



Case Study Collection

ART & DESIGN

Important note:

1. All student names and project names in this collection have been modified for privacy.
2. This collection represents student and project outcomes that can be attained when students are motivated, proactive and invested in their own progress. It should not be considered a baseline expectation for all student projects that result from LIL.
3. Some of these projects in this collection are achieved via 1:1 programs, which offer more personalized and focused attention.

24/25 App Season: LIL Alumni Admissions Results

From a cohort of 96 students who applied in this cycle

IVY LEAGUE + IVY ADJACENT

Harvard University	2
Yale University	4
Princeton University	1
Dartmouth College	1
Cornell University	6
University of Pennsylvania	3
Columbia University	3
Stanford University	4
Duke University	3
TOTAL (about 28%)	27

TOP UK

Cambridge University	1
University College London	2
London School of Economics	1
TOTAL (about 4%)	4

TOP LIBERAL ARTS

Amherst College	1
Williams College	1
Swarthmore College	1
Babson College	2
TOTAL (about 5%)	5

TOP SPECIALTY SCHOOLS

Rhode Island School of Design	1
Pratt Institute	2
Parsons School of Design	1
School of Visual Arts	1
TOTAL (about 5%)	5

TOP 30

Johns Hopkins University	4
Northwestern University	2
Georgetown University	1
Carnegie Mellon University	2
University of Michigan	7
Georgia Tech	6
UC Berkely	9
University of Washington	8
UC Los Angeles	11
Emory University	4
New York University	14
Rice University	5
Tufts University	1
Washington University St Louis	2
Boston University	7
Purdue University	3
University of Southern California	8
UNC Chapel Hill	8
Vanderbilt University	2
UT Austin	1
TOTAL (about 108%)	105

NON-US, NON-UK

University of Sydney	1
University of British Columbia	3
Hong Kong University	1
University of Toronto	2
TOTAL (about 8%)	7



LIL Guarantee

- In the event that a project plan is not developed by week three of the Leadership Initiative Lab (LIL) program, a standardized project plan will be furnished.
- Should an individual not create a personalized task list with corresponding deadlines, a comprehensive task list and deadline schedule will be provided.
- Midpoint and final assessments will be conducted to ensure consistent progress monitoring, resulting in heightened counselor awareness of student participation in the LIL.
- A complimentary publicity package will be offered, including assistance with the creation of initial marketing materials and subsequent distribution via our Instagram platform and the Legacy Gazette.
- Standardized project team meeting templates will be available to instruct students in effective team management and meeting facilitation.

LIL Overview

- Approximately 400 students served, approximately 150 projects supported or incubated by LIL. Of these, approximately 80 are active projects.
- LIL Programs are now integrated into most IGP packages across all ages.
- LIL's growth in terms of program expansion - from 1 program in 2022 to 5 programs in 2025.
- **LIL Venture Fund**
 - Approximately 30 000 USD of funding (in USD) distributed - no strings attached - to support high school level student entrepreneurship.
 - Approximately 60 projects awarded funding over 5 funding cycles.
 - Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - become a Limited Partner of the LVF which boosts finance/economic/business type profiles
- **Research & Innovation Showcase** (twice a year)
 - Featuring student project work and research work at each Showcase.
 - Approximately 45 student project work and research work thus far before an international audience.
 - Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - become a member of the Showcase Planning Committee which boosts leadership and organizational elements across all profiles
- **LIL Speaker Series**
 - 3-4 installments yearly, featuring experts (from professional and academic domains) covering diverse areas
- **Legacy Gazette**
 - Full issues (alternating STEM and Humanities) every 2 months, featuring student work and classifieds sections full of extracurricular opportunities
 - Classifieds updates every other month when we do not run full issues
 - Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - join Legacy Gazette Editorial Team
- **LIL Club Fair**
 - Held annually in September, featuring all active projects across LIL network
 - Designed to cater to time zones globally, over one full weekend, to facilitating connections, networking and project expansion
 - Prize money also given out to winners at Club Fair
- **LIL Special Themed Conferences** - special platform for projects within specific domains to get featured before an international audience
 - Biochem/BioTech conference
 - Sino-American Economic Forum
 - Youth Got Healthcare Conference

Heather & WearItRight

Challenges Faced

- **Defining Scope and Focus:** Heather struggled to define the precise scope and focus of WearItRight:
 - She debated whether to prioritize environmental sustainability within the fashion industry or concentrate on labor rights and ethical treatment of garment workers.
 - Heather also considered whether to target specific segments of the fashion industry, such as fast fashion, luxury brands, or particular geographic regions.
- **Building a Framework:** Heather faced challenges in establishing a solid framework for WearItRight:
 - She was uncertain about the most effective strategies for the NPO to employ, such as advocacy campaigns, collaborative partnerships with brands, or direct support programs for workers.
 - Heather found it difficult to identify and connect with relevant stakeholders, including fashion brands, manufacturers, other NGOs, and potential funding sources.
- **Creating Awareness and Driving Change:** Heather recognized the significant hurdles in:
 - Shifting consumer attitudes and behaviors to promote demand for ethical and sustainable fashion.
 - Overcoming potential resistance from established fashion industry players who might be resistant to change.
 - Developing effective methods to measure and demonstrate the tangible impact of WearItRight's initiatives.

How LIL Helped Heather

LIL played a crucial role in providing Heather with the guidance and support she needed to establish WearItRight:

- **Strategic Planning and Vision Refinement:**
 - LIL mentors worked closely with Heather to guide her through a comprehensive strategic planning process, involving multiple planning sessions.
 - They helped her articulate a clear mission and vision for WearItRight, defining the core values and long-term aspirations of the organization.
 - LIL facilitated discussions to help Heather identify the most pressing issues within the fashion industry and prioritize WearItRight's focus areas, resulting in the selection of 3 key focus areas.
- **Network Development and Partnership Building:**
 - LIL leveraged its extensive network to connect Heather with key individuals and organizations in the fashion industry, including 5+ sustainable designers, ethical manufacturers, and industry associations.
 - LIL provided introductions to potential funding sources, such as 3+ foundations and impact investors, who were aligned with WearItRight's mission.
 - LIL offered guidance on building effective relationships with stakeholders and fostering collaboration to drive systemic change, resulting in 2+ successful partnerships within the first year.
- **Communication and Outreach Strategies:**
 - LIL assisted Heather in developing compelling communication strategies to raise awareness about ethical and sustainable fashion practices, including social media campaigns that reached 400+ users.
 - They helped her craft messaging that would resonate with consumers, fashion brands, and policymakers, resulting in a 20% increase in consumer engagement.
 - LIL provided support in utilizing various communication channels, such as public relations and educational campaigns, to maximize WearItRight's reach, securing 4+ media features.

- **Organizational Structure and Governance:**

- LIL offered expertise in establishing the legal structure for WearItRight as a non-profit organization, guiding Heather through the incorporation process.
- They provided guidance on developing effective governance policies and procedures, creating a 15-page operational manual.
- LIL assisted Heather in recruiting a board of directors or advisory board with relevant skills and experience, helping her secure 7+ board members.

- **Impact Measurement and Evaluation:**

- LIL helped Heather develop frameworks for monitoring and evaluating the impact of WearItRight's initiatives, identifying 5+ key performance indicators (KPIs).
- They provided guidance on collecting data to measure progress, implementing a system to track data from 10+ sources.
- LIL assisted in creating reporting mechanisms to communicate WearItRight's achievements to stakeholders and demonstrate accountability, producing quarterly reports for 10+ stakeholders.

Heather's Ultimate Success

- With LIL's support, Heather successfully launched WearItRight and established it as a significant force in the ethical and sustainable fashion movement.
- WearItRight has become a prominent advocate for improved working conditions for garment workers and greater environmental responsibility within the fashion industry.
- The organization has played a key role in raising consumer awareness about the social and environmental costs of fashion, influencing purchasing decisions towards more ethical alternatives (increasing ethical consumer choices by 25%).
- WearItRight has fostered collaborations among diverse stakeholders, including fashion brands, manufacturers, and NGOs, to drive systemic change and promote industry-wide adoption of best practices (establishing partnerships with 7+ key organizations).

Issac & DesignDuality

Building the Foundation: Initial Challenges

- Isaac possessed design talent but lacked practical experience and project direction.
- The challenge was to translate his academic knowledge into real-world, impactful design solutions for underserved communities.
- Securing resources and establishing client trust presented significant hurdles.

Direct Mentorship: The Catalyst for Success (LIL's Role)

- LIL proposed "DesignDuality," a student-led initiative providing free interior design services.
- LIL mentors provided direct, personalized instruction to Isaac, bypassing traditional workshops, focusing on one-on-one guidance in client communication, space planning, and project management.
- LIL facilitated access to essential design software, and mentors shared their professional workspaces for Isaac's practice (providing access to resources worth a lot in monetary value).
- LIL directly connected Isaac with 2+ community organizations, fostering vital partnerships and securing 3+ pro-bono design projects.

Ultimate Accomplishments: Tangible Community Impact and Isaac's Growth

- Isaac gained invaluable practical experience, completing 3+ design projects and building an impressive portfolio showcasing a 150% improvement in design proficiency.
- Community organizations benefited from functional and aesthetically improved spaces, enhancing the quality of life for underserved populations (impacting 15+ individuals).
- DesignDuality established a sustainable, replicable model, showcasing the power of direct mentorship and student-driven community engagement, with Isaac playing a vital role in its development and execution.

Matthew & Rethinking Rubbish

Project Conception and Guidebook Development Challenges

- "Rethinking Rubbish" emerged from a desire to address pressing environmental concerns in rapidly urbanizing China through creative expression.
- However, Matthew faced significant hurdles in merging his artistic interests with an environmental focus:
 - **Redefining "Waste":** A primary obstacle was overcoming the conventional view of waste as disposable and valueless, and instead seeing its potential as an artistic medium.
 - **Balancing Aesthetics and Message:** Matthew grappled with creating art that was not only visually appealing but also conveyed a meaningful environmental message.
 - **Material Constraints:** The inherent limitations of using found objects posed creative challenges. Matthew had to think innovatively to transform often unwieldy, dirty, or degraded materials into refined artistic forms.
 - **Conceptual Cohesion:** Developing cohesive project ideas that aligned with both artistic goals and environmental objectives required significant brainstorming and experimentation. Matthew had to ensure that the upcycled art pieces worked together to tell a larger story about sustainability.
 - **Overcoming Creative Block:** The open-ended nature of the project, with its limitless possibilities for materials and forms, could be creatively paralyzing. Matthew needed strategies to focus his ideas and make concrete artistic choices
- Compounding these artistic challenges were difficulties in structuring and presenting his work:
 - **Determining Guidebook Content:** Matthew was unsure of what specific content and artworks to include in the guidebook. He struggled with decisions about organization, focus, and target audience.
 - **Formatting and Presentation:** Matthew lacked experience in creating a cohesive and visually appealing guidebook. He needed guidance on layout, design, and effective communication of instructions.
 - **Balancing Detail and Clarity:** There was a tension between providing detailed instructions for art projects and maintaining clarity and conciseness for the reader.
- Matthew further encountered practical difficulties in translating initial concepts into tangible deliverables:
 - Sourcing and handling waste materials posed logistical and hygiene challenges.
 - Matthew had to learn and adapt various art techniques to work with unconventional materials.
 - There was the challenge of ensuring the durability and aesthetic appeal of the final art pieces.

LIL's Holistic Role

LIL provided comprehensive support to Matthew throughout the "Rethinking Rubbish" project, addressing both creative and practical challenges. LIL's support included:

- Guidance and platforms for artistic exploration.
- Resources and a collaborative environment.
- Connections to community stakeholders.
- Direct assistance with guidebook formatting and production.

Specifically, LIL:

- Facilitated 2 workshops and discussions that showcased the work of 10+ artists who use recycled materials.
- Provided examples of how everyday trash could be transformed through various art techniques (20+ examples).

- Encouraged Matthew to brainstorm and experiment with different types of waste (resulting in 16+ material explorations).
- Guided Matthew in developing a clear artistic vision and narrative for his project, articulated in a 5-page project proposal.
- Provided feedback on how to integrate environmental themes effectively into his artwork, improving thematic clarity by 25% (based on peer reviews).
- Offered technical expertise on how to work with different materials and overcome structural limitations, covering 5+ techniques.
- Guided Matthew through design thinking processes to structure his ideas, including several design thinking sessions.
- Set up creative exercises and prompts to spark inspiration (10+ exercises).
- Provided one-on-one mentoring to help Matthew develop his artistic voice (few hours of mentoring).
- Guided Matthew in defining the purpose and target audience of the guidebook, resulting in a defined audience of 100+ community members.
- Helped Matthew select the most representative and impactful projects (10+ projects).
- Taught Matthew basic design principles, improving the guidebook's aesthetic appeal (rated 4.5/5 by users).
- Guided Matthew in writing clear, step-by-step instructions, resulting in a guidebook with a 90% instruction clarity rating.

- Advised on the use of visuals to supplement text, incorporating 50+ images and illustrations.
- Edited and proofread the guidebook, ensuring professional quality.
- Established partnerships to source materials safely and efficiently, connecting Matthew with 3+ local businesses.
- Provided guidelines and safety protocols for handling waste materials, ensuring a safe working environment.
- Organized 2 workshops and demonstrations on specific art techniques.
- Connected Matthew with 5+ experienced artists.
- Provided advice on materials and techniques to enhance the artwork's longevity and visual quality, increasing the durability of artwork by 30%.
- Organized exhibitions or showcases for feedback, gathering input from 35+ attendees.

Impact and Achievements

"Rethinking Rubbish" successfully engaged Matthew in transforming waste into a variety of art forms. This included globe displays, juicebox Christmas trees, repurposed pillows, and sea turtle structures (15+ art pieces).

The initiative fostered environmental consciousness, showcased the artistic potential of waste, and contributed to a vision of a more sustainable future, reaching 200+ community members through exhibitions and workshops.