

VISTAMAR SCHOOL SENIOR PROJECTS

2025



Delivery Work and Friendship in Culver City

By Izzo Akana



Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit organization which delivers food to those who have difficulty leaving their homes. It is operated from the Grace Lutheran church in Culver City.

Inside the Life of a First Responder

By Mateo Aluisi



For my senior project, I joined the Redondo Beach Fire Explorer Program, where I experienced firsthand the training, discipline, and teamwork it takes to become a firefighter. From classroom sessions to hands-on drills, this immersive experience challenged me mentally and physically, giving me a deeper appreciation for the responsibilities of first responders.

Veterinary Medicine Shadowing

Shadowing a veterinarian surgeon. Watching surgeries, consults, and other procedures around an animal hospital.

Marlee Becker





For 40 hours, I was with the MBFD shadowing the firefighter-paramedics as they went about their day-to-day. I washed rigs, saw calls, and helped around the station.

A Paramedic's Day

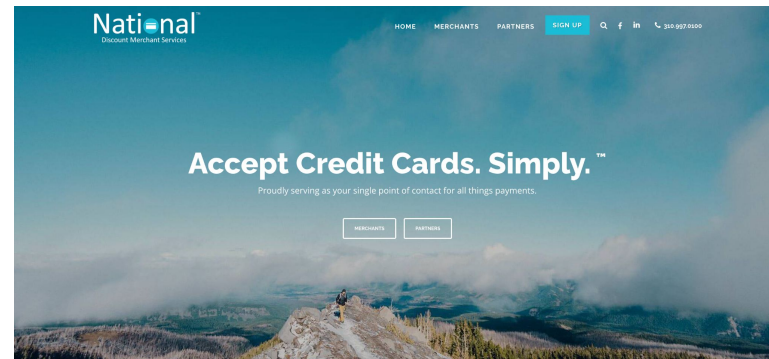
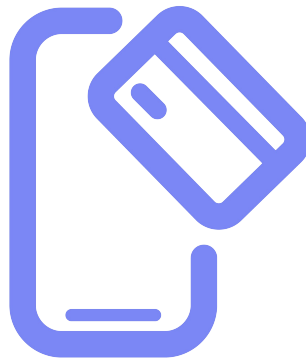
Zayne Bellasarian

-Allison Benitez-

Intersection of Medicine & Technology



Shadowed a few cardiologists at UCLA Harbor Medical Hospital. I had the opportunity to observe various procedures, learn about the mechanics of the heart , understand technology used, and witness their impact on patients.



Behind the Scenes of the Credit Card Payment Industry

For my senior project, I had the opportunity to shadow Todd Eichner, the founder of NDMS, PaidYet, and Taapit—three fintech companies he built from the ground up. Through this experience, I got an inside look at what it really takes to lead, build, and protect a business in today's competitive and high-risk environment.



Building Skills Through Nonprofit Administration

By: Chidi Biosah

I worked with CCM's administrative team to help organize caretaker schedules, update databases, and support event planning. Through this experience, I've learned valuable time management and organizational skills while seeing how behind-the-scenes work keeps a nonprofit running smoothly.

Expanding Artistic Minds Within the Classroom

Rylan Brooks

Over the course of my project, I shadowed a middle school art teacher to observe how to teach and engage children in art. I learned how to plan and teach a lesson where I taught students the fundamentals of watercolor and ink through a project where I combined the two.



Logan Burkhardt's

Heart Racing Entertainment

Discovering how the entertainment industry creates stories, influences and connects audiences.
All whilst racing around with the cars of the Indy 500.





Volunteering with the nonprofit organization The People Concern, I was able to provide important services to individuals struggling with financial difficulties or even homelessness. Through my volunteer work, I connected with some clients, helping to positively impact their situation.

Helping those in need

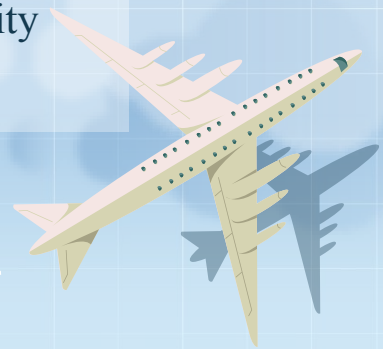
...

By: Nathan Bustrum

Marketing in the Clouds

For my Senior Project, I interned with the marketing department at Singapore Airlines, where I aimed to explore how financial planning, data analytics, and brand visibility strategies contribute to the success of a global company.

By: Sanya Chablani



Creative Careers & How They Shape Us

Art can have an incredible impact on our perspective of the world. My project focuses on the impact that graphic design has in shaping the way we perceive the world.

By: Sarah Chablani

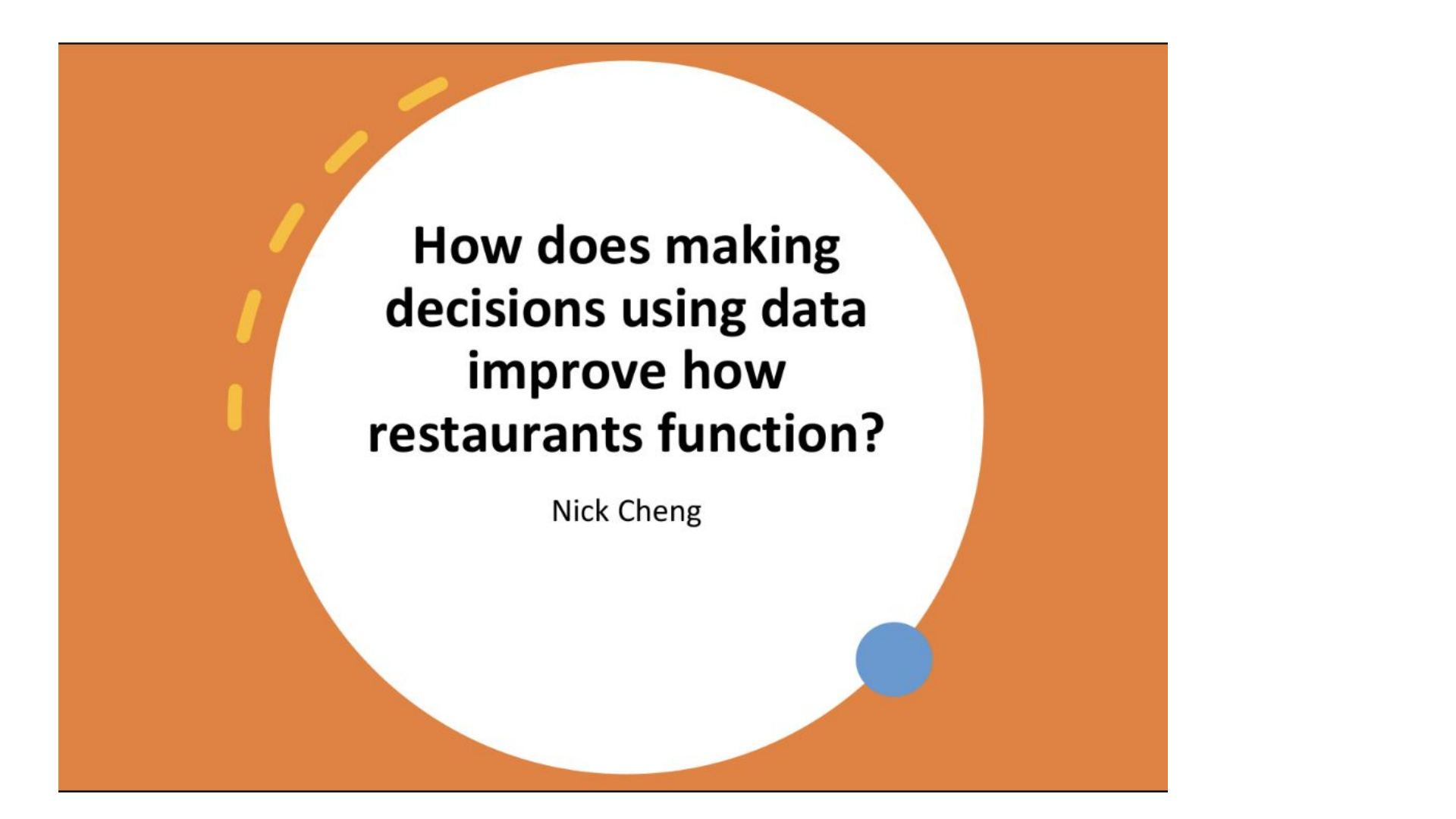




ELEVATING WOMEN'S SPORTS THROUGH LIVE MEDIA

Penelope Chang

Shadowed Angel City FC's media team to see how live sports production can elevate women's sports.
Fast decisions, tight teamwork, real impact.



How does making decisions using data improve how restaurants function?

Nick Cheng



Interned with an orthopedist to explore how musculoskeletal injuries are diagnosed and treated. Learned the importance of patient-centered care, communication, and teamwork in real-world medical settings.



Behind the Scenes of Orthopedic Medicine

By Elizabeth Christopher

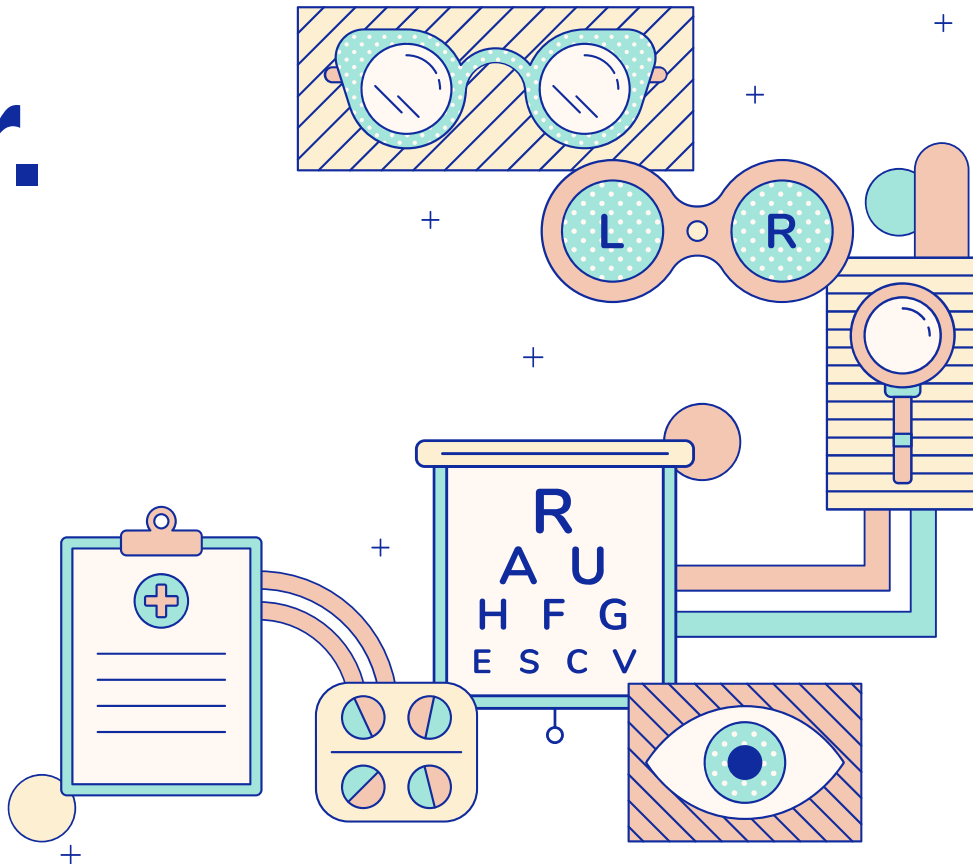


+

Shadowing Dr. Kohara

Franklin Coats

For my senior project, I shadowed Dr. Kohara, an ophthalmologist, observing as she meets with patients and performs eye surgeries. I am learning what it is like to be a doctor and how to interact with patients with care.



Lessons Beyond the Lesson Plan

Ayana Cuevas



For my senior project I chose to work in a classroom of 1st-2nd grade students for 2 weeks. At DaVinci Connect TK-8 they are a hybrid school with 2 different classes per teacher. I helped in the classroom like a TA during the students final exhibition project.



FROM BLOCKS TO BLESSINGS

Through shadowing a class of ten preschoolers at Temple Akiba, I was able to observe how being taught in a religious space impacts the students and their learning. Making Challah, playing pretend, and reciting prayers have shown me how religion can bring the students closer together.

Sonni Davidson



Fostering a Positive and Vocal Space

“A senior project dedicated to the inner workings of school psychologists. Pairing daily observations alongside face-to-face situations with students and teammates, I learn how to manage formal tasks while maintaining a positive and welcoming environment for children.”

By Jairo Diaz



Inside The Newsroom

For my senior project, I shadowed a news anchor at ABC News to explore how stories are developed, produced, and delivered on air. I'm learning about the roles, decisions, and behind-the-scenes processes that shape the news viewers see every day.

By Kylie Dickerson



The Skin in Check: Dermatology

The project includes shadowing a dermatologist to understand the different types of medical tools needed to complete basic skin solutions, along with developing my communication, leadership, and active engagement skills become a better team collaborator within the medical industry.

Ryan Doh



Unlocking Potential

Taylor Donson

For my senior project, I worked with kids who have disabilities alongside occupational therapists. I helped with fun activities that helped the kids improve things like moving around, playing, and working with others. This project taught me the real work of an occupational therapist and how important it is to be patient with progress, work together, and how to exercise different functions of the brain and body even with a disability.

Spreading the Joy of Westchester's History

Conor Doyle

I worked with the Westchester Historical Society to expand my own historical knowledge and share history with others. I became involved with the community, completed a project, and contributed to the Historical Society.



Volunteer Research for Impact Soul

Senior Project by Sebastian Eckstein

A project where I helped a lucrative initiative make a positive impact by reinvesting into non-profits. I helped researching which organizations will directly translate donations into results efficiently and effectively.



Managing a Nonprofit Organization: Indivisible Arts

Focused primarily on setting up and advertising for the organization's biggest fundraising event of the year. I helped to work on community notices, art pieces, festival booths, and more.

STATE *of* THE ART
Annual fundraiser for
INDIVISIBLEARTS

TOBY FONTANA



Volunteering at the National WW2 Museum By: Jackson Fox

For my senior project, I volunteered with National WW2 Museum in New Orleans. During my time there I worked on various projects with the travel department as well as meeting with museum staff to learn about their jobs.



Hands-on Work

Preschool Assistant

Sarah Freiden

I volunteered at New School West Preschool, a Reggio Emilia inspired early learning childhood center. I assisted teachers with classroom activities, helped students during lessons, and supported the school community by handling behind-the-scenes tasks like repairing books and preparing displays.



Preserving The Past: Inside the World of Art Archiving

Brady Green

For my senior project, I shadowed an archivist who works at David Hockney, Inc to learn how valuable historical documents and records are catalogued and maintained. Through this experience, I gained insight into the behind-the-scenes work of archiving and the importance of protecting cultural history for future generations.



Preserving the Prehistoric

Maya Greenspan

During my shadowing experience at the La Brea Tar Pits, I learned proper excavation techniques while observing the unearthing of 40,000-year-old Ice Age fossils. I also worked in the fossil lab, helping clean and preserve bones from extinct species like saber-toothed cats and mammoths. This hands-on experience deepened my understanding of how tar preserves ancient remains and strengthened my passion for archaeology.

Beyond the Flames: Public Safety Through a Firefighter's Eyes

by Michael Hamilton



A shadow experience
reflecting upon the
question: How do civil
service employees
address pervasive public
health and safety issues?

How to Boost Small Business Efficiency with AI

By Owen Henry

For my senior project, I partnered with FestiFi, a tech company that provides internet solutions at major events. I shadowed the Head of Sales and interviewed team members to analyze business workflows. I recommended AI tools to improve efficiency in proposals, invoicing, communication, and inventory management.





Isaiah Senior project

I spent 40 hours shadowing professionals at Highridge Costa. By observing people in different roles I was able to have a better understanding of what I was interested in.

Brightest Hour



Josie Hinkle



For my Senior Project, I worked with Fifth Row Center of the Performing Arts to help run their free Brightest Hour Program. I improved my communication skills, working with volunteer parents, student teachers, and interested families. I also interviewed the studio directors to learn more about how and why they focus on personal connections and the effects it has within their business.





My Sticky finger journey

By De'Asia Hood

For my project I volunteered at a elementary school that teaches from pre-school to the 5th grade. I was there as a teachers aid for 5 days. Which allowed me to observe the students and learn more about what children need to strive in the classroom environment.



The life of Physical Therapy

By: Sophia Jeffords

For my senior project I volunteered at Davis and Derosa Physical Therapy. I would shadow the Physical Therapists and the Aids. With the Physical Therapists I would sit in on the evaluation while with the Aid I would assist with the exercises.

Passes, People, and Purpose: Creating Connections on the Pitch

By: Dylan Johansen



During this project I worked with Recycle Soccer, a small business that provides 1 on 1 soccer training sessions. My community partner was Abanda Ajeakwa the creator of Recycle Soccer. I helped him run these training sessions while also learning how it is that he creates strong connections with his clients.





For my senior project, I volunteered at Pacific Elementary School in TK through fifth grade. I helped with lessons, activities, and classroom management.

Classroom Connection and Motivation

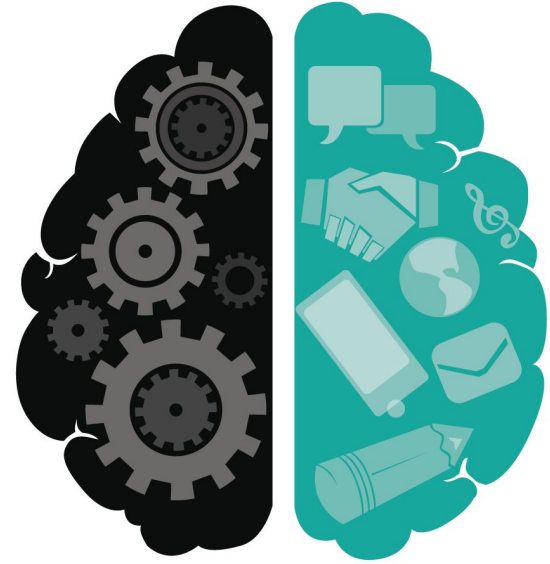
By: Baran
Kay



Shadowing at Brain Bridge

Hanna Kay

For two weeks I shadowed at Brain Bridge, a learning-skills center that supports students with learning disabilities. I observed a variety of instructors, took a cognitive-skills evaluation, and eventually led my own one-on-one lesson.



BRAIN BRIDGE





MECHANICS AND ETHICS OF A MISSILE

Sebastian Kirk

I shadowed at Ares Industries, a company building missiles for the navy. I learned how to use hardware and software necessary for this process. In addition, took part in the thought process and design for specific parts of the missile alongside those I was shadowing.

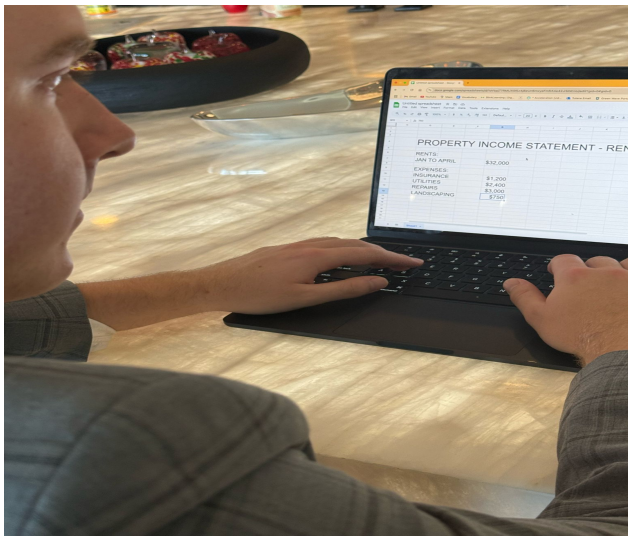


Snack name	Price Per 1	Total amount	Selling Price	Out of stock
Goldfish	\$0.29	45	\$1.00	no
Chicken Cup of Noodles	\$0.49	24	\$3.00	yes
Popcorners	\$0.52	30	\$1.50	no
Popcorn	\$0.57	54	\$2.50	no
Vegistraw	\$0.43	42	\$1.50	no
Nutella and Go	\$0.94	16	\$2.50	no
Nature Valley Bars	\$0.53	139	\$2.00	no
Kirkland Signature Nut Bars	\$0.49	30	\$1.25	no
Nabisco	\$0.65	40	\$1.50	soon
Kirkland Signature Chocolate Bag	\$0.14	150	3 for \$1.25	yes
Simply Protein	\$1.19	15	\$2.50	no
Natures Bakery Fig Bar	\$0.42	40	\$1.25	no
Gatorade	\$0.75	24	\$2.75	no
Classic Blue- Chips	\$0.37	54	\$2.50	no
Rice Krispies Treats	\$0.21	60	\$1.00	no
Welch's fruit snacks	\$0.08	170	2 for \$1.00	no

What it takes to run a successful retail business

by Ethan Klein

My senior project took me on a journey where I learned about the skills and knowledge required to run a successful business. I was given insights into the importance of product placement and customer service and how they can play a crucial role in the profit a company can generate. To finish my project, I was tasked with creating a series of documents for the newly founded student store that were meant to help improve the store and give foundational tools/lessons for the next generation of student store employees.



Independent Property Management: Real-World Learning Through Hands-On Maintenance - By Chase Knyal

For my Senior Project, I managed property maintenance tasks on my own without staff support. I worked hands-on with tenant issues, utility fixes, and organizational upkeep. I learned how to communicate clearly, take initiative, and stay dependable in real-world situations.





Self-Improvement with the next generation

-David Lai

-For my senior project, I volunteered at Del Aire Park Junior Sports Program, helping with coaching, event prep, and community outreach. I explored how junior sports teach kids teamwork, leadership, and responsibility. This hands-on experience helped me grow more confident, flexible, and connected to my community.

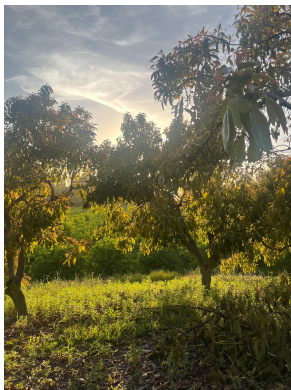
ETHICS AND INNOVATION

How the World of Philosophy and Science Intertwine

Presented by Maddie Melendez

My project focuses on shadowing several engineers who are developing devices for use in various military vehicles. In addition, I collaborated with their COO to design outreach programs to encourage young people to pursue careers in STEM.





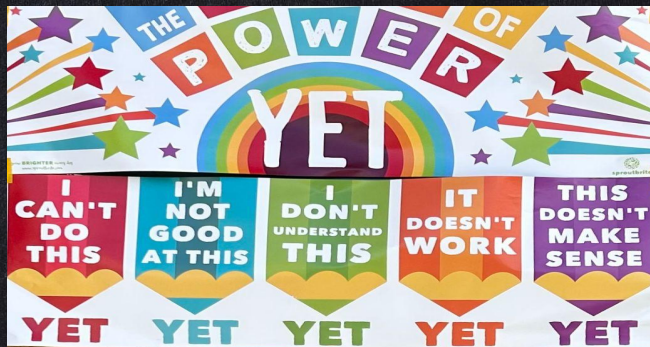
BALANCING NATURE AND COMMUNITY

Shadowing five departments at a certified biodynamic farm, I rethought the rhetoric that there is strictly a parasitic relationship between people and land. Within each department, I got to explore how to act within the best interest of both community and nature.

By Lily Messer

English Learners in South Central: The Educational Gap Across Grades

My focus is to observe how English learners are being taught, and if the educative system is properly setting them up for success after middle school. I have served as a TA for the English Learners coordinator at *Today's Fresh Start Charter School*, evaluating student proficiency in reading, writing, and listening from preschool through the eighth grade.



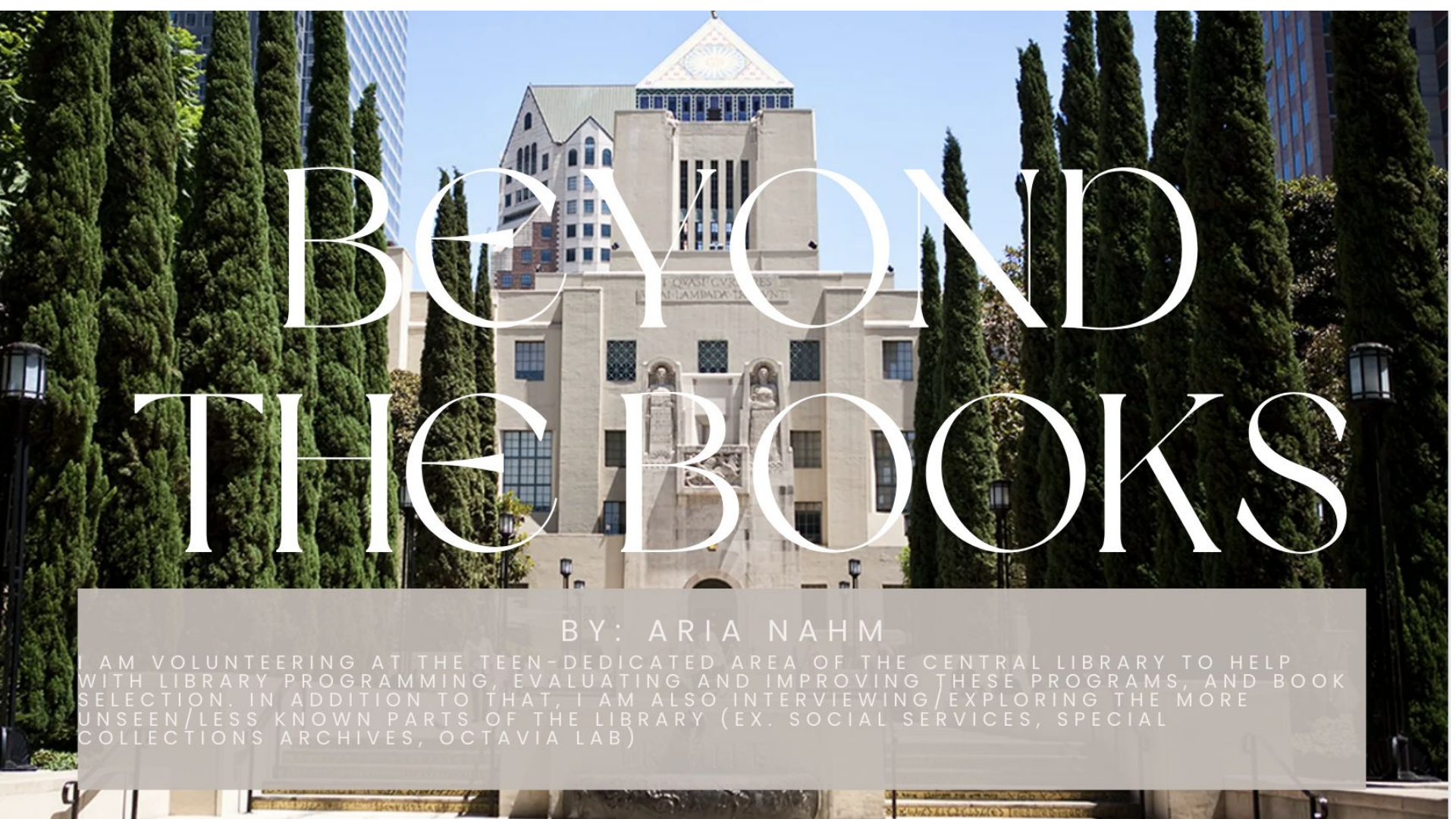
Angela Mira



HELPING HANDS

For my senior project, I volunteered at Future Stars Academy, helping care for and engage with young children. I focused on supporting their daily activities while observing how early education shapes development.

-Sophia Montalvo



BEYOND THE BOOKS

BY: ARIA NAHM

I AM VOLUNTEERING AT THE TEEN-DEDICATED AREA OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY TO HELP WITH LIBRARY PROGRAMMING, EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THESE PROGRAMS, AND BOOK SELECTION. IN ADDITION TO THAT, I AM ALSO INTERVIEWING/EXPLORING THE MORE UNSEEN/LESS KNOWN PARTS OF THE LIBRARY (EX. SOCIAL SERVICES, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ARCHIVES, OCTAVIA LAB)

Grey Nielson

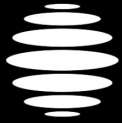
Operations of a Ceramic Studio

I shadowed 5 staff at Still Life Studio, a community studio located in Santa Monica.

With over 300 members, and countless students, there are always kilns to fire, glazes to mix, and supplies to be organized.

As I shadowed each member of the staff, I learned about their perspectives on each aspect of the job, and some tips and tricks they have acquired throughout their time at the studio.





PANTHEON
MEDIA
GROUP



Learning How TV is Made

Logan Pagani

For my Senior Project, I shadowed two people at Pantheon Media Group, a production company. I learned all about how shows are produced and how they end up on your screen at home.

Shadowing My Gymnastics Coach

Shadowing my gymnastics coach as she prepares the
Xcel Bronze team for competition season



By: Abriella Reddick



Working with The Baker Group Events, specifically, the special projects team to complete various logistical and support tasks dependent on teamwork and communication.

By Boden Reiners

Behind the curtain: Crafting unforgettable events

INTERACTING WITH CHILDREN AND MUSIC

Presented by Dylan Rizika



At Music Rhapsody, I helped to teach a few kids' music classes, and worked in the office on designing flyers, emails, and Instagram posts. I also helped at 3 summer camp expos, where I set up our booth, invited the kids to play music, and explained the camp details to parents.

Day In The Life Of A Public Defender

Understanding a Public Defender's relationship with their judges and prosecutors to get the best result for their clients.

By: Jalyse Rodgers





**EndemolShine
NorthAmerica**

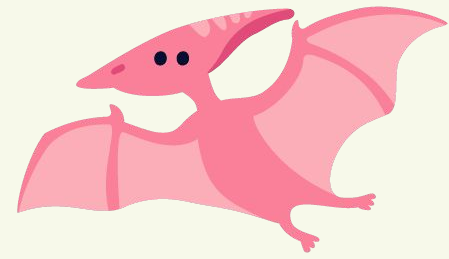
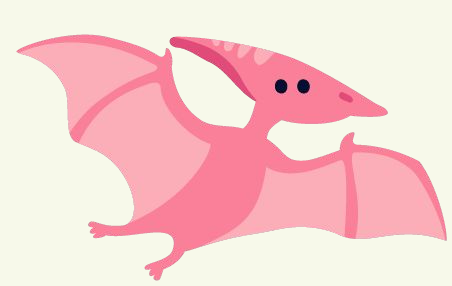
We are Banijay

Production In Progress

Noah Root

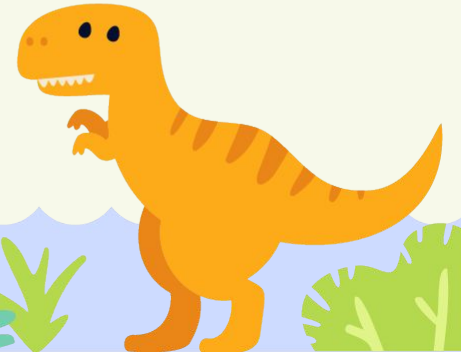
I shadowed the head of the development team at a production company. I got to sit in important meetings and learn about the back end of TV and game show production





Endeavours at the Library

Nandita Shetty





Siena Simms

The Medicine of



My senior project consisted of two traditional workshops, and one community park play, that I organized to address the growing issue of inaccessibility to music therapy. Through these workshops, all children were given access to free music therapy, guided by Susannah Nevarez, a board certified professional. Additionally, to reach families worldwide, I created a YouTube video providing information about the importance of music therapy and early intervention, as well as at-home implementation.

Working at the Manhattan Beach Education Foundation



Jack Spencer

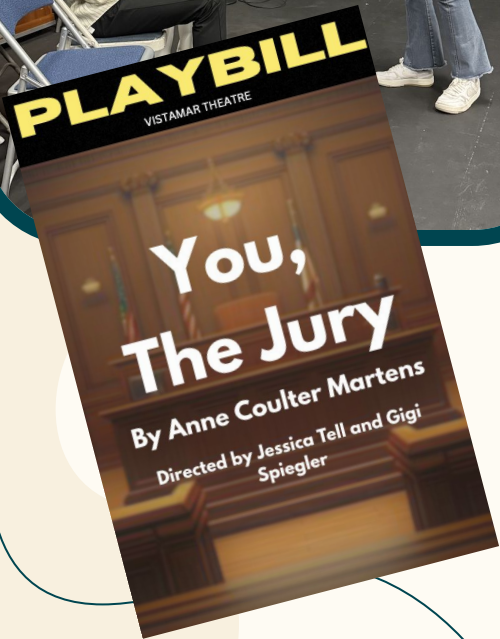
Behind the Spotlight: How Tech Makes Theatre Shine



My project shows how lighting, sound, set, costume design, and stage management come together to create a successful performance. By managing You, the Jury, I tried to understand and execute each element of tech, from planning and troubleshooting to the production, making sure everything ran smoothly behind the scenes. By Gigi Spiegler

Curtain Call: A New Role Behind the Scenes

I transitioned from performing onstage as an actress to taking on the role of a director. I led rehearsals, guided actors in their character development, and explored how directing requires a broader creative and leadership perspective than acting.



2025

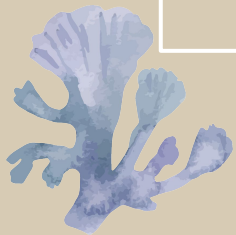
The Symbiotic Nature between People



And the Preservation of Ecosystems

Lunnah Urias

I will explain how this senior project has helped me to grow through an evolving experience. I will discuss how I learned about how there is more than just at the surface.



Law in the Largest Trial Courthouse in the United States

by Bryce Walther

I worked with a veteran DA, watching trials and the work put into preparing for them. I learned a lot about the realities and intricacies of prosecuting a case and how the criminal legal system really works.





Blueprints for Impact

Wellness Industry & Entrepreneurship

Esha Warriar

Explored the inner workings of a purpose-driven coaching business by shadowing a wellness entrepreneur. Applied insights in business transformation, business strategy, and client experience to strengthen and scale my own youth mental health initiative.



I worked with Daniel and his company RTCcom on IT work. We went around and fixed stuff for contractors.

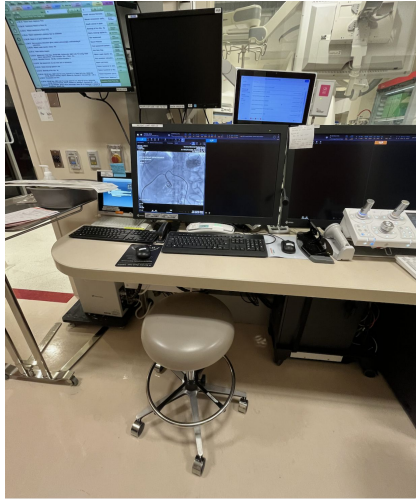
IT with RTD

Elijah Weiss

2 - 3 sentence
description of your
project

Torrance Memorial Volunteer

Aubrey Whang

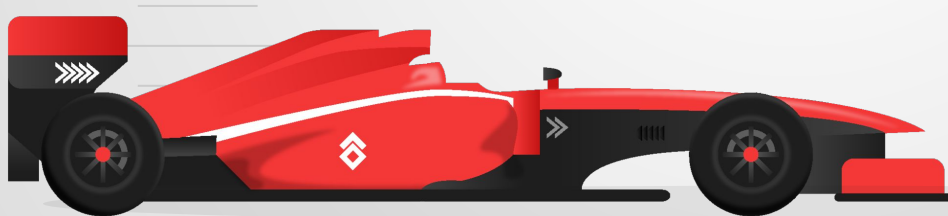


Your title slide should have your name, the title of your project, a key image, and a 2-3 sentence description of your project. Your title slide will be copied/pasted into a presentation that will run in the Viking Commons throughout the competition day.

Behind the scenes of the Petersen Automotive Museum

At the Petersen Automotive Museum, I shadow different departments to work together to run the daily operations of the museum. Enabling me see first hand how different departments cohesively work with each other.

By Jason Xu



Behind the Screens: How Product Promotion Works on Social Media

Julia Xu





Close Encounters with Little Kids!

Voyaging into the unknown of Code Ninjas, Palos Verdes,
Charlie Yanai seeks to do the impossible:
Wrangling children!

Charlie Yanai



Learning what it means to be an environmental scientist through volunteering. Contributing to ornithology and the restoration and support of our local native species.

Counting birds

Jessica Youngblood





Building Workouts to Help Women Achieve Their Best

This senior project is about helping women achieve their best. I shadow my community partner, Sylvia Miller, at the Southbay Woman Gym and Day Spa. I mostly observe how she leads private training sessions and demonstrate movements, but occasionally I do lead sessions.

By: Melody Zhong