A CASE STUDY IN MUSEUM ACCESSIBILITY
- TRANSFORMATIVE SEATING FOR THE MANETTI SHREM MUSEUM
- MINIMUM INVASION, MAXIMUM IMPACT

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Background

- Museum patrons often limited in access to exhibition space and artworks via constraints in physical exhibition design
- Limits access to artworks and diminishes museum experience

Client Goals

- Manetti Shrem Museum: seeking to provide increased access to museum space and exhibitions through the manipulation of exhibition design to create a more inclusive art experience for visitors with all abilities
End Goal: create innovative, accessible seating customized for the Manetti-Shrem or other museums.

Scope: 10 weeks.

Timeline: until the end of the quarter (possible extended timeline into Spring Quarter 2020).

Constraints: Timeline, Stakeholder artistic ideals, Museum board.
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS

museum infrastructure

- Compared Manetti-Shrem infrastructure to other local museums, galleries
- On-site immersion into Manetti-Shrem; understanding of limitations in design

visitor experience

- Meeting with Student Disability Center on campus to understand student population needs
- Researching and refining data from museum visitor comments

exhibition design

- Familiarize ourselves with ADA and other accessibility guidelines
- Online research in museum design (MOMA, White House Visitor Center, MCAM)
Our project is an implementation of more inclusive accessibility within museum exhibition design. This is presented in the form of innovative seating aimed at visitors with physical mobility impairments. Within our design, we hope to broaden the scope of museum visitors that can attend and enjoy the exhibition and gallery space.
Exhibition Space: Looking into infrastructure of museum and accessing where seating was needed and where it could be stored; decided on seating in walls, floor, and/or ceiling

Prototypes: creation of sketches and prototypes based on collected information; through physical sketching and 3d printed prototypes

Prototype Implementation and Survey: Future implementation of full scale prototypes into museum space; survey visitor/user feedback and adjust design accordingly

Feedback: Between each design methodology, receiving feedback from community/visitors and client
DESIGN SKETCHES
CEILING & WALLS
- DESIGN SKETCHES
RECOMMENDATIONS

- We have different options depending on the budget of the client and the amount of available space allocated towards accessible seating.
- The implementation of a design prototype into museum exhibition space; surveys and user/visitor feedback.
- Programs specifically for users with other disabilities; e.g. visual impairments (Touch Tours).
THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?