## Prince George's County Parks & Recreation Department Seniors Project

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### **Team & Roles**





Aubrey Parrish Editor



#### Vivian (Wei-Farn) Tang Project Manager

Kinny (Yuanqi) Chen Communicator & Designer



Zi Lin People Person & Designer



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## **Problem Statement**

Seniors who have the Senior ID access card do not utilize the services available to them as much as the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Department would prefer.

This problem has been made worse by the necessary safety precautions that have been implemented during the pandemic and the movement to primarily online platforms that will likely continue even after the pandemic is over.

## **Research Goals**

- To examine how online procedures affected the seniors' experiences with the **access card** and **event signup processes**, as well as **event engagement**
- To determine seniors' **needs** during the pandemic and beyond, seeing as many programs are planning to continue incorporating online activities moving forward (i.e., the "new normal")
- To align these **needs** with the senior center's planned programs

## **Main Findings**

- Seniors want to have access to a wide variety of classes that are offered at times that work with their schedules (evenings, weekends)
- They want live instruction from teachers that care about their subject matter
- Signup process involves too many steps and is not automated enough
- Information about event schedule is hard to locate, outdated, and inaccurate in many email communications
- Seniors really enjoy events where they can socialize with their friends, such as Club 300 (walking club) and line dancing
- They generally expressed satisfaction with the types of classes that were offered

## **Demographic Information**

User Number	Age	Gender	Location	Cardholder
U1	81	F	District Heights	Yes
U2	67	F	College Park	Yes
U3	70	М	Upper Marlboro	Yes
U4	69	F	Lanham	Yes

## **Data Collection (Contextual Interviews)**

- U1, U2, and U3 were interviewed over the phone, and U4 was interviewed using Zoom
- Interviews were approximately 30-60 minutes and were conducted from November 10-13
- Our goal was to discover insights about our users' lived experiences with the center and understand the context that surrounds their interactions with it on a day-to-day basis
- To do this, we primarily inquired about their experiences with the access card and event signup processes, online and in-person events, and the center's outreach and communication policies

## **Data Collection (Interpretation Sessions)**

- We spent 1-1.5 hours after each interview **discussing** the information we collected and **organizing** our findings into notes
- We placed our **affinity notes** (key findings) on the left side and **insights** that we discovered on the right side

8				
	U1-1	Signed up for the senior center because she wanted to have access to the resources there.		
9	U1-2	She signed up for the access card online.		
10	U1-3	Liked to talk to her friends about upcoming events.	Relationship (I talk about upcoming events with my friends) Identity (I always think about my friends)	
11	U1-4	Have to sign up for every single event.		
12	U1-5	Before COVID, she usually signed up for events in person.		
13	U1-6	She is able to independently sign up for events but it is difficult. Signup process is complicated.		
14	U1-7	She helped her friends sign up for the events because the signup system was difficult for them to use.	Relationship (I help my friends with the signup process) Identity (I always think about my friends)	
15	U1-8	She used to attend events frequently but stopped recently because of her back pain.	Physical condition kept her from attending events.	
16	U1-9	Frustrated when the time of the class was changed by the instructor and instruction times were cut short.	Relationship (My instructor's attitude affects my experience) - Consistency in events, layout, and communication is crucial. Identity (I value my time) - Time management component might be missing.	
17	U1-10	She hasn't been checking schedule since pandemic because she didn't receive any hard copies of schedules.	Identity (I'm a traditionalist)	
18	U1-11	She likes the hard copy of newsletter she used to receive, because it was easy to look up information in the senior section.	Identity (I'm a traditionalist)	
19	U1-12	She had a hard time finding an email about an event that her friend sent her.	Relationship (My friends tells me event that they're interested in) Identity (I'm a traditionalist)	

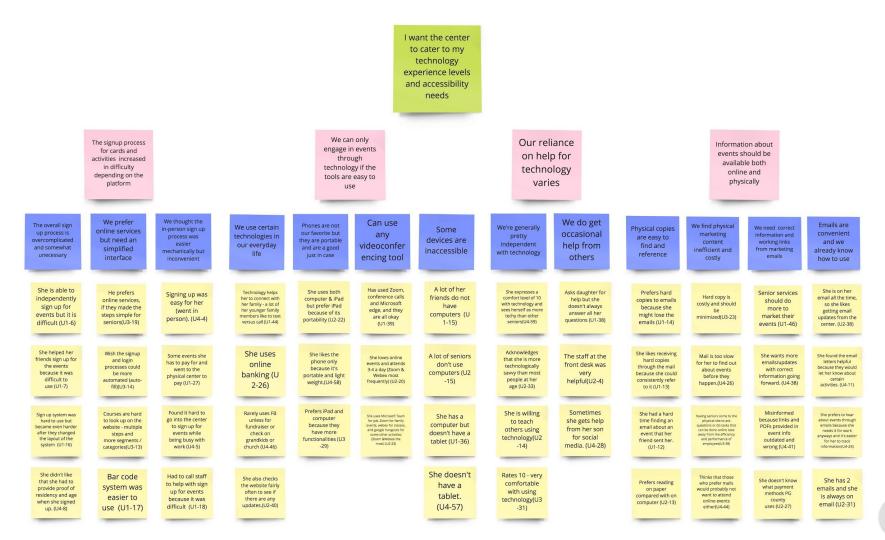
## **Data Analysis**

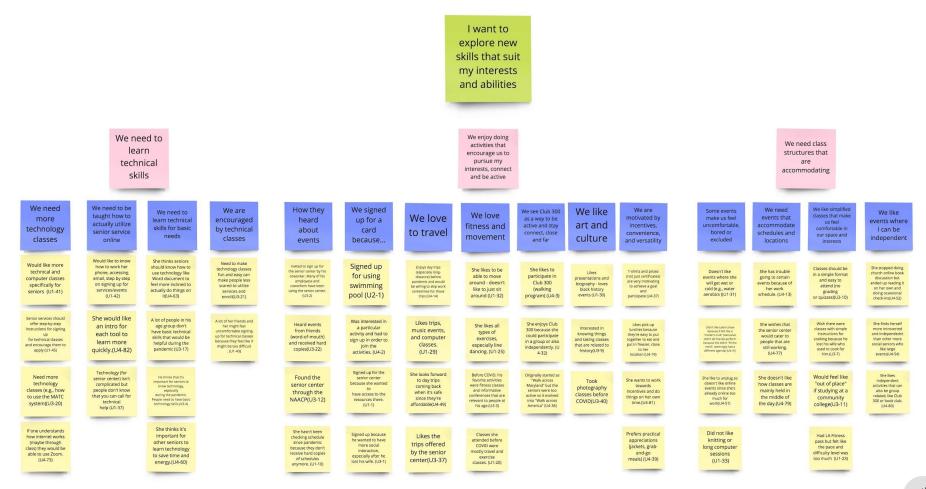
### • Affinity Diagram

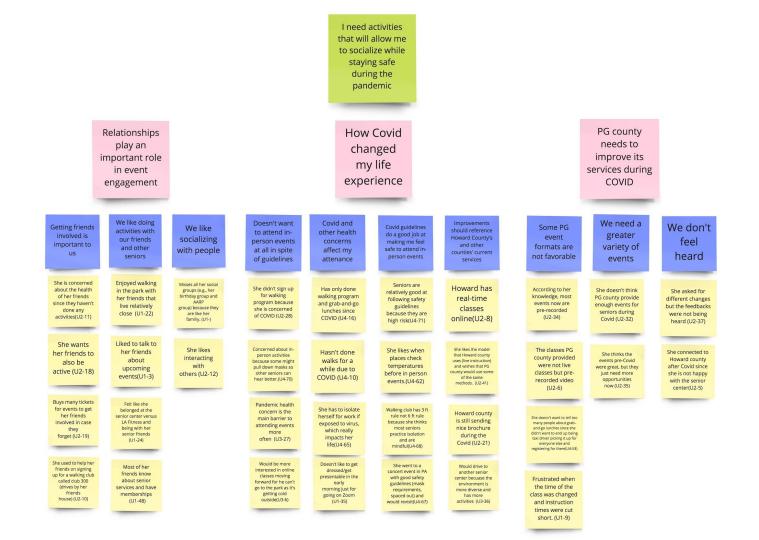
- Consolidates and organizes all the affinity notes by common issues and themes
- Experience Models
  - Identity Model
    - Captures the core values and self expressions relevant to typical users of the senior center
  - Relationship Model
    - Displays the important relationships in seniors' lives and how these relationships influence their decisions on signing up for the Senior ID access card and particular events

## **Affinity Diagram**







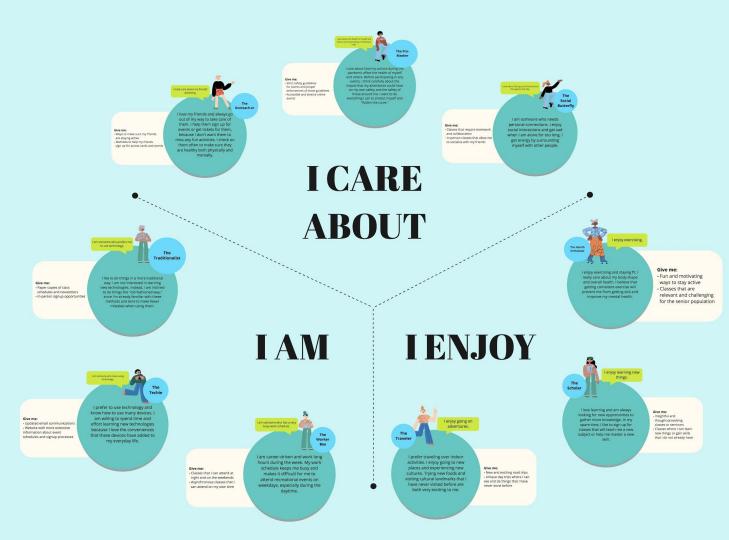


## Affinity Diagram (Key Findings)

- Seniors would respond well to gamification
  - Goal-based events with incentives such as different prizes upon completion were very appealing to participants
- Some found the online signup processes and marketing to be decently manageable while others preferred to completely **avoid the online experience** entirely
- Interviewees desired to learn technical skills so that they could be open to more opportunities within their communities
- Users felt more inclined to attend activities with simplified class structures that were customized to their age group, accommodations for various time schedules and locations, and allowances for independency or socialization within their peer group
- Participants really gravitated towards events that implemented safe practices and guidelines while still allowing them to engage with others

## **Experience Models**





# I CARE ABOUT

I really care about my friends' wellbeing.

#### The Outreach-er

I love my friends and always go out of my way to take care of them. I help them sign up for events or get tickets for them, because I don't want them to miss any fun activities. I check on them often to make sure they are healthy both physically and mentally.

Give me:

are staying active

- Ways to make sure my friends

sign up for access cards and events

- Methods to help my friends

 Strict safety guidelines for events and proper enforcement of those guidelines
 Accessible and diverse online

Give me:

events

I care about the health of myself and others and avoid taking unnecessary risks.

I care about how my actions during the pandemic affect the health of myself and others. Before participating in any events, I think carefully about the impact that my attendance could have on my own safety and the safety of those around me. I want to do everything I can to protect myself and "flatten the curve."

The Pro-Masker

#### Give me:

 Classes that require teamwork and collaboration
 In-person classes that allow me to socialize with my friends I care about having social interactions throughout the day. The Social Butterfly

I am someone who needs personal connections. I enjoy social interactions and get sad when I am alone for too long. I get energy by surrounding myself with other people.

# **I ENJOY**

I enjoy going on adventures.

> I prefer traveling over indoor activities. I enjoy going to new places and experiencing new cultures. Trying new foods and visiting cultural landmarks that I have never visited before are both very exciting to me.



I love learning and am always looking for new opportunities to gather more knowledge. In my spare time, I like to sign up for classes that will teach me a new subject or help me master a new skill.

#### Give me:

 Insightful and thought-provoking classes or seminars
 Classes where I can learn new things or gain skills that I do not already have



I enjoy exercising and staying fit. I really care about my body shape and overall health. I believe that getting consistent exercise will prevent me from getting sick and improve my mental health.

#### Give me:

Fun and motivating ways to stay active
Classes that are relevant and challenging for the senior population

#### Give me:

 New and exciting road trips
 Unique day trips where I can see and do things that I have never done before

# IAM

Give me:

- Paper copies of class

schedules and newsletters

- In-person signup opportunities

I am someone who prefers not to use technology.

#### The Traditionalist

I like to do things in a more traditional way. I am not interested in learning new technologies. Instead, I am inclined to do things the "oldfashioned way," since I'm already familiar with these methods and tend to make fewer mistakes when using them. Give me: - Updated email communications

- Website with more extensive information about event schedules and signup processes



I prefer to use technology and know how to use many devices. I am willing to spend time and effort learning new technologies because I love the conveniences that these devices have added to my everyday life.

l am someone who has a very busy work schedule. The Worker Bee

#### Give me:

 Classes that I can attend at night and on the weekends
 Asynchronous classes that I can attend on my own time l am career-driven and work long hours during the week. My work schedule keeps me busy and makes it difficult for me to attend recreational events on weekdays, especially during the daytime.

## Identity Model (Key Findings)

- Seniors care a lot about the mental and physical health of themselves and their friends
- Event engagement is an awesome way to stay active through learning new skills and travel/exploration
- Many seniors have a strong desire to expand their horizons through more diverse classes and traveling
- The center should adopt solutions to cater to seniors that prefer technology and those that prefer more traditional methods of communication and engagement
- Some seniors still have jobs and need classes that fit their work schedules

## Relationship Model



ME

#### **Inner Circle**

I like to communicate with my classmates and club friends while participating in senior center events. We have similar interests and like to encourage each other to pursue scheduled activities. My close friends and I communicate outside of events and will often plan to attend certain events together.

#### Support Groups

The senior center staff and class instructors offer me assistence when I'm signing up for events. They also provide me with recommendations if I'm not sure which classes i should attend. I regularity participate in my favorite instructor's class. The more I like a particular instructor, the more often I will attend their classes. I also attend some events at other senior centers attend some events at other senior centers of like how their classes are structured and the times and locations are convenient for me.

#### **Families & Coworkers**

I take technology classes to help me communicate with my grandchildren. I typically ask my children if I have any technology-related questions. If they are unavailable, it can be hard for me to perform certain activities, such as signing up for events and participating in online classes. Furthermore. Itistening to my coworkers talk about the classes that they enjoy has encouraged me to participate in events as well.

### High Influence



#### Club Friends & Classmates We share similar interests, so we often see each other in the same classes or programs

I enjoy exercising and taking classes with other seniors. A lot of my club friends like the walking program (Club 300), so we usually see each other at those events. We only speak during our scheduled meeting times, but when we do, it's always a blast!

### **Inner Circle**

**Close Friends** 

events together.

We share news of interesting events

with each other and attend those

I like exercising and taking classes

about the upcoming events and plan

to go together. I have helped some

because the online signup process

of my friends sign up for events

was too difficult for them.

with my friends. We always talk

### **Inner Circle**

I like to communicate with my classmates and club friends while participating in senior center events. We have similar interests and like to encourage each other to pursue scheduled activities. My close friends and I communicate outside of events and will often plan to attend certain events together.

### Medium Influence

#### Other Social Groups & Communities We compare their services with Prince George's County's services

When my other community groups (AARP, senior centers in other counties, etc.) offer similar classes and events, I choose to attend the classes that are closest to me, have the best instruction, work with my schedule, and are easy to sign up for.

#### Class Instructors We get to know them during our classes

My instructors inform me about any changes that have been made to the class schedule. The instructor's attitude shapes my experiences at the center and affects my decisions about which classes I will take. I really appreciate if an instructor values my time and keeps the class schedule consistent.

#### Senior Center Staff We talk to them about senior services and ask for technical help

I call people who work at the senior center when I have problems signing up, and they are always friendly and willing to help. Sometimes I give them feedback on the services they provide, and I appreciate when they listen to my requests.

### **Support Groups**

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The senior center staff and class instructors offer me assistance when I'm signing up for events. They also provide me with recommendations if I'm not sure which classes I should attend. I regularly participate in my favorite instructor's class. The more I like a particular instructor, the more often I will attend their classes. I also attend some events at other senior centers if I like how their classes are structured and the times and locations are convenient for me.

#### Grandchildren

### We take technology classes to learn how to better communicate with them

I want to talk to my grandchildren, but we don't get to see each other in person that often. In order to make our communication easier, I take technology classes at the center to learn how to text them and view their posts on social media.

#### Children

### We ask them questions when we have problems using technology

I ask my children for help when I have problems with the event signup process or other technology-related questions, but sometimes they are not available. If they are unavailable, sometimes I am unable to sign up for events that I want to attend.

**Coworkers & Employees** 

lives

up as well.

We see each other at work and

sometimes talk about our social

My coworkers and/or employees

center, so they invited me to sign

have been going to the senior

### Families & Coworkers

### **Families & Coworkers**

I take technology classes to help me communicate with my grandchildren. I typically ask my children if I have any technology-related questions. If they are unavailable, it can be hard for me to perform certain activities, such as signing up for events and participating in online classes. Furthermore, listening to my coworkers talk about the classes that they enjoy has encouraged me to participate in events as well.

Low Influence

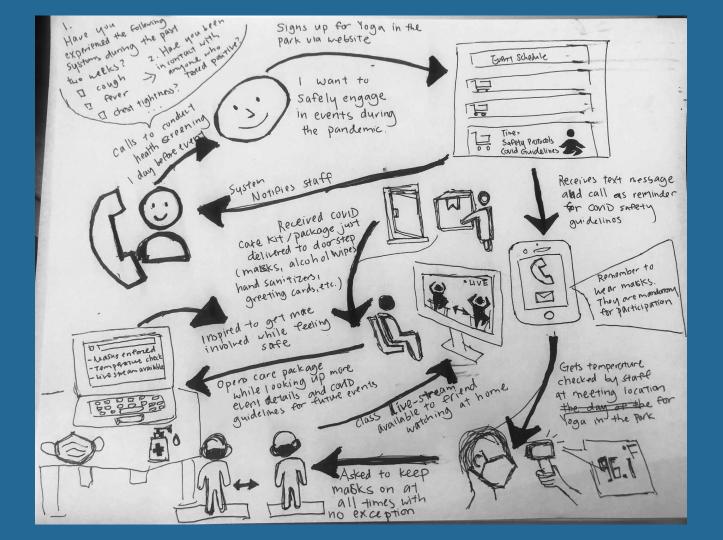
## **Relationship Model (Key Findings)**

- Seniors are highly influenced by their close friends and club friends when deciding when and how to engage with events
- Class instructors and staff members have slightly less influence, but they are still very important in that they help seniors navigate parks and recreation services and affect their enjoyment of classes and programs
- Children and grandchildren do help with their technology questions, but they have less influence on their decisions to attend events at the center

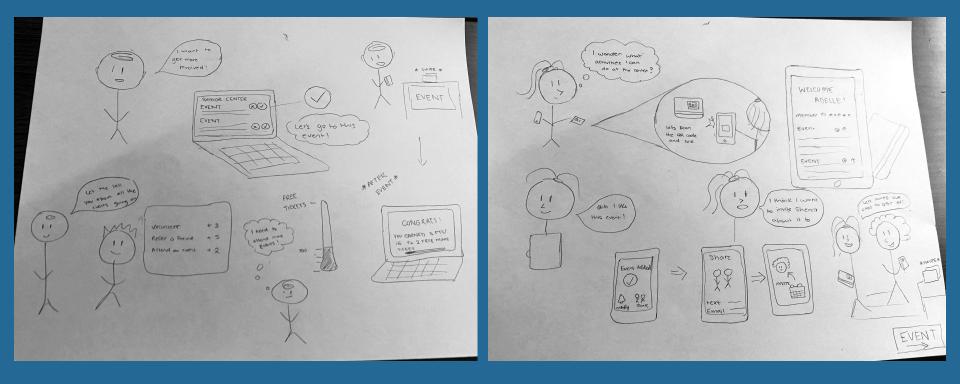


## Ideation

- Wall Walk
  - We brainstormed ideas individually based on the results of our models
  - We placed each idea on a sticky note next to the portion of the models that inspired that idea
  - We created a list of issues based on the Affinity Diagram
  - We created a list of **hot** (design) **ideas** based on our sticky notes
- Visioning
  - We consolidated several hot ideas and created detailed sketches that portrayed stories/scenarios of what those ideas would look like if implemented in a senior's life



Planning to sign-up Por an event online for Follows steps one by the first time one the while watching 0 play the videos PG COUNTY PANS & REC Please check out the tutonal Videos below checks email on http://www...... phone or computer for link to tutorials bttp=11mm. ... 0 Clickon shopping cor 17 123× Successfully completes onArmontion 120 10 has been sem the sign-up to your email and phone process 0:61/5:81 08 -0 Completes every Guides User through steps or helps resolve error messages together step in the chearlist of all required steps 14 [1] M + > (12 Email: ¥ ~~~~ \* This is not a ralid m Ren Relies email address on interactive Contact Support ZN Phone : m visual feedback Via phone number provided X This is not a valid 5~ in email and video douription to identify and number for TI idoes or clicking on link to live not meet the 10-digit 9x error format chat support



## **Conceptual Designs**

### **Product Design 1: Video Tutorials**

The tutorial video is the first thing that pops up when the user logs in to the main webpage. They would have to click on the cross sign to skip the video.

Plans to sign up for an event online for the first time

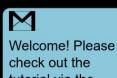


The user receives a welcome email containing all the tutorial links.

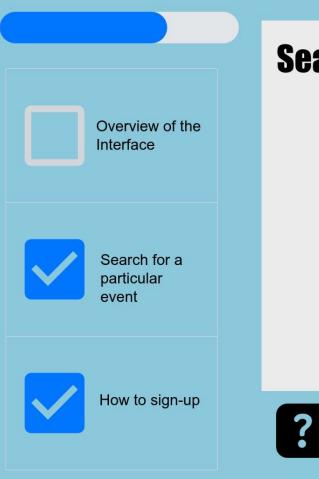
#### Q Search

Welcome to Prince George's Parks & Recs! Please watch the tutorial video below. The event sign-up process will be a breeze!

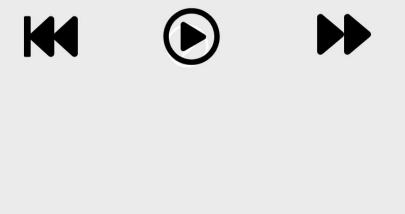
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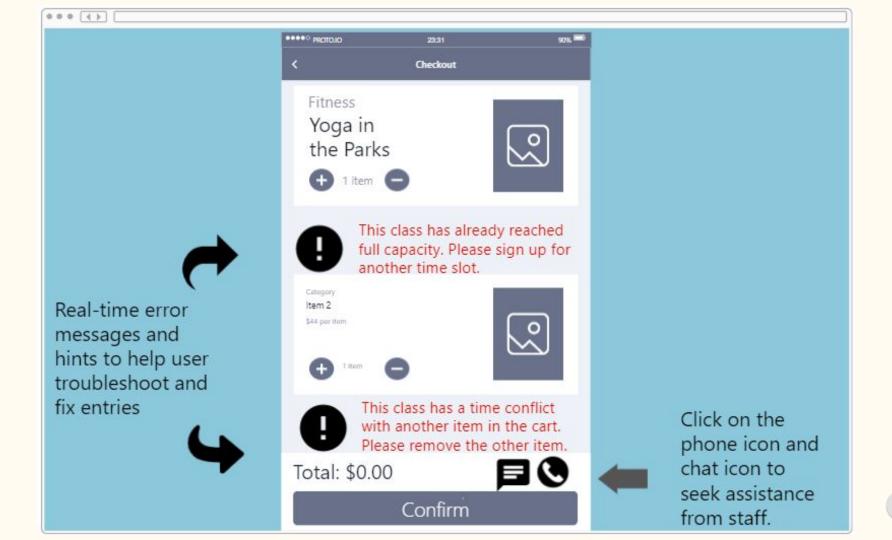


Welcome! Please check out the tutorial via the following links: www.parksandrecs. youtube.com



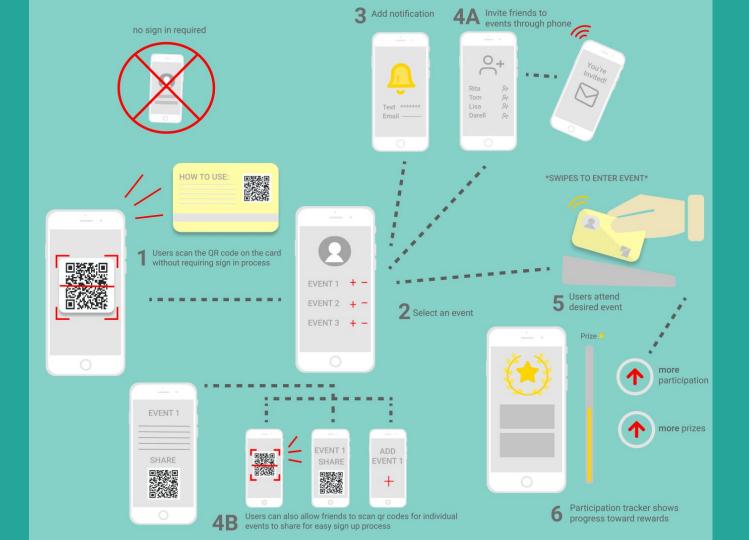
### **Search For A Particular Event**





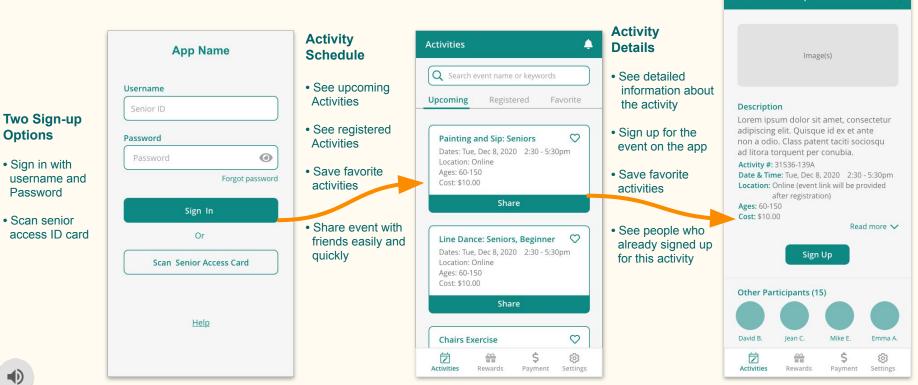
### **Product Design 2: The QR Code System**





### **Product Design 3: Senior Activity App**



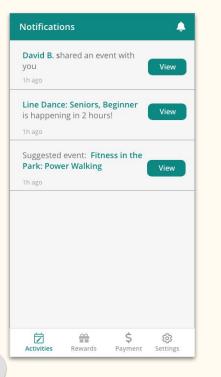


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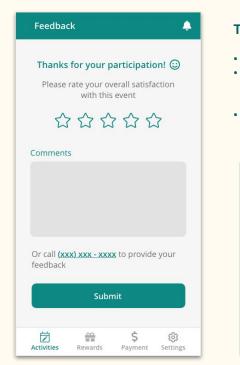
#### Notifications

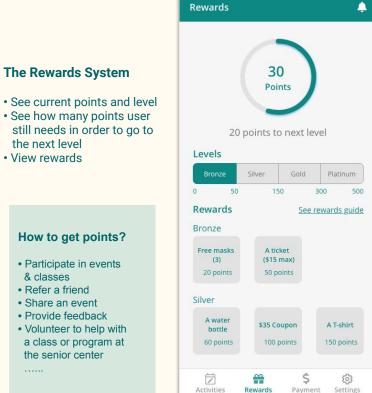
- Check out an events shared by a friend
- Receive reminders of upcoming events
- See suggestions on events that you might be interested in



#### Feedback

- Get quick feedback on each event
- Users can give feedback in different ways





### **Further Suggestions**

- Create buddy system that pairs seniors that are experienced with using technology with seniors that need help improving their skills
- More classes need to be offered on the weekends and in the evenings
- Live stream in-person events for those who can't attend due to the pandemic but still want to participate
- Record classes and allow people who can't attend to view later
- Deliver Covid care kits/packages
- Conduct health screenings and enforce more strict mask rules



### Thank you for watching!