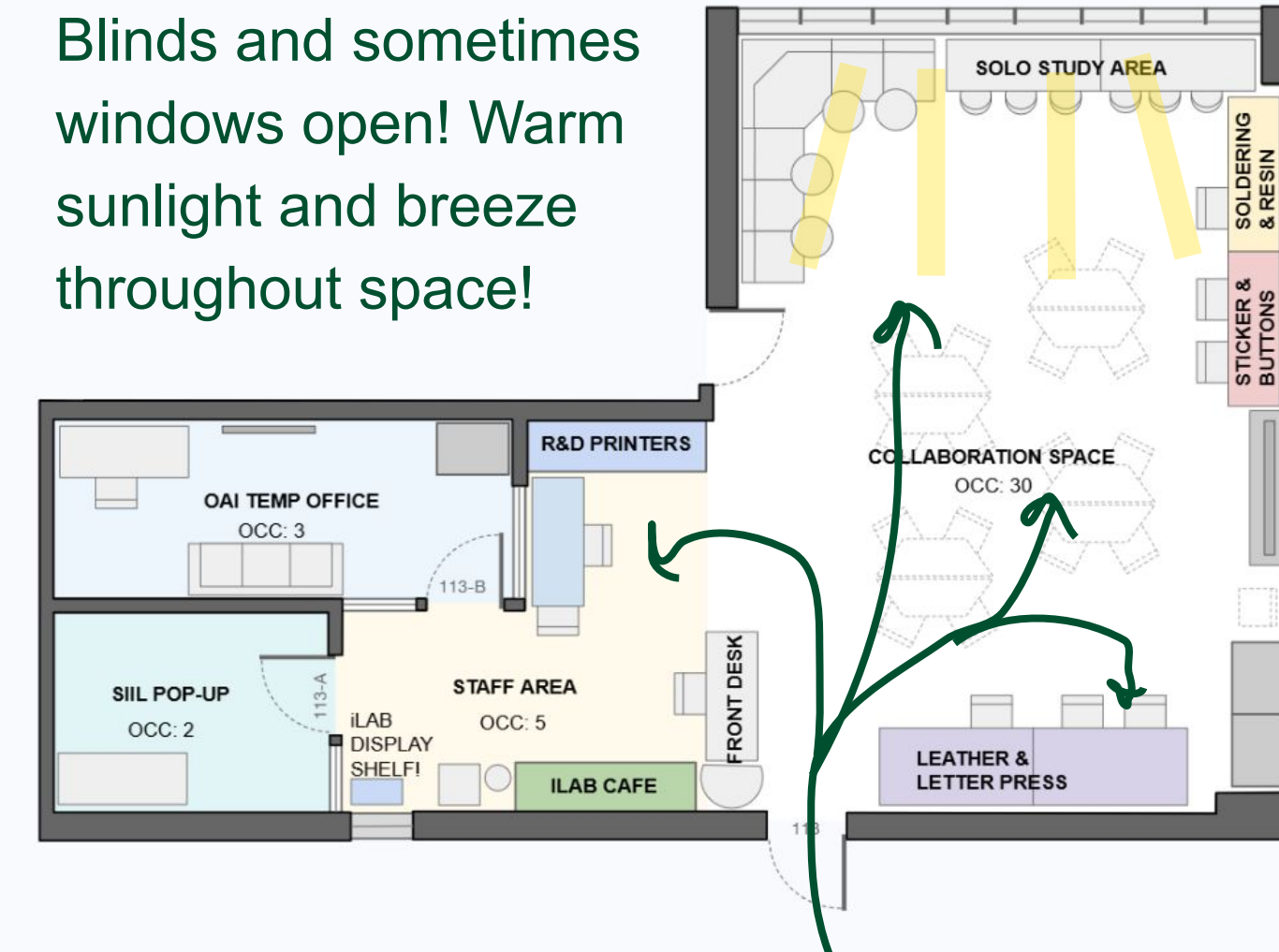
Blinds always closed. Muted, grey light throughout space



"corridor" created. Seeing a desk first makes anxious students feel space is "restricted" and creates an atmosphere of regulation, rather than creativity.

Before (FA25)

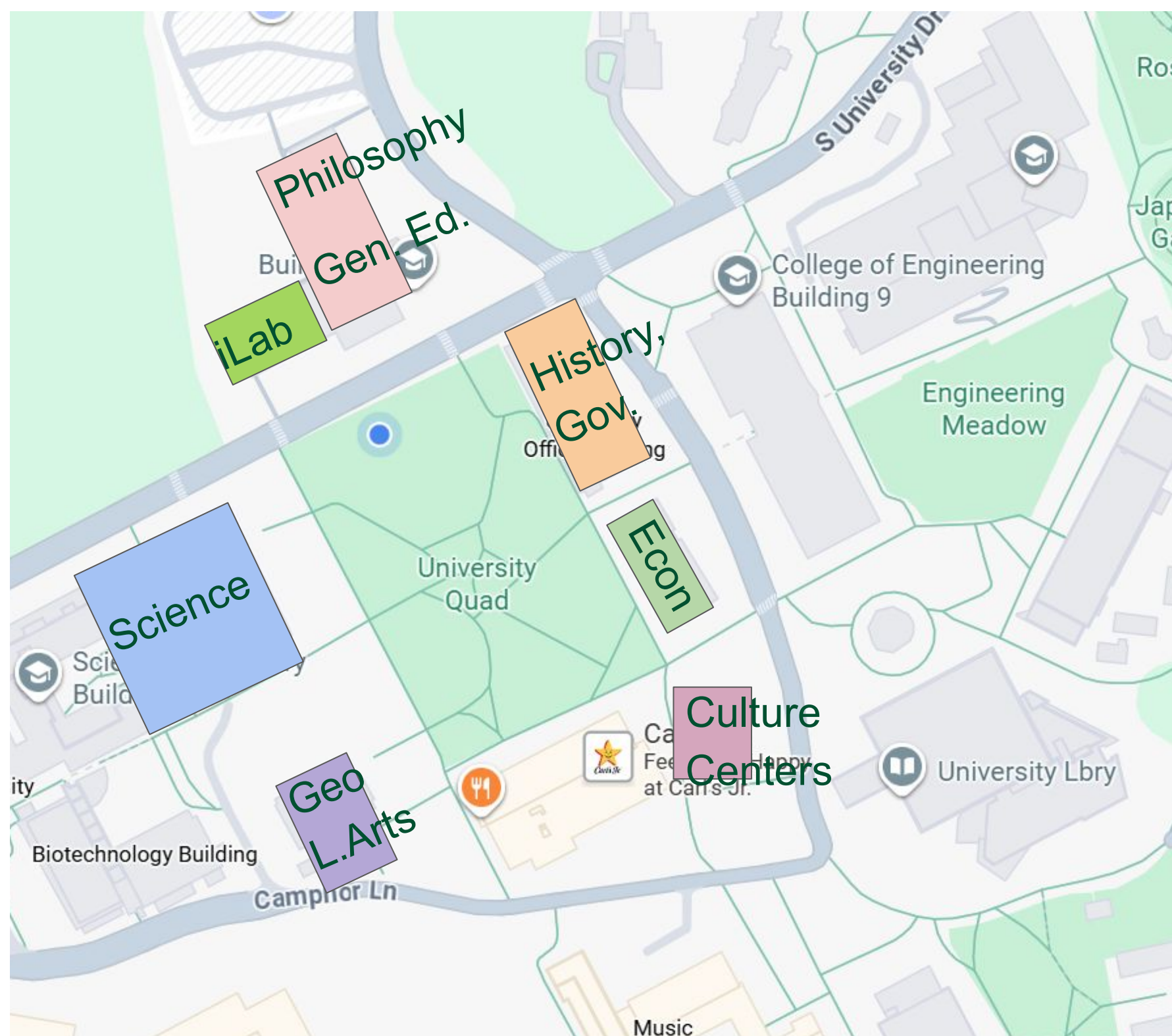
Blinds and sometimes windows open! Warm sunlight and breeze throughout space!



Students are enthralled by seeing the space, community, and offerings first, rather than back of house process. The sign in desk documents their use once already in the space, rather than being a barrier to it.

After (SP26)

Catering for Local Users (fig. 3)



The iLab pulls new visitors primarily from the surrounding College buildings. Compared to the Maker Space area, these buildings are notably more art and research related, rather than engineering and building.

To attract this audience, we have moved the "lighter" craft-like stations to the iLab: Stickers, Buttons, Leather, and Ink Press.

Added stations, such as Resin and iCafe share a similar type of craftier nature, opposed to the medium level fab of Laser Cutters and 3D Printers in the Maker Space!

Experimentation and Innovation (fig. 4)

New Stations in the works, bringing students a chance to make their mark!



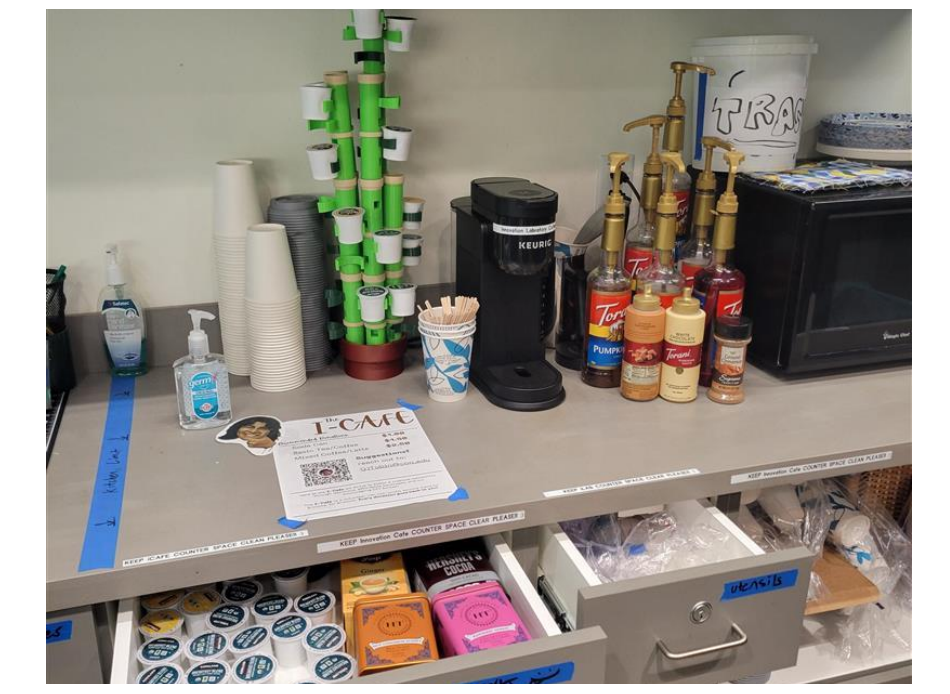
Resin Station

This new station allows guests to make dice, jewelry, art and more!



R&D Printers

These enclosed, higher tier printers allow for fast printing of a large material variety



iCafe

The iLab's most popular station lets students make custom drinks for cheap!

Displaying Creativity! (fig. 6)



Decorative Collage above sticker station



Display cabinet visible from hallway

Window Vinyl Installed



Club and Project Partnerships

Club partnerships create consistent use, as well as mutual benefit, promotion, and learning! It is our honor to help bring student dreams to life!



Slugs (fig. 7) PLEASE TAKE! :D

Reflection:

In my three years part of SIIL, this has been my most rewarding experience. Just two years ago, and even last semester, the iLab was the location no few Staff and Ambassadors wanted to be assign. I took up the challenge with high spirit and higher hopes. Now, people who once dreaded the idea of working there find themselves visiting daily.

That's not to say there aren't problems. It's no secret that the iLab is a bit of a chaotic mess. However, I find it to be the chaos-theory that allows diverse groups to form and innovative ideas to spark. And the mess is one that says "be creative" and "own your work!" **It is a space for students, by students.**



"Emerald Valley" Statuettes for SGV Gala 2025

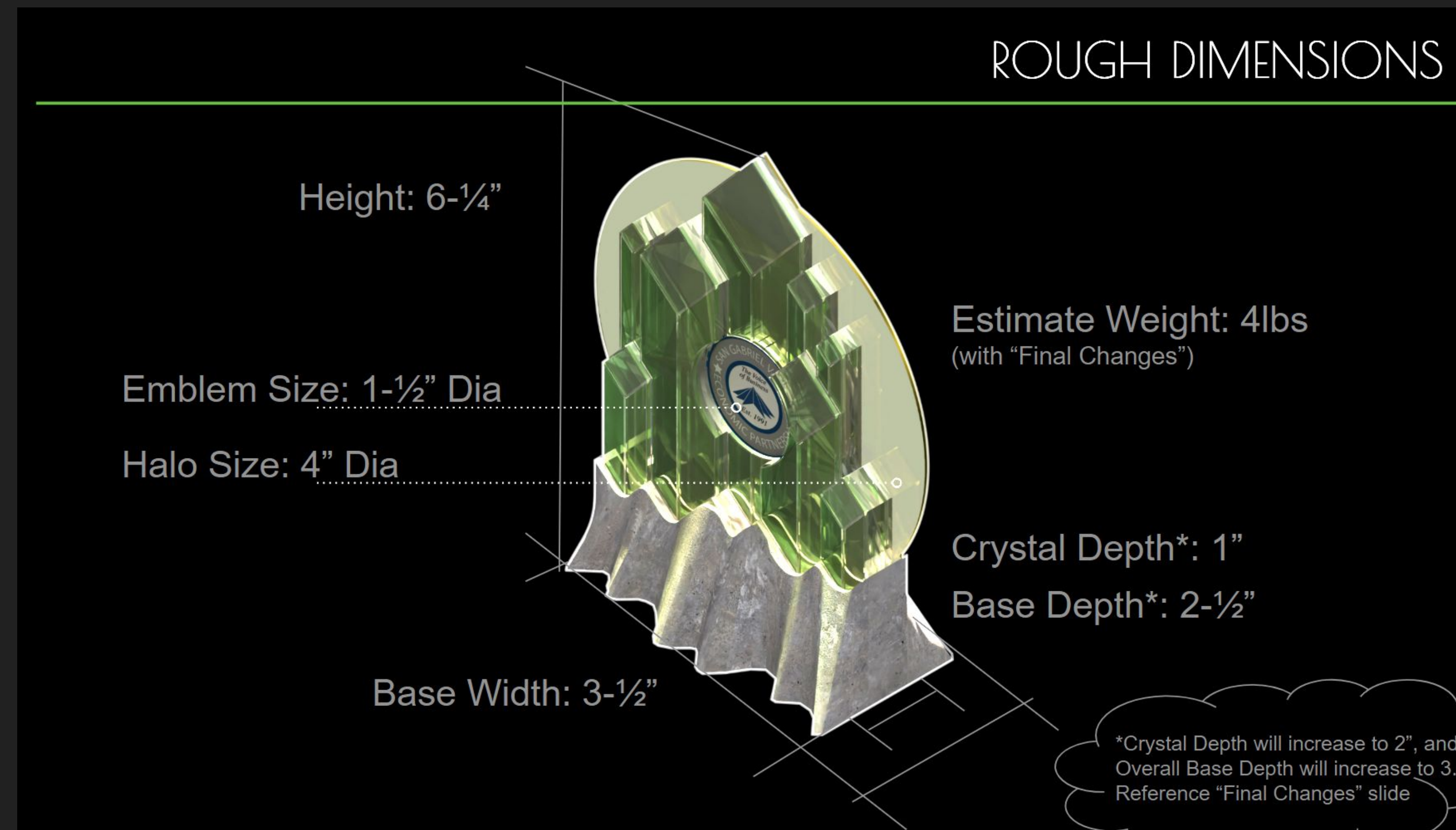
Quinlan Tobin, Javion Campbell, Trinidad Jimenez, Stella Fass, Nathan Kwan, +more



Summary:

SIIL was commissioned to create nine statuettes for the awardees the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership's 2025 Gala. We took this opportunity to test the limits of professional, multi-media custom production in the space.

Doing this required clear communication and organized documents to be sent between the various station leads. The design portion needed to be creative, but also practical to make. Finally, being a commission, the entire project was careful to stay within budget and keep on timeline.



Notable Career Competencies

Technology:

Laser Cutting, 3D Printing, Resin and Concrete pour, each with R&D phases that permanently increased the collective knowledge in our staff!

Team Work:

This project was made possible by delegated the right tasks to the right experts. We were fortunate for many volunteers to help as well!

Communication:

The design itself is meant to communicate its concept, without words. Communication within the team was essential too, otherwise pieces would not fit together or get done in the right order.



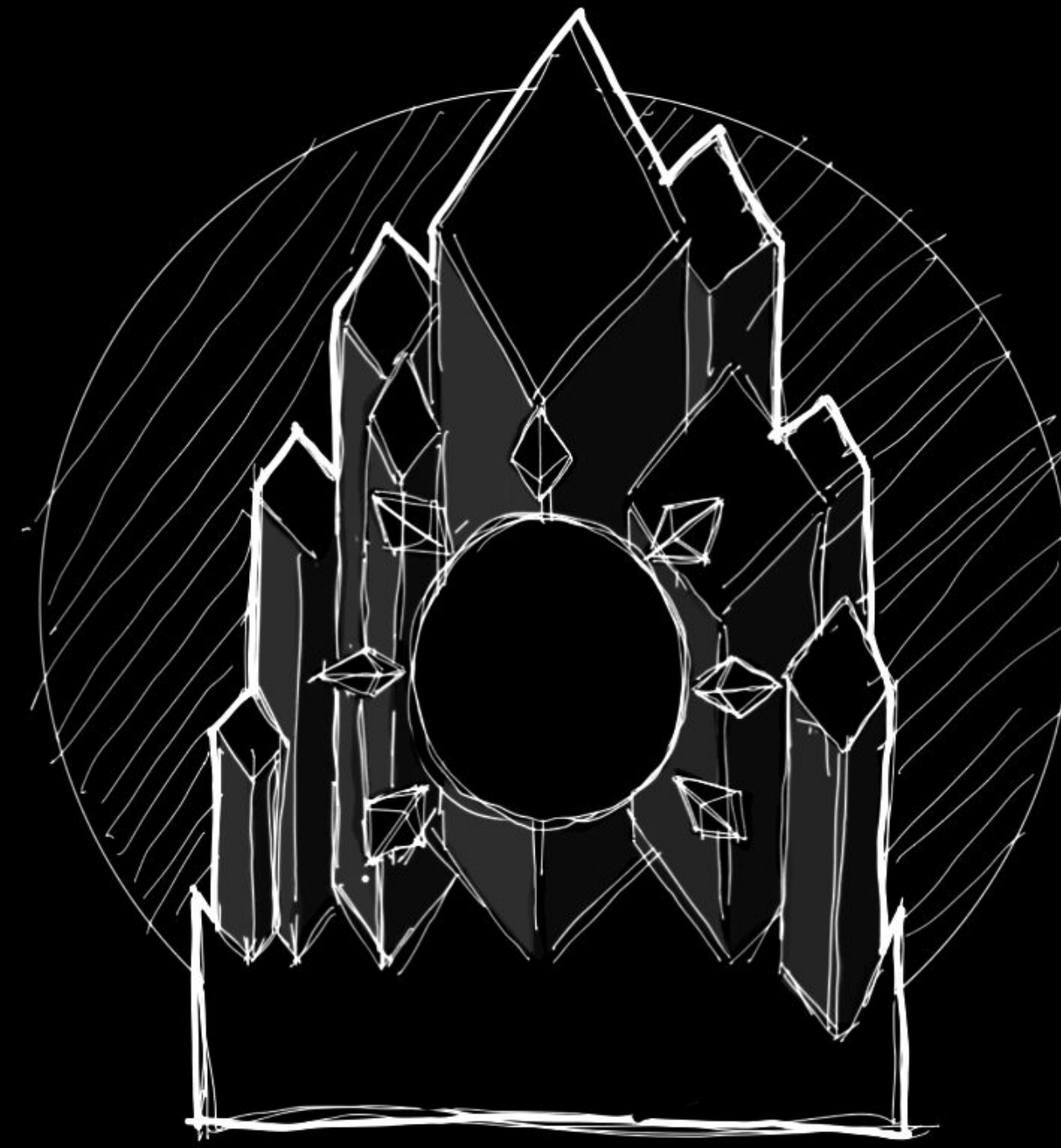
OVERALL DESIGN GOALS



- Produce a professional-level product worthy of the awardees.
- Cater a specialized and unique-look set apart from the typical award-trophy.
- Pay homage to the event's theme and the organization behind its planning.

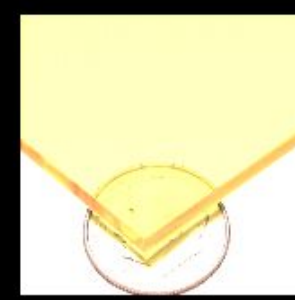


- Highlight the creativity and technical expertise of our students.
- Showcase the capabilities of modern, household fabrication tools.
- Allow students the opportunity to experiment with new materials, and connect them to industry leaders.



MATERIALS and ASSEMBLY

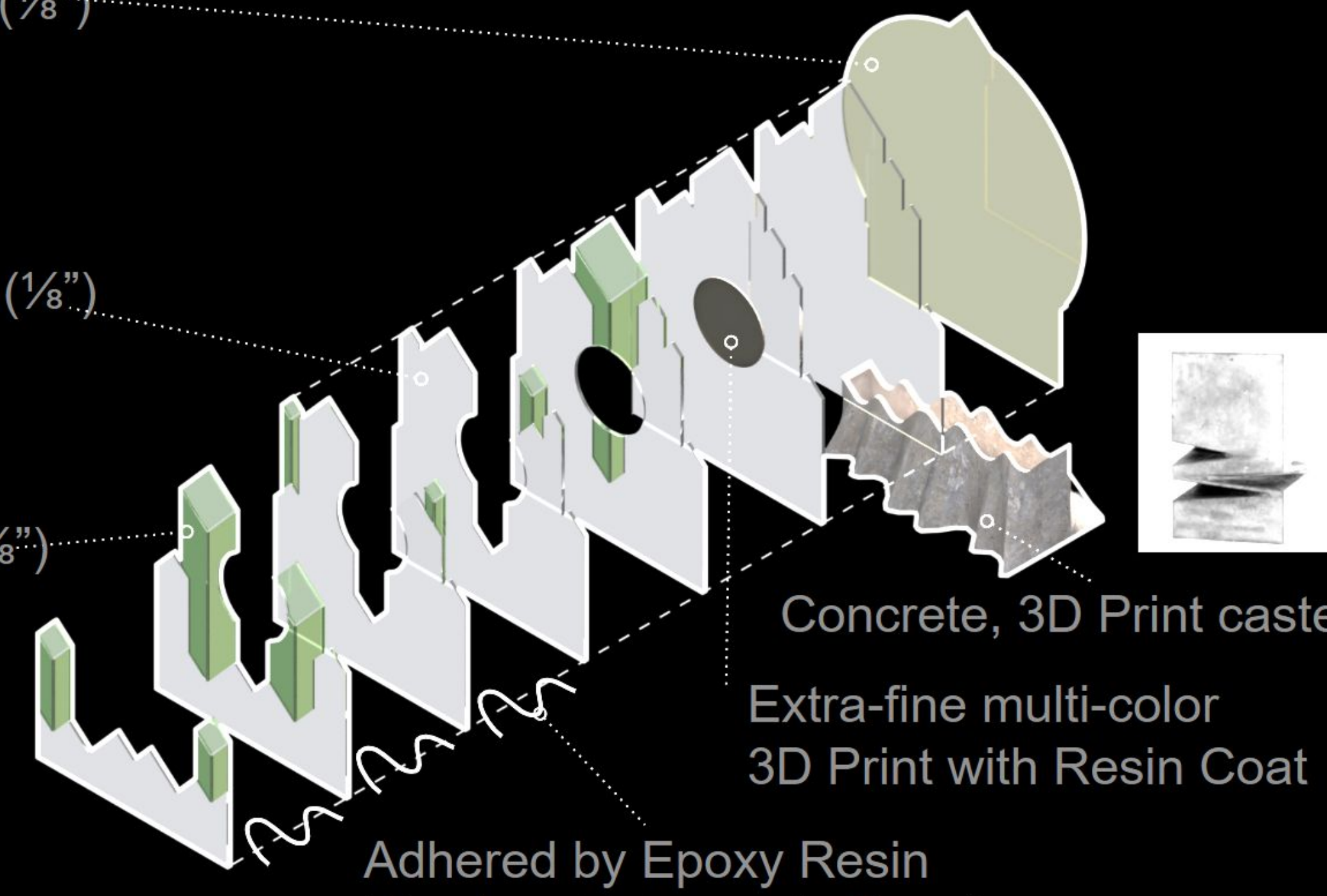
Base Goldenrod Acrylic (1/8")



Layered Emerald Acrylic (1/8")



Neon Acrylic "mosaic" (1/8") (On top of emerald base sheet)

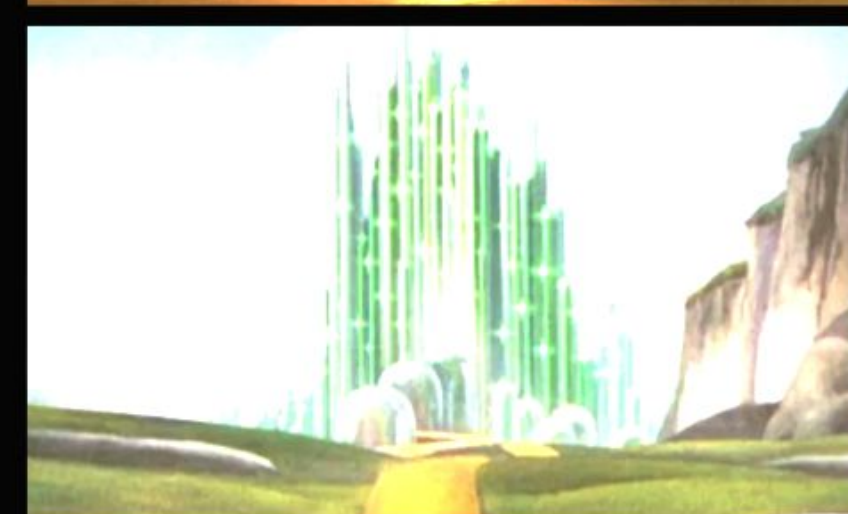


DESIGN NARRATIVE

Sunrise representing themes of achievement and new ideas.



Emerald City of the Gala's theme, and some color pull from the "Yellow Brick Road"



Silhouettes of important structures in the city, connecting the design to a "human scale" (See "Final Changes")



San Gabriel Mountains "grounding" the award and creating conversation between old and new techniques



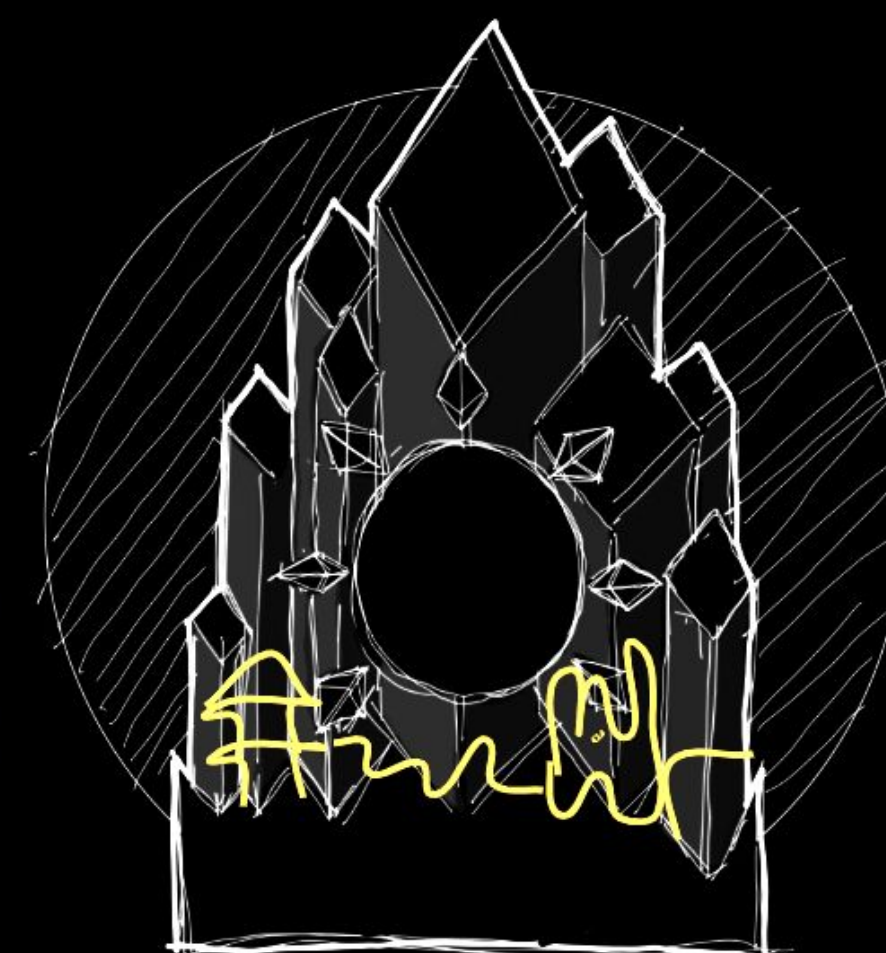
FINAL CHANGES

1) Foreground

As hinted earlier, we hope to incorporate more design elements unique to the San Gabriel Valley.

This would be achieved by Laser Cutting the silhouettes of some prominent buildings, and placing it between the concrete mountainous layer and the Emerald City acrylic layers.

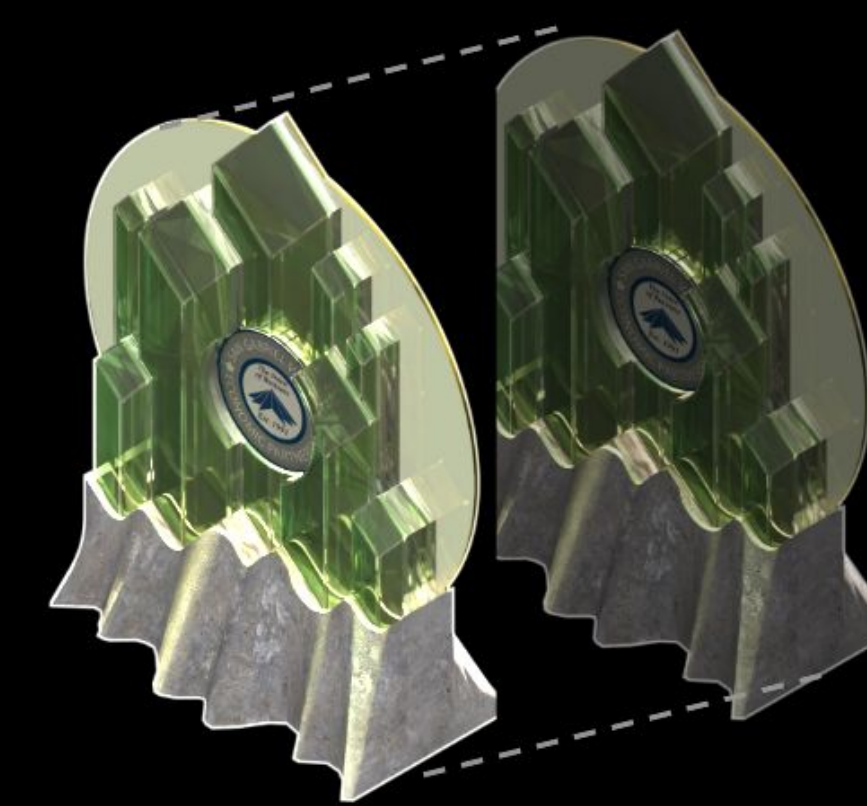
Although an addition, we find it to be a small change that makes a big difference!



2) Mirror

We plan to "double" the award, to increase the depth and weight, so it feels more like a sculpture rather than a sign. Additionally, this would remove the "lame" backside with little detail.

This will increase production time and material, however, with streamlined processes and bulk-ordering, this is not a big issue.



Reflection:

This project was a great device to experiment with our existing stations, introduce a new station (resin), and create a community out of those staying late at the space making it! It was my first large-scale (30 helpers!) project I've lead, and am very happy with the result, despite the stress and chaos. I have some ways to go practice clear communication (within both verbal and digital documentation) and time budgeting, but through this I took some great steps in that direction, and believe the rest of the team feels that way for themselves too!

