



ITD 375 CAPSTONE

TRY IT! @ FAB FRIDAYS

November 5, 2025

OUR TEAM



**Lucy
Schilling**



Emily Yiu



Denise Xu



**Becca
Youngers**



**Ananya
Ramachandran**

“It’s not real to say ‘***what starts here changes the world***’ and assume everyone is starting **at the same spot.**”

-DR. BEN BLACK



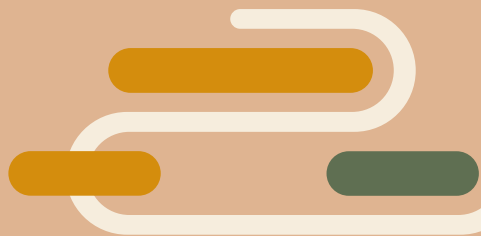
THE CHALLENGE

what are we doing?



THE CHALLENGE

*to transform **Fab Fridays** from a one-off activity into a **welcoming gateway** that builds confidence, community, and long-term engagement across **all majors**.*



STAKEHOLDERS



UT STUDENTS

Engineers + Non Engineers



TIW STAFF

Professional + Student



HOW MIGHT WE...

**Foster
inclusivity and
diversity in
makerspaces?**

**Reduce
barriers and
intimidation in
makerspaces?**

**Emphasize
engagement
outside of the
classroom?**

**Encourage
students to
keep coming
back?**





HOW MIGHT WE...

**Encourage students
to keep coming back?**





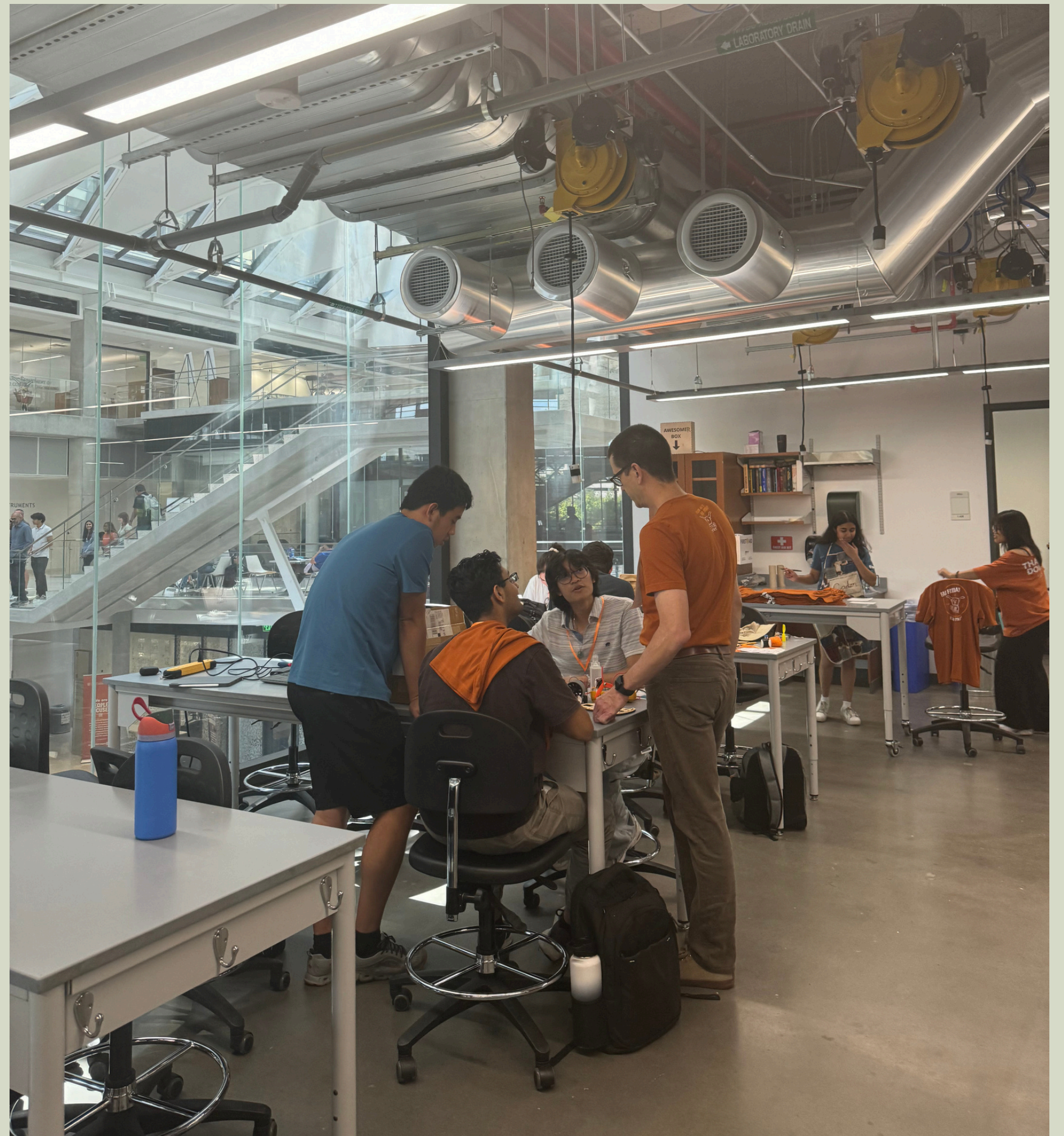
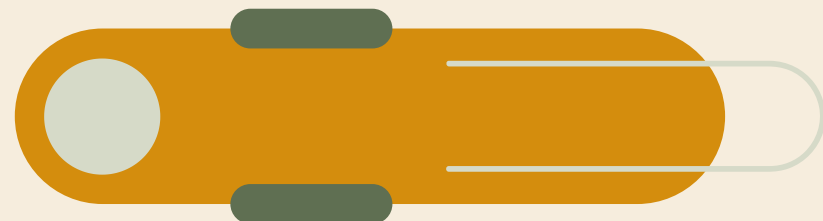
THE PRODUCT

where are we going?

TRY-IT OPEN HOUSE

Come and try it...No certifications needed!

- **Type:** Hands-on, come-and-stay, once per semester
- **Duration:** 2–3 hours (with setup + cleanup buffer)
- **Staff Needed:** 5–6 student staff + 1 professional supervisor
- **Space:** Fab Friday room / main TIW area
- **Audience:** UT students of all majors (especially beginners)



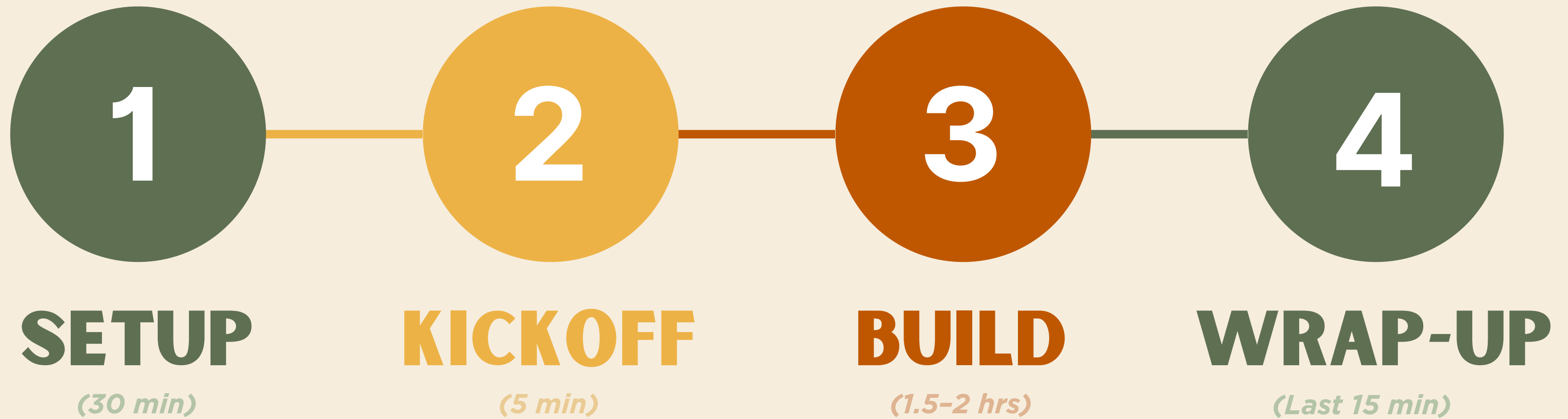
THE PLAYBOOK

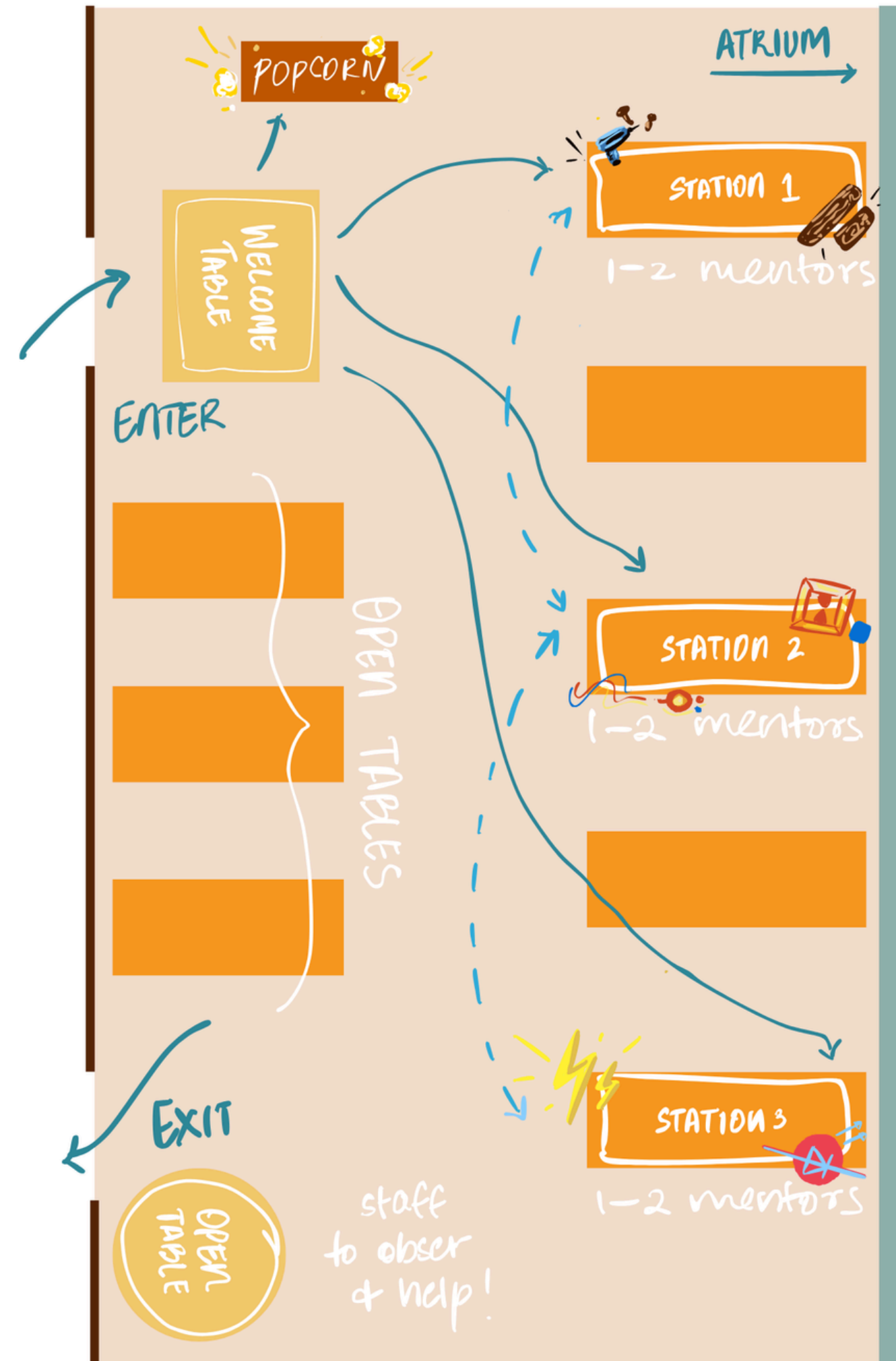


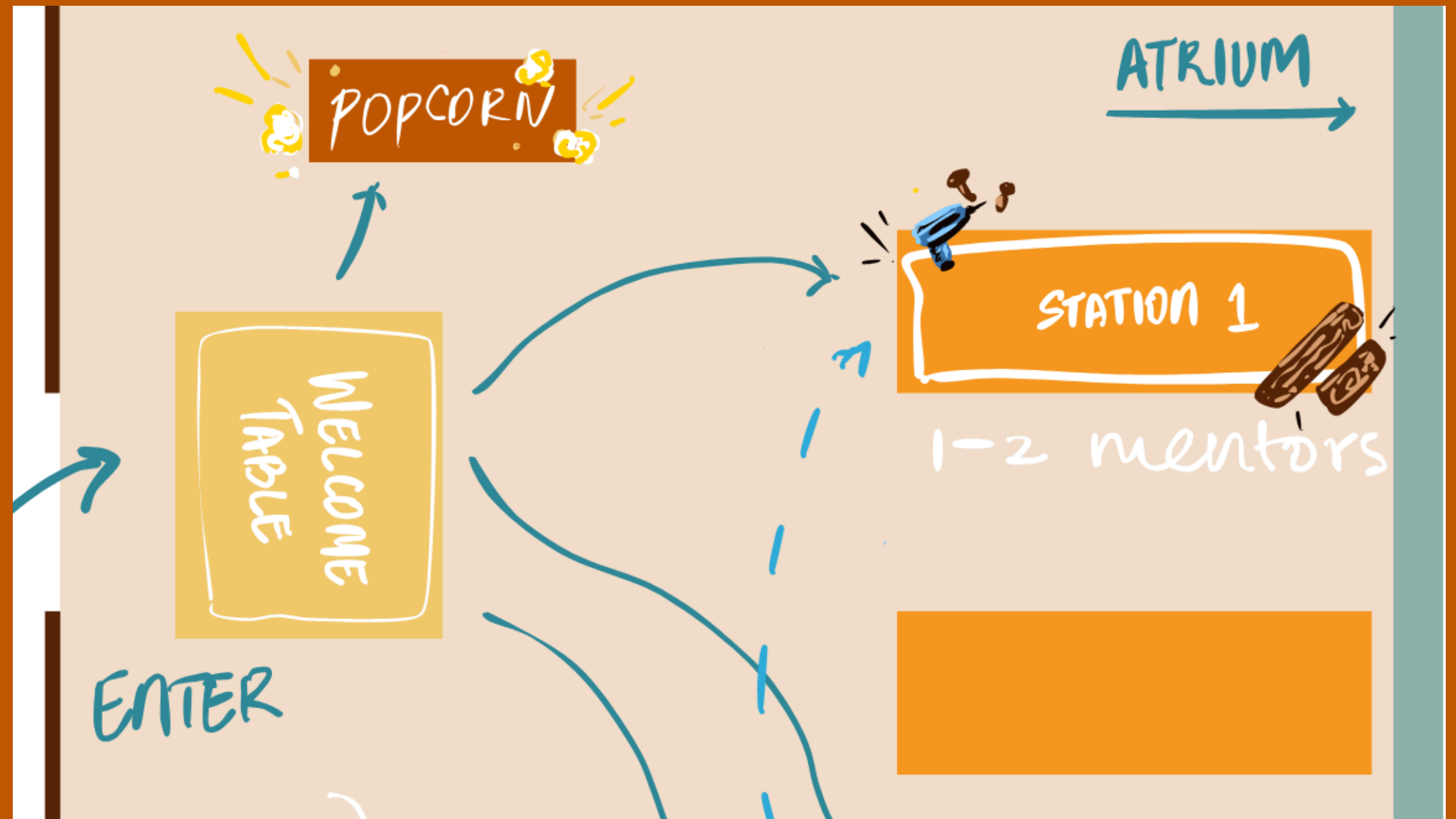
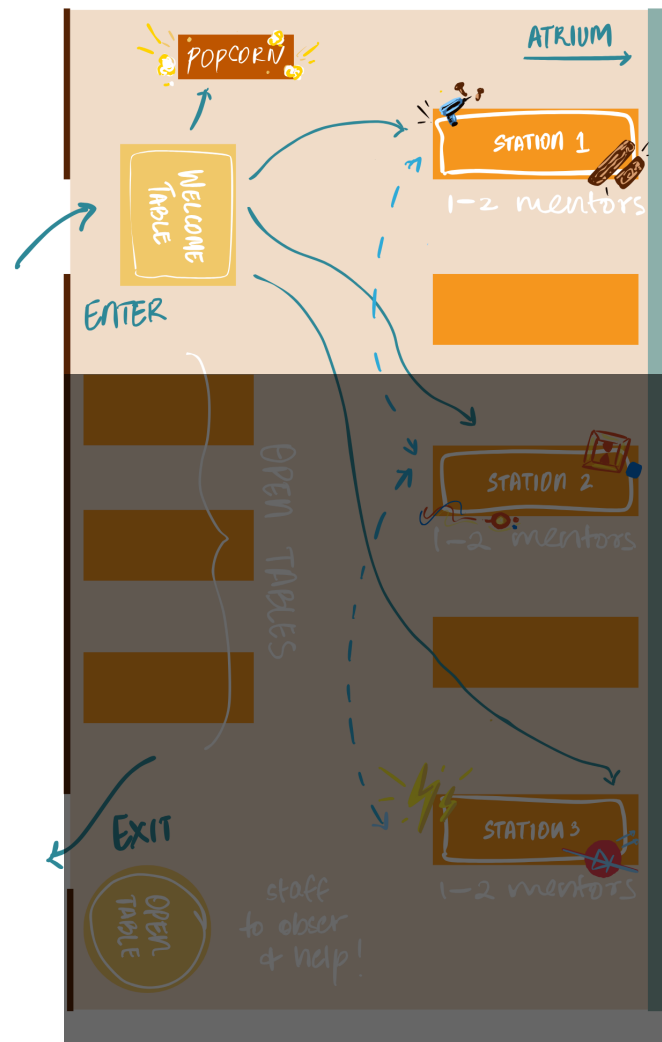
TIW RESOURCE INFO GUIDE

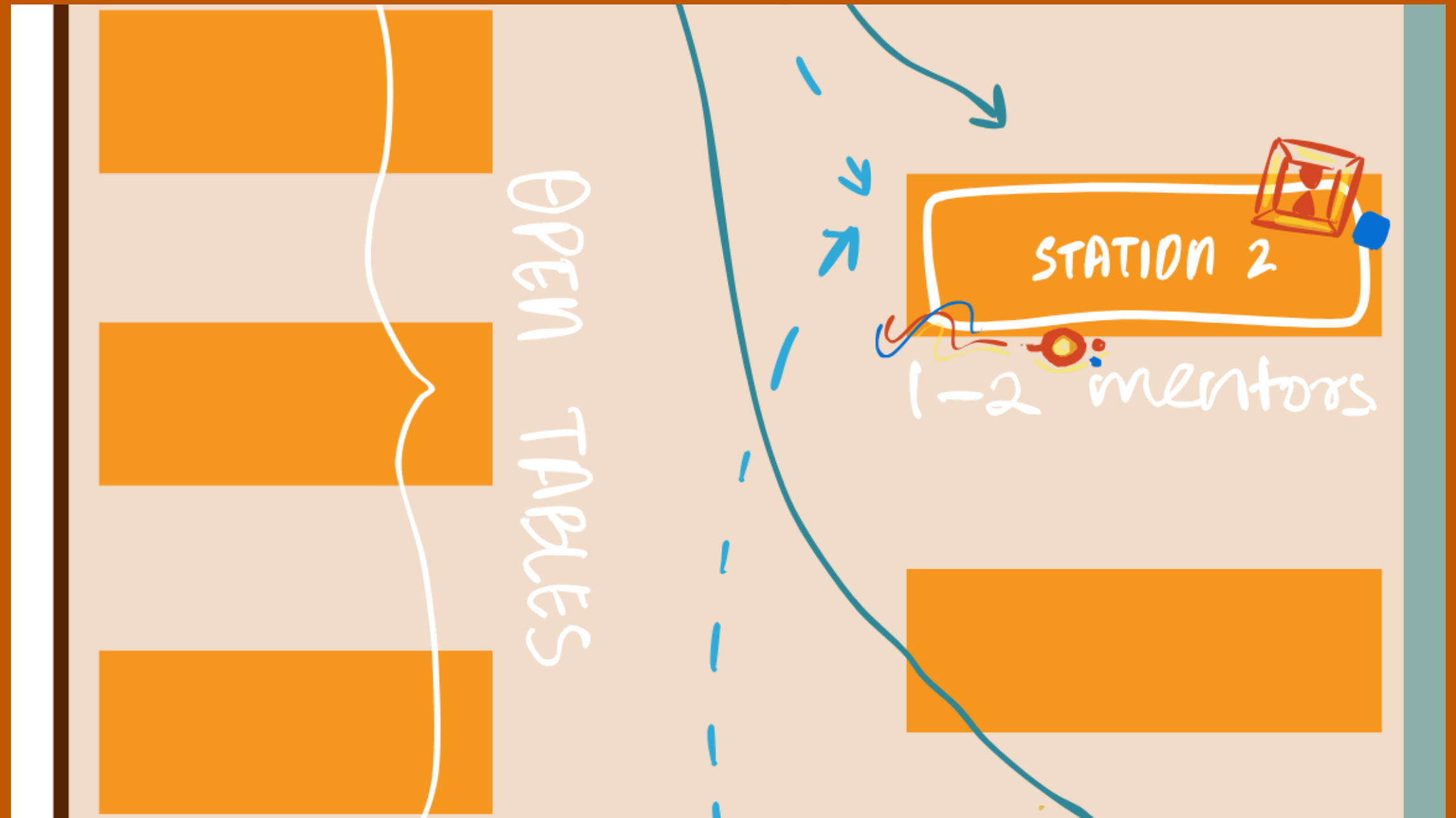
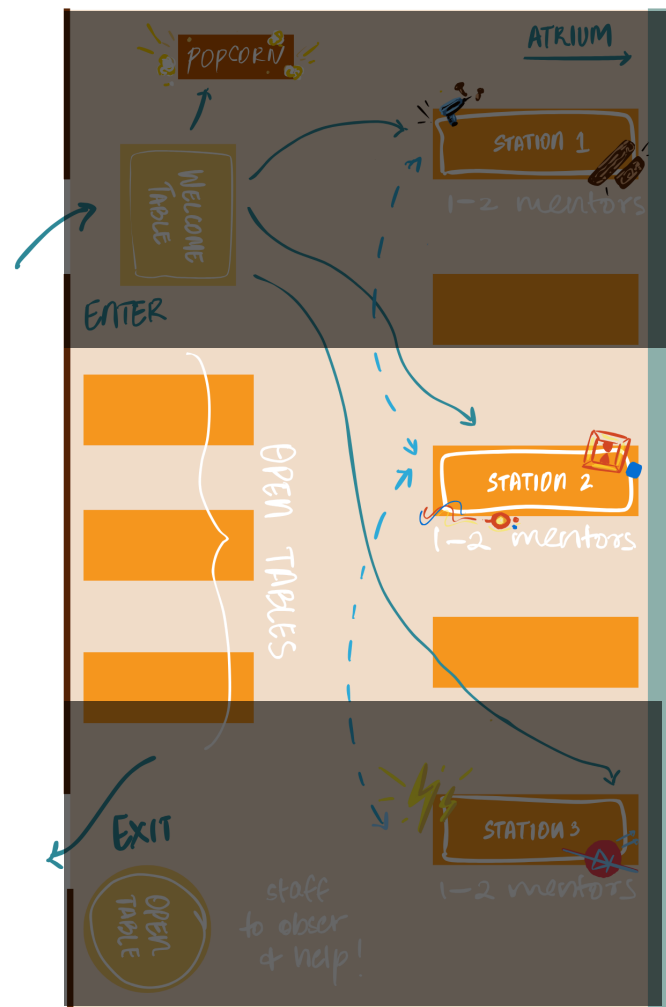


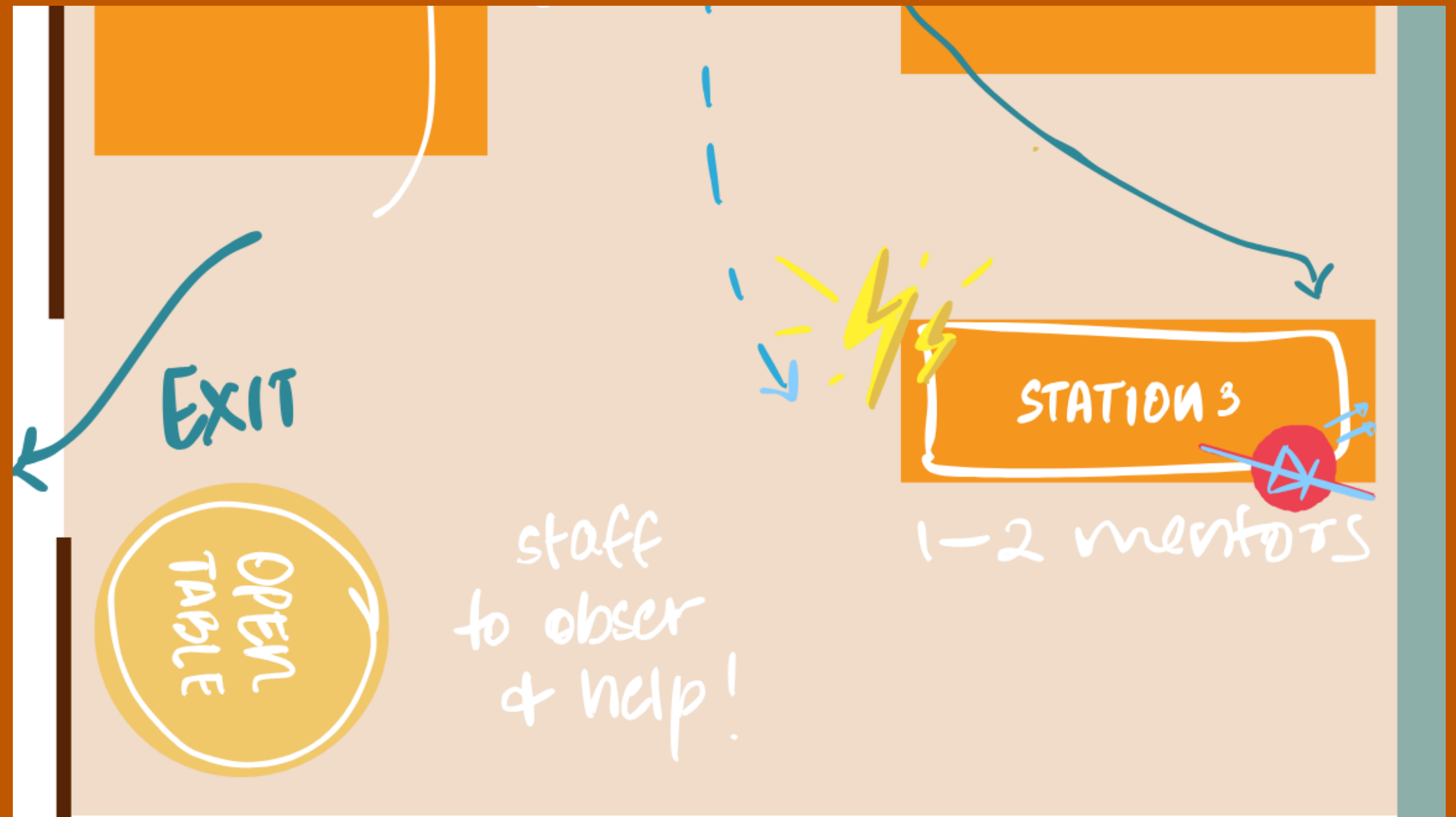
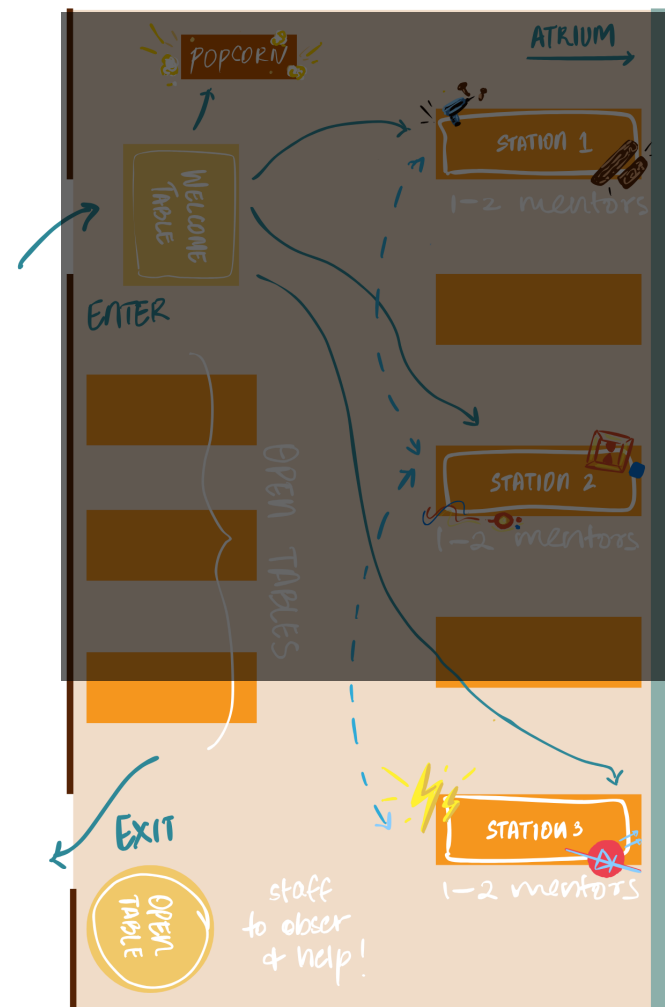
LOGISTICS











SALLY'S JOURNEY

1

Welcome to Try It!



Sally checks in, grabs her name tag and popcorn, and starts chatting.

2

WOODSHOP



Let's Get Situated

The group gets an intro and safety rundown. Sally picks the Woodshop station.

Time to Try It!



Sally builds her nightlight and gets help from a mentor with circuits.

3

That Was So Fun!



Sally snaps a photo of her project and grabs a sticker before heading out.

4



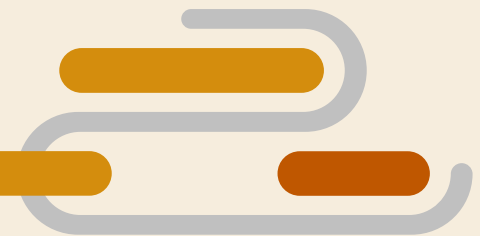
OUR JOURNEY

how did we get here?



HOW MIGHT WE...

*motivate students to **actively explore** TIW resources as part of their learning journey **beyond** the classroom?*



IDEATION: CRAZY 8S



Guest
Speakers

Promotional
Materials

Build Day

Scavenger
Hunt +
Assembly Line

ITERATION



**Scavenger
Hunt +
Assembly Line**



meeting with TIW

**TRY IT!
Open House**

"We want to encourage people to **lean into not knowing** what they are doing"

-TIW TEAM

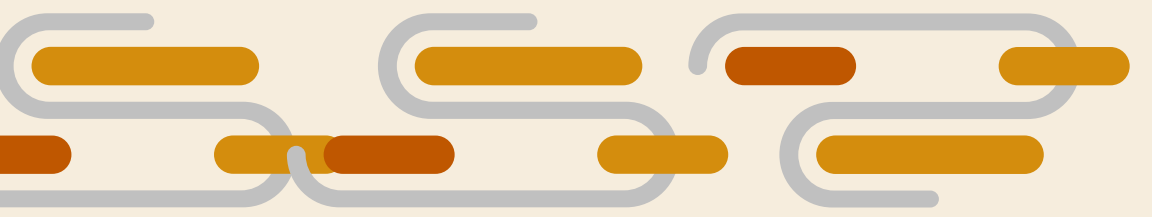
"It's **rare** to see a student who has already done everything here (TIW)"

-TIW TEAM



VALIDATION

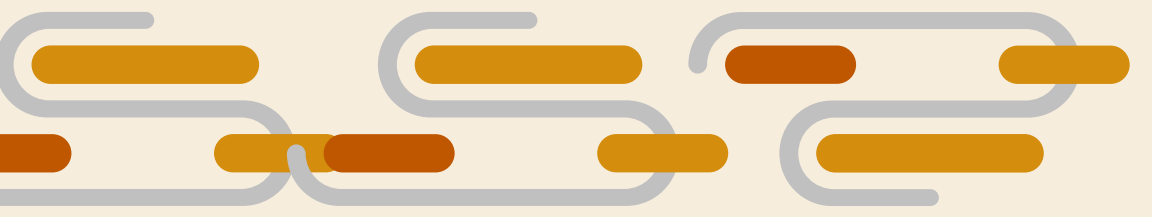
why did we make the decisions we did?



PROTOTYPING



*When learning a new tool or machine, what is the **optimal balance** between structured **instruction** and exploratory **freedom**?*



PROTOTYPES

UNSTRUCTURED

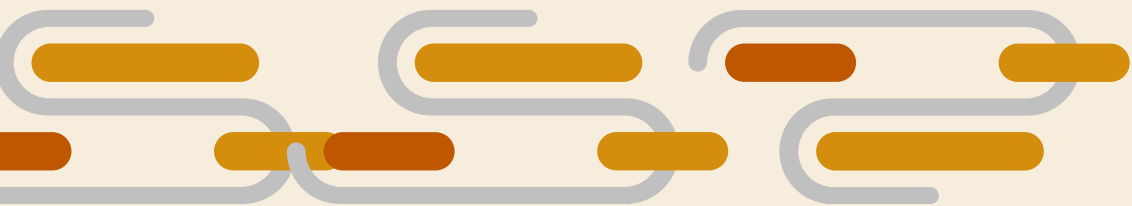


"The first attempt on electronics **didn't go well...** there is an assumption too often, that if you give them the stuff they'll go crazy"

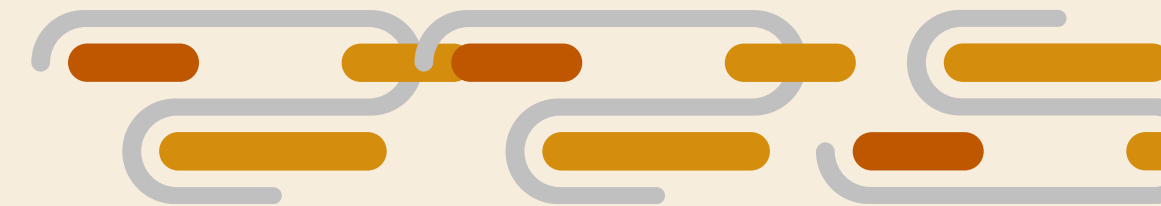
-TIW Staff

"I want us to think about **'what is the prompt?'** there needs to be a **driving force** on filling up the ticket...we want room for freedom of expression"

-TIW Staff



PROTOTYPES

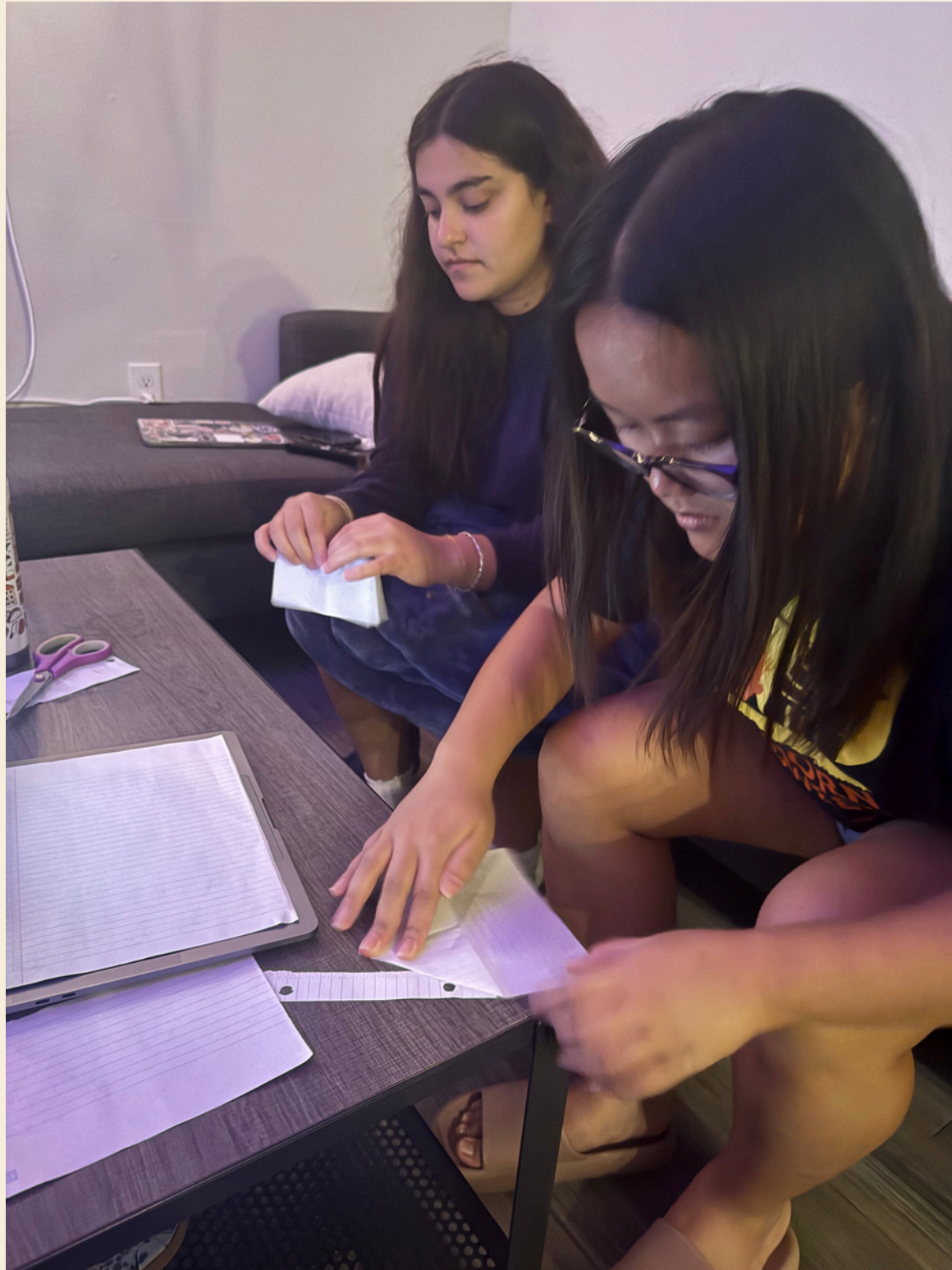


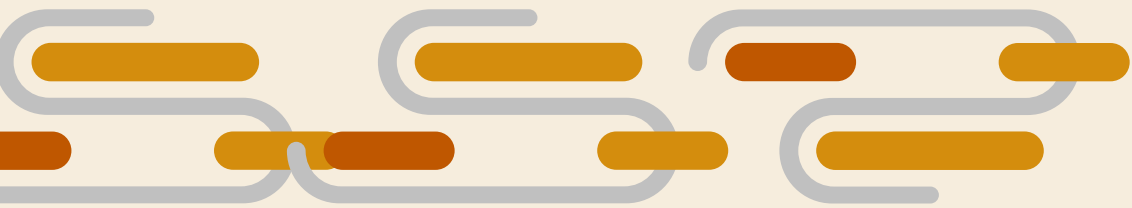
SEMI-STRUCTURED



PROTOTYPES

STRUCTURED





RESULTS



**Mentoring and
verbal
directions fill in
the gaps and
provide nuance**

**Visual
instructions
provide clarity
and a
consistent
reference**

**Both are needed
to adhere to
different
learning styles
and drive
retention**

station setup guide

Station Types (Pick 3-4 per event):

- **Drill Press Station:**
Simple wood keychain cut.
- **Laser Engraver Station:**
Acrylic name tag or sign.
- **3D Print Station:**
Preset file mod + print.
- **Circuit Station:**
LED badge or small light gadget.

Each Station Needs:

- Clear visual examples of end product variations
- 1 mentor per station
- Pre-cut materials or simple kit
- 1 page cheat sheet ("Try This!" steps + safety tips)

project ideas

Projects should integrate at least two areas of making, showing how different tools can work **together**.

Every idea should offer multiple build pathways or 'variations', meaning there's more than one way to make the same final product.

This lets students choose their approach, providing the perfect balance between guided prompts and flexible exploration.



Phone Stand

Wood cutting (bandsaw or scroll saw),
drilling, sanding

- Add laser-engraved initials or patterning
- Combine with 3D-printed cable holder
- Personalize with vinyl stickers

Night Light

3D printer or wood cutter for base, LED circuitry

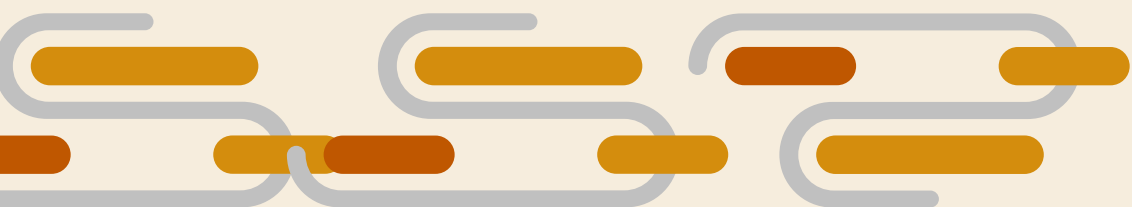
- Swap materials (3D printed base vs. wood) - Pick acrylic light panel designs - Add a switch or multicolor LED



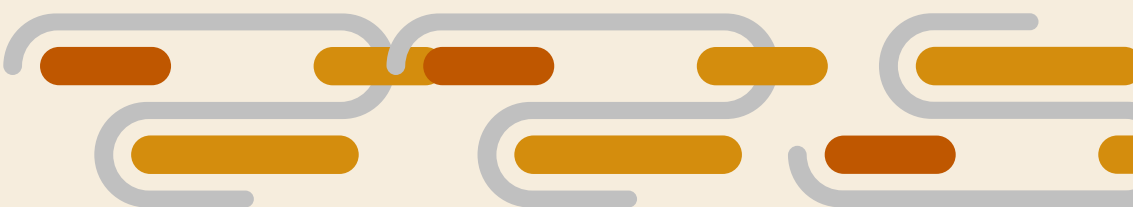
Light Up K

3D printer + LED circuit

- Swap 3D design for a laser-cut sheet
- Engrave initials or patterns
- Experiment with color-changing LEDs



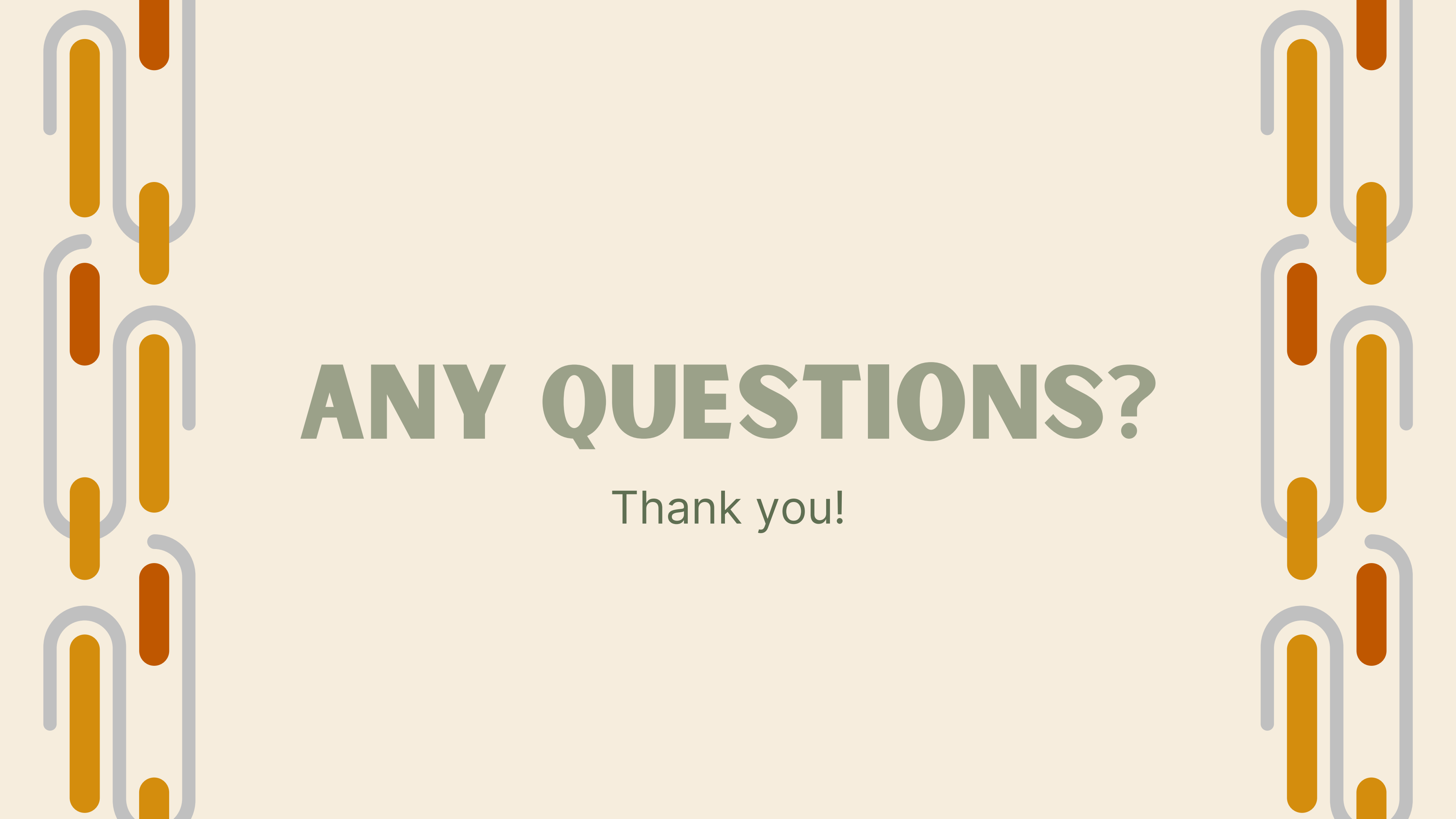
TAKEAWAYS



**Always
test, don't
assume.**

**Don't try to
solve
everything
at once.**

**Empathize
with your
user!**



ANY QUESTIONS?

Thank you!