

To experience Toronto at its finest, we have created an interactive video installation. The installation represents the busy streets of everyday life in Toronto. The theme is to represent the multiculturalism in Toronto by showing four different neighborhoods. Therefore, the aspects that makes Toronto such a welcoming and prosperous place to live. The audience will enter into the installation and first use their senses to hear and see the portrayal of Toronto by viewing our installation. The installation resembles clotheslines, which represents a common object in a community that will have material hanging from it, where the videos of the city neighborhoods will be shown. The simplicity of the fabrics hanging and moving due to the presence of the audience, causes an artificial wind. Wind can create chaos and chaos is what keeps a city moving and the ability to survive. This all together is what keeps the areas of Toronto we wish to represent the upbeat places they are in yet such a subtle beautiful way. The audience will have the ability to touch the materials and have their shadows become part of the installation. This installation is aided by other experiences that provide a point of reference, which is the use of the clothesline resemblance and the chaotic environment of sound and video footage and add the notion of a busy city. The installation creates a narrative of what life is like in different parts of Toronto while representing multiculturalism.

### **Toronto Final**

#### **TO DO/SPLIT UP:**

- presentation statement - TOGETHER
- audio - redo - Diane?
- footage: - choose hoods, decide layout, decide which shots - TOGETHER
- video - red - KELVIN?
- get scale from david - remind about bringing it in for final (DIANE, goes with material) + photo
- recut materials(Diane) - decide layout(TOGETHER)

#### **PROTOTYPE INFO:**

#### **NEED FOR TUES:**

- 4 dongles per projector
- 4 comps (rent 2
- 2 speakers
- string
- scissors
- clips

- fabric
- posts/bases
- extension cords
- tape

#### **GET FROM BARRY day of**

- short throw
- 2 viewsonics
- 2 laptops
- dongles
- extension cords
- speakers

#### **KELVIN:**

- Finish video
- send diane sound info
- put sound and video together
- get posts
- figure out speakers
- bring computer to class - files for each video

#### **Diane:**

- iron fabrics
- extension cords
- bring computer
- kelvins money

#### **AFTER PROTOTYPE NOVEMBER 5th**

- refilm on a sat day
- chinatown, kensington, church + wells/

film little italy 7 pm on

#### **REEDIT**

**REDo AAUDIO**

done

4 projectors needed: 2 short throws: Rent out after ask barry a question and 2

<b>Viewsonic Pro8400 HD Projectors</b>
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?

[-https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHBJbXF3UXplaDVSV1Zja1E3VVV5TGc6MQ&theme=0AX42CRMsmRFbUy0xOGQxNWI3Yi01NzQzLTQ1ZjUtOTk4OS1kODRIZWlwNjMxZTU&ifq](https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHBJbXF3UXplaDVSV1Zja1E3VVV5TGc6MQ&theme=0AX42CRMsmRFbUy0xOGQxNWI3Yi01NzQzLTQ1ZjUtOTk4OS1kODRIZWlwNjMxZTU&ifq)

- <http://www.rcc.ryerson.ca/media/MixedRealityClusterCatalog.pdf>

Diane: Sounds, dimensions, projectors - fio scale.

Kelvin: Edit video/add effects, GET WOOD (hooks for string)

for the **wood maybe get 60-80 inches tall.**

**or buy**

<http://www.homedepot.ca/product/aluminum-pole-black-finish-with-cross-bar/935138>

<http://www.homedepot.ca/product/snoc-black-pole-collar/930965>

<http://www.canadiantire.ca/AST/browse/5/SportsRec/Marine/BoatCovers/PRD~0791207P/Boat+Cover+Support+Pole.jsp?locale=en>

#### **Measurements:**

Each piece of fabric is 56 inches by 46 inches (width and height)

in total thats 224 inches of space needed. However, 60 inches will be overlaid. (20 inches per overlay). Therefore, 164 inches of space is needed + additional room for t-posts



## **PROOF OF CONCEPT:**

### **PROPOSAL:**

As artists living in the multicultural city of Toronto, it makes us want to allow everyone to experience all it has to offer. To experience Toronto at its finest, we are creating an interactive video installation. The installation will look and sound like the busy streets of everyday life in Toronto. The theme is to represent the multiculturalism in Toronto by showing four different neighborhoods. Therefore, the aspects that makes Toronto such a welcoming and prosperous place to live. We are interested in creating this installation because we would like to learn more about where we live and enable others to have the same appreciation for Toronto as we do, as well as developing our interest in film and projectors.

The individual experience will begin with the user walking into a room; there will be four speakers that will each be playing sounds from the Toronto neighborhoods of: Chinatown, little Italy, the Harbourfront and the Danforth. There will be curtain-like fabric hanging from rope, which will represent clotheslines in cities. Each curtain will have one of the four neighborhood videos projected onto it. Due to the sounds of the speakers and the visuals on the curtains the user will make a choice as to which curtain he/she is drawn to. The user will have the opportunity to touch and walk through the various curtains, which will then alter the experience due to the users shadow and touch. The video and curtains sizes will be decided

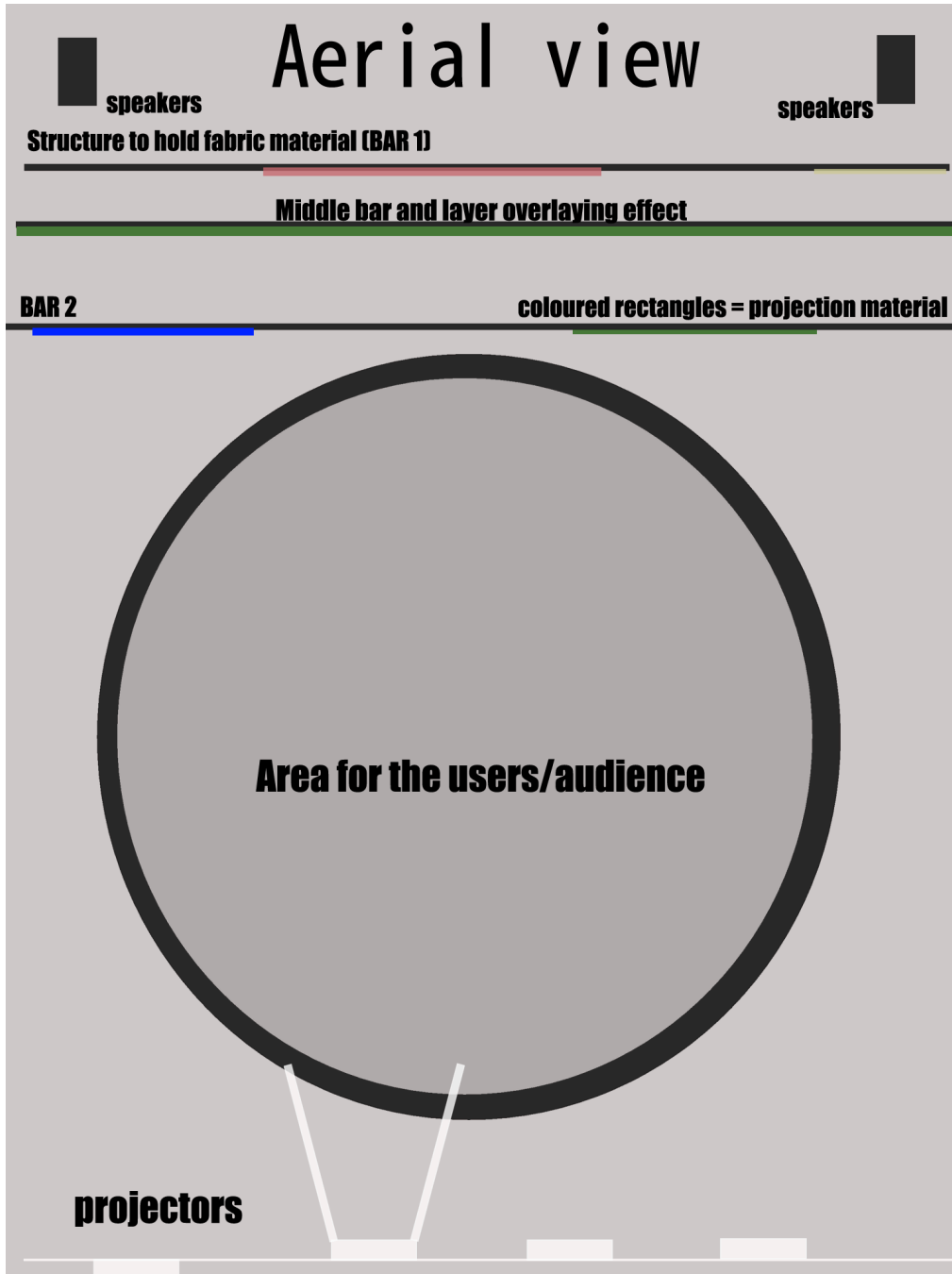
once we have started our construction. The curtains will be placed in way so that the transparency of the specific curtain will overlay onto a curtain that will be behind it. The experience is for multiple users to enhance the essence of a chaotic city, the experience will play on a loop of approximately thirty seconds. There will be potentially four projectors, one for each curtain, we will have to experience the placement of the projectors once we a start on our prototype. The presentation of our idea is enhanced by our concept because it figuratively clips our story of the neighborhoods together through the [pins](#). Everything in the world has a story, every piece of material or even laundry. Sometimes we forget about our laundry, but when we wash it and let it dry, the materials gets its beauty and life back for another day of memories. By looking at the projections on the fabrics we get a sense of the story, by looking into the lives of such materials. The simplicity of the fabrics hanging and moving due to the presence of the audience, causes an artificial wind. Wind can create chaos and chaos is what keeps a city moving and the ability to survive. This all together is what keeps the areas of Toronto we wish to represent the upbeat places they are in yet such a subtle beautiful way.

As artists working in Toronto where it is full of opportunities and artists who explore film, installations and education, we will make an experience that will allow all those components to come together as one. We hope to create an experience that combines creative thinking and multiculturalism. This is important as it allows us to visualize what type of sounds attracts certain people and what types of reactions are caused by specific neighborhoods. This artificial experience is like looking into what life could be like in other parts of the city for the users. The user is able to choose a silhouette and then for a brief moment, view and experience an event from far away. This experience encourages the users to make choices as to what they are attracted to and experience something unfamiliar. Thus, enforcing the user to become the key factor in the outcome of the experience.

**IMAGES OF NEW CONCEPT: (updated)**



**A front view of how our project will look like. In this view, the user sees the 4 projections, the bar hanging the fabric and speakers. During this time, the audience is able to hear different sounds while enjoying the footage on the projected materials.**



This is an aerial view of our project. This image outlines the placement of the equipment we will use.

**STORYBOARD IDEAS: ( ADD-CHANGE JUST A BRAINSTORM)**

- We want to film all four areas and show how they are unique but be able to connect them in a filming style and with potentially with more of a narrative

Each video will be 1 minute long. The content will be the same throughout each video but different representations.

Each video will start with an ariel shot looking down at sidewalk (as if walking through neighborhood) slowly pan up to get a straight on view of the neighborhood

camera will then look left and see content  
then will look right and see content

the content will go in the order of (maychange)

- momument (show something to right away connect to specific area)
- restaurants
- landscape (parks, water, etc)
- cultural symbols i.e dragons n and chinatown
- national flags (view of CN tower for harbor since it is considered to be “Toronto’s playground”)
- Street art
- shops

Overlaying objects:

trees, pedestrians, buildings (materials: bricks, wood concrete etc)

The middle curtain will help clean up the overlaying and help with transitional effects. It will also tie the piece together, making it look more unified.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD BACKGROUND RESEARCH:**

### **GENERAL RESEARCH:**

- <http://www.torontoneighbourhoods.net/>

### **CHINATOWN:** (<http://www.toronto-chinatown.info/>)

#### **WHY CHINATOWN?**

We have chosen Chinatown because of its rapid growth in development over the years. Chinatown offers a variety of different experiences of the Chinese culture for people to experience. These experiences include numerous authentic cuisine restaurants, antique stores, herbs and remedies stores and marketplaces that resemble those of the east. Each year, during special Chinese events like Chinese New Year, or the moon festival, Chinatown transforms into a tourist attraction. It is during events like these that people, who are unfamiliar with the Chinese culture, are able to experience authentic Chinese traditions.

**General:**

Authentic Cuisine

High concentration of ethnic Chinese residents and businesses

One of the largest Chinatowns in North America

Location: Spadina and Dundas (From Queen to College and east and west of Spadina)

Chinatown's development (restaurants and businesses) increased along with the rising numbers of Chinese residents.

**History:**

The first Chinatown of Toronto existed from the 1870's to 1961 along York Street and Elizabeth Street between Queen and Dundas Street.

In the 1950's, properties in the First Chinatown were destroyed in a controversial manner by the city for the construction of Nathan Phillips Square, causing Chinese residents and businesses to relocate.

The Chinese community migrated westward to the neighborhood around Spadina. Chinatown's current location is bounded by Spadina Avenue, Dundas Street, College Street and University Avenue.

Chinese immigration during the 1960's allowed more businesses in this area.

In the 2000s, Chinatown became more attractive to urban professionals and young people, ultimately raising popularity in tourism and expansion of businesses.

**THE DANFORTH: (<http://thedanforth.ca/>)****DIRECTIONS to the Danforth****WHY THE DANFORTH?**

We have chosen to include the Danforth in our installation because we would like to capture the architecture and the culture of the Greek culture in Toronto. It is always a upbeat place to be full of tasty foods, art and culture.

**General:**

- 350+ shops, restaurants and services

- LOCATION: Danforth Ave. from Broadview Ave. to Hampton Ave. and along Broadview Ave. north to Pretoria Ave., and south to Dearborne Ave.

- area aims to promote/provide an urban destination for delicious food, entertaining theatre, lively pubs, romantic cafés and distinctive shops and services.

**History:**

-Named after Asa Danforth, an American contractor who was commissioned in 1799 to cut the Danforth but didn't actually build it.

- The Don and Danforth Plank Road Company built Danforth Ave in 1851, connecting it to Broadview Ave.

-Due to barriers of the Don Valley and Don River it started as a remote area.

- In the early 1790s just north of the Danforth, industries began settling along the east bank of the Don Valley to take advantage of the water power potential of the Don, and later to exploit the valley's rich clay deposits for brick-making purposes.
- In the late 1800s, as the City of Toronto grew because of an increasing immigrant population.
- The Danforth area began to prosper as a result of major transportation improvements that created more access to the area.

## **HARBOURFRONT:**

<http://www.torontoneighbourhoods.net/neighbourhoods/downtown/harbourfront>

### **WHY THE HARBOURFRONT?**

We included Toronto's Harbourfront because it serves as Toronto's playground by the lake. It is a popular location for tourists during summer. Harbourfront's venues hold many events including: music, crafts, theatre, film and literacy arts. It also provides boat service and classes, which allows people to enjoy the view of the city while learning how to sail. Overnight Docking service is also available so people can enjoy the events. The calm breeze by the lake is another ideal feature of Toronto as the Harbourfront is a place where people relax.

### **General:**

Has 2 marinas and overnight docking

Boat service to the Toronto islands

Holds many festivities each year

An ideal location for relaxation and scenery

Harbourfront centre hosts close to 4,000 events per year, ranging from craft workshops and sailing lessons to jazz festivals and food fairs

Considered to be the heart of Toronto for over 30 years

Location: Along Queens quay

### **History:**

It was created from landfill in the early 1800's.

Shipping facilities, warehouses, railway tracks, grain silos, and factories, resided along the shoreline and isolated it from the rest of Toronto.

In 1972 The Harbourfront Corporation is created, and Toronto citizens began to take notice of the waterfront once again.

Toronto's Harbourfront has been developing ever since. An example of successful development within the Harbour is the Queen's Quay Terminal, which was once a large warehouse. After some reconstruction, the current terminal includes a flourishing mix of luxury, commercial and retail space all in one site.

## **LITTLE ITALY: (<http://www.littleitalyintoronto.ca/>)**

### **WHY LITTLE ITALY?**

We have chosen little Italy due to the amount of culture it has represented in the restaurants all over college street and the decorations of its buildings. It has amazing festivals and is just an upbeat place to be.

### **[DIRECTIONS/GOOGLE MAP](#)**

### **GENERAL:**

- Little Italy not only Italian neighbourhood, strongly Italian but also large Portuguese population
- Considered one of Toronto's most multi-cultural neighbourhoods.
- Many trendy restaurants and cafes, and big nightlife.
- Known to be very friendly, European atmosphere, warm and inviting

### **HISTORY:**

- Became College Street's 'Little Italy' in 1920 became recognized as the residential and commercial centre of Toronto's Italian community.
- However, 1960 many of the Italians moved north to St. Clair
- The Italian families that moved out of Little Italy were replaced by Portuguese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Spanish families. This makes Little Italy very international
- In 1985, the local business association on College Street officially adopted the Little Italy name in recognition of the role this neighbourhood has played as the starting point for Italians in Toronto.

### **BALLERINA INVESTIGATION: (Thanks to Ramona)**

- Glossy/Transparent fabric; types that ballerinas wear
- How much of light do we want to spill through the fabric onto the next?
- How to place the projectors so that the users shadow plays into the experience
- If we want the projectors high or low
- The quality of the image we want from our projectors and how many are necessary

### **RESPONSES TO CRITIQUE:**

#### **1. Show major cities of world, instead of neighborhoods of Toronto**

In our opinion we would like to keep the focus on Toronto, because we would like to get the footage ourselves and edit it. If we were to do a city other than Toronto, we would have to get footage from another source, which is not as exciting and challenging. Keeping the focus on Toronto may be a good idea for our audience, which is our

classmates who are most likely having to move in the next few years, most likely somewhere in Toronto.

**2. Have more than one user, represents crowds = busy cities. Better than single user. Would then have to change program bases.**

We are taking this suggestion and we have created a new interface where it is multiple users and adds to the essence of the chaotic city. (shown above)

**3. Only need one kinect to sense users, how many computers needed?**

With the development of our concept we do not need any kinects anymore.

**4. Focused speakers**

We like the idea of having multiple speakers, creating the illusion of a busy city and using surround sound to add to the experience. Having a quiet experience to experience a busy city is complete opposites.

**5. Silhouette/head with hole? instead of headless, develop idea further.**

We have developed this idea further and changed it to the clothes lines format.

**SOUND CLIP:**

**Sample sound for the harbourfront section:**

<http://snd.sc/qiuqng>

**NEXT STEPS:**

**BUDGET**

The cost of our project will be approximately **\$20-40** dollars, depending on the curtain material we choose and the quantity we end up getting to test and for our final presentation. We are lucky enough to have projectors, computers and film software at our finger tips so this project will be more focused on our creative ability and less on our budget.

Purchasing good quality speakers will enhance the sound portion of the piece. Sound plays a major role in our piece as it ties everything together. So sound quality matters.

**FEASIBILITY:**

This project is very feasible for two people, there is enough work to be spilt up evenly and take up enough of our time. We will both spend time getting materials together that are needed and split the cost. When it comes to filming and editing, which will be the majority of where our time is spent will be needed to be split up and meet many times to make sure it is done properly and well done. Testing our materials and layout is also something that takes multiple hands, potentially more than two. In general this project seems to be a good idea to push ourselves, develop our interest in film and Toronto.

**PROTOTYPE STEPS ASAP:**

- Get materials
- Set up rough prototype

- Test layout
- Test sound
- Test transparency of materials
- Get footage
- Edit footage

## **END OF PROOF OF CONCEPT**

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## **ROUGH WORK:**

### **NOTES FROM CRITIQUE - THINK ABOUT + DEVELOP:**

- spacings magazine <http://spacingtoronto.ca/>
- show major cities of world, instead of neighborhoods of toronto
- more than one user, represents crowds = busy cities. Better than single user. Would then have to change program bases.
- Only need one kinect to sense users
- how many computers needed?

- focused speakers
- head with hole? instead of headless

- david not so keen on silhouette idea.... develop further.

## **ADDRESSING NOTES FROM CRITIQUE:**

### **kelvin add ur thoughts? so i can do a finalized write up for proof of concept**

#### **1. Show major cities of world, instead of neighborhoods of toronto**

In my opinion I would like to keep the focus on Toronto, because I would personally like to get the footage, film and edit. If we were to do a city other than toronto, we would have to get footage from another source, which is not as exciting and challenging. Keeping the focus on Toronto may be a good idea for our audience, which is our classmates who are most likely having to move in the next few years, most likely somewhere in Toronto.

\*Agreed. Narrowing it down to Toronto seems to be the wisest choice since we are able to physically explore the locations rather than trying to portray something virtual with programs like googlestreet view etc. I'm pretty sure people will want to learn more and explore our city rather than others because people can relate to the locations. trigger memories etc.

#### **2. Have more than one user, represents crowds = busy cities. Better than single user. Would then have to change program bases.**

I like the suggestion of having more than one user at a time, however, this will cause us to have to rethink how we will write the computer processing code. This will be something we develop further for the proof of concept stage.

\*Having this installation multi user is better than individual because toronto is all about the crowds. It wouldn't make sense to represent a loud, crowded city by making a single user installation.

#### **3. Only need one kinect to sense users, how many computers needed?**

One kinect is always better than four, we will have to rent out a kinect play around with it and figure out what works best for our concept. Whether, that means keeping the kinect or using a simple webcam... in that case how many computers do we need for the setup? This will be answered with further investigations

\*Theres a chance we might not even use a kinect anymore because it seems it just makes the installation messy. videos on loop is good enough for this so it can constantly draw crowds (hence symbolizing the crowded toronto aspect once again)

#### **4. Focused speakers**

I personally like the idea of having multiple speakers, creating the illusion of a busy city and using surround sound to add to the experience. Having a quiet experience to experience a busy city is complete opposites.

Surround sound may enhance the experience.

#### **5. Silhouette/head with hole? instead of headless, develop idea further.**

We will definitely take into account whether or not a silhouette is the best way to go about getting our user to interact with our installation, at the moment I have no answer to this opinion as to what may be better, but with research I

hope to be able to answer the question.

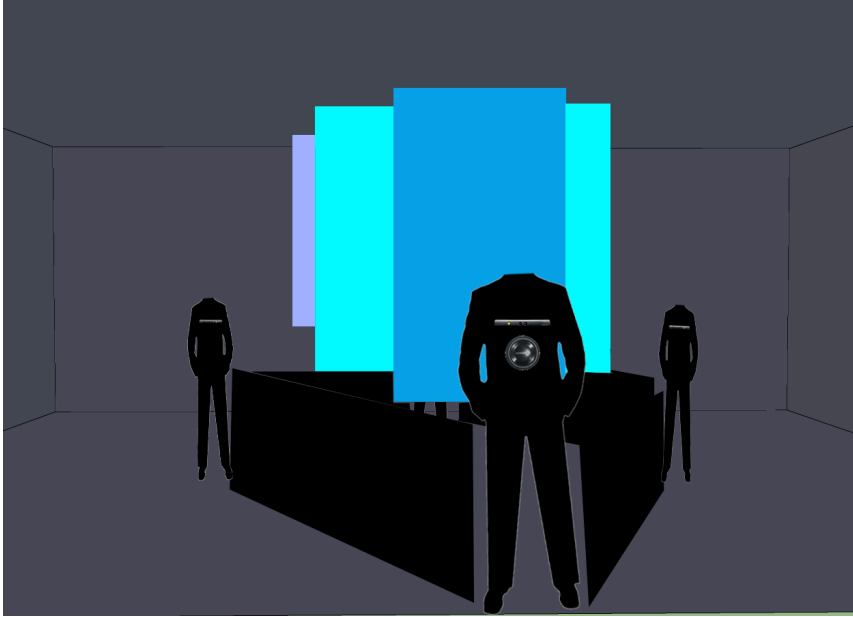
decided to take out the silhouettes.

## **PROPOSAL**

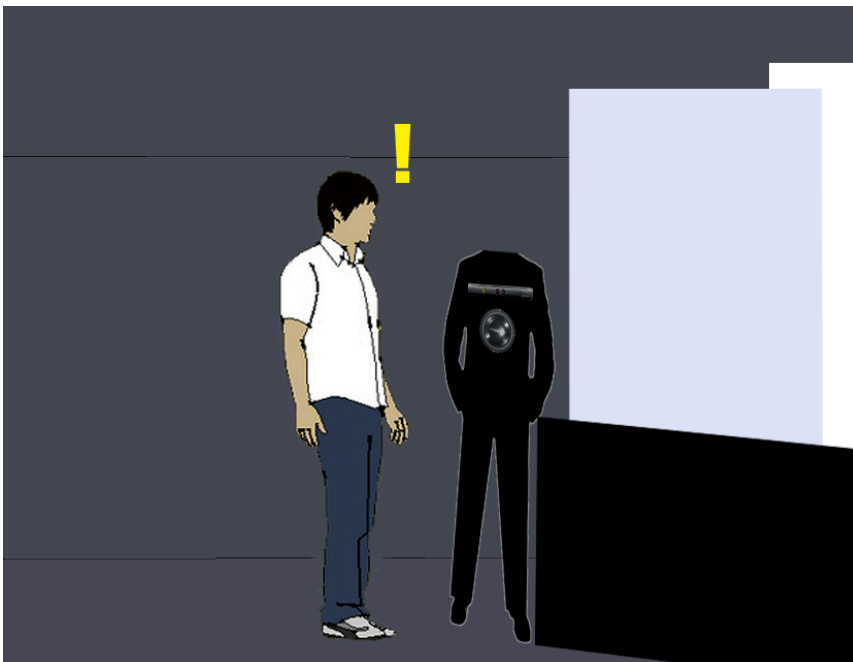
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The individual experience will begin with the user walking into a room; there will be four speakers that will each be playing sounds from different neighborhoods. By each of the four speakers there will be a silhouette, which are all placed in a circle in the middle of the room. Each silhouette will be missing the head outline, which is where the user is supposed to put their head. However, due to the sounds of the speakers the user will make a choice as to which silhouette he/she is drawn to. There will be a kinect connected to each of the silhouettes, which will sense the presence of the user and once detected the sound will stop. In the center of the silhouettes there will be a curtain hanging from the ceiling, which will have a video projected onto it. The video and curtains sizes will be decided once we have started our construction. There will be a different video per silhouette each having a specific Toronto neighborhood with a unique soundtrack. The video will end after thirty seconds and then all the sounds will play again to cue the exit of that neighborhood. There will be four projectors, one for each silhouette, we will have to experience the placement of the projectors once we start on our prototype. The specific neighborhoods that will be portrayed will depend on our research by visiting and our documentation of life in the area.

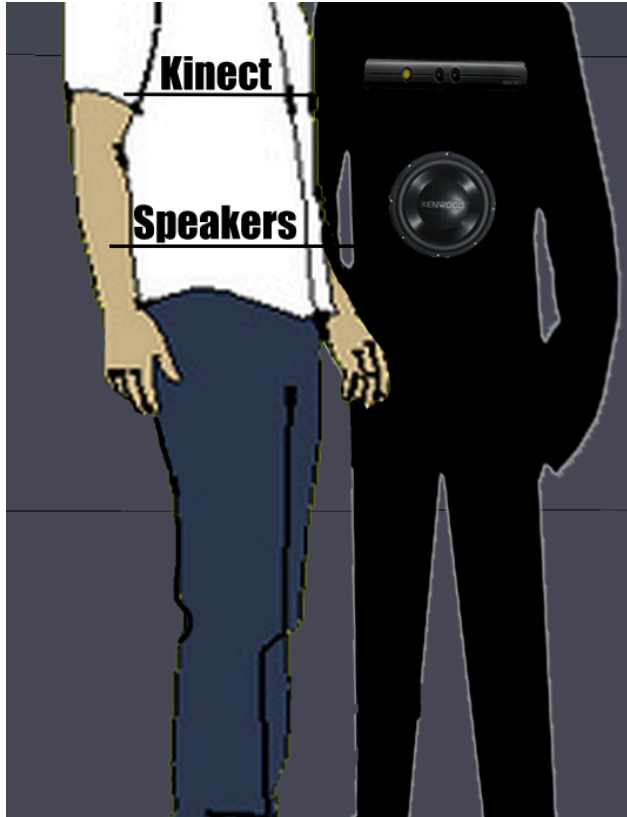
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When user enters the room, he/she will hear many different sounds collected from the cultural towns in Toronto.



The user picks a booth that he/she is most attracted to.

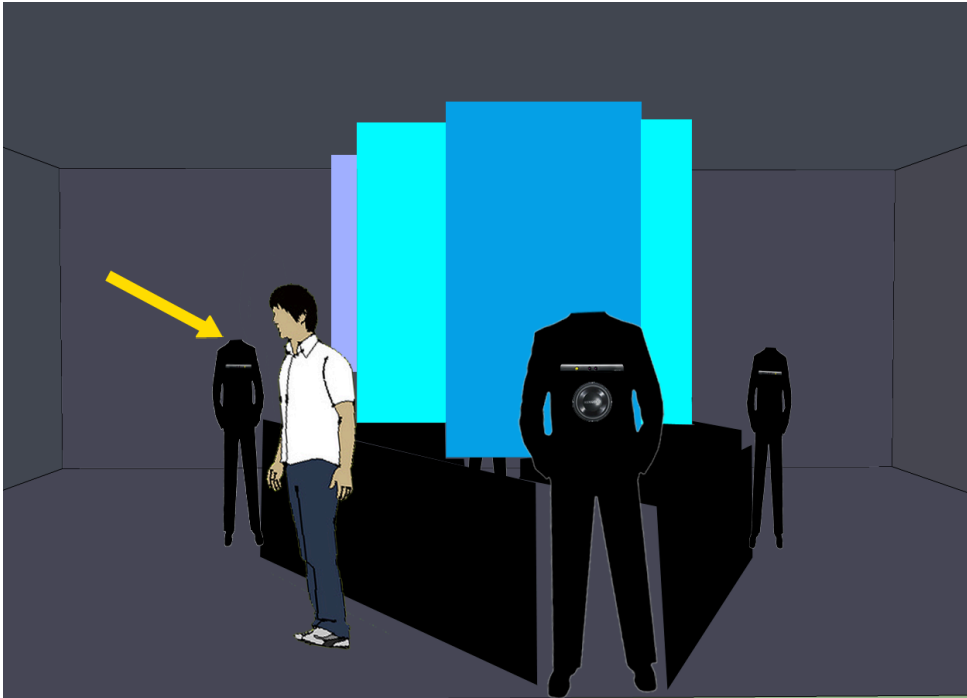


Upon approaching a headless silhouette, the kinect camera will detect the user's presence and all sounds from the speakers will stop.



A video is projected instantly and the user can enjoy a piece of another culture with original

footage, music and sounds.



After the video is finished, the random sounds will resume and the user can choose another booth. This process goes in a cycle and is intended for one user at a time.

**teacher advice:**

think about signs, signs of the certain neighborhood and how to connect them to the user.

- more than one silhouette, user chooses which one chooses neighborhood
- object outline with silhouette to imply different perspective in toronto/neighborhood. ie. gun
- threshold? color... if user has choice kinect is useless
- kinect - height, width, motion, colour,
- user choosing, labels themselves, more interactive

**Project Proposal Rough**

Tools:

- kinect
- projector
- processing program
- projectable material.
- lighting?

**Creating:**

- interactive video installation
  - one user at a time

**theme:** Toronto Neighborhoods. Different environments in toronto.

**Looks like:**

- user walks in front of a target (silhouette of a person/kinect hidden), when the user is in front of the target video will play random video depending on threshold of the users clothing.
- user to experience life of as another individual from different neighborhoods of Toronto. Educational experience. Video plays on material that will allow to aide the concept of different angles. / different types of glass
- kinect to trigger video
- sounds to be sign to draw in user. speaker by each silhouette , sounds represents differnt

towns

-

1. User enters room (sounds from different towns will be playing)
2. User goes to whichever booth he/she is attracted to.
3. Kinect will sense the presence of user and all sounds will stop
4. Video plays along with soundtrack. (30 seconds long)
5. Video ends then all sounds play again.

### **Sounds like:**

- dependent on which video?/or one somber sound
- 5 videos? +

sillhouette = headless frame, user to put head in frame.

artist example = ramona pringle - ballerina

### **Videos:**

- perspective video of living in certain neighborhood, ie. walking through an area, seeing graffiti, dirty allyways.

### **Roles:**

- research
- video
- video editing
- sillhouette
- music
- setup + testing
- materials
- processing code

### **PROPOSAL ROUGH:**

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