

# **Blue Sky Fund**

## **Executive Summary**

### **Community Partner**

Paula Labieniec

### **Student Development Team**

Jason Chen

Jordan Stapinski

Fang You

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## **Background**

The Blue Sky Fund is a nonprofit organization located in the Richmond, Virginia area. Blue Sky Fund works to provide urban youth students in the Richmond area with an opportunity to learn tangible scientific and leadership skills through field trips into the surrounding natural areas, accompanied by activities and lessons. In terms of a mission statement: *“The Blue Sky Fund seeks to provide transformational experiences to urban youth through outdoor education, giving each student a chance to discover themselves by actively engaging in the natural world.”*

## **Project Description**

### **Project Opportunity**

Both the indoor educational trips and outdoor field trips offered by Blue Sky Fund face challenges that would hinder the students’ learning experiences. Indoor trips sometimes end abruptly by unforeseen circumstances such as lockdowns and/or interrupted traffic. Outdoor trips could not always attract and direct the attention of younger students in their intended ways, and therefore could not guarantee the delivery of scientific knowledge. These problems make the use of the educators’ and students’ time less effective, and thus call for new technical solutions.

### **Project Vision**

Through the Oppia platform, the team envisions an opportunity for Blue Sky Fund’s educators to create interactive online content to remedy time lost by unforeseen blockages on field trips. The Oppia interactions, both the existing ones and the new one the team customized based on the client’s course design, would provide quick and simple methods of creating innovative learning exercises for students. Students will have diversified learning experiences since not only they will have more opportunities to learn, but also will they learn at their own pace.

## **Project Outcomes**

Our team delivered a hosted custom website including the new feature developed by the team to our client ([blueskyoppia.appspot.com](http://blueskyoppia.appspot.com)). The new feature should be included in Oppia’s next official release. We also helped Blue Sky Fund and Oppia’s developers’ community to establish communication, and developed tutorials and design documents for Blue Sky Fund and open-source community.

## Project Deliverables

Our deliverables include a temporarily hosted website, tutorial documentations for Blue Sky Fund and a new feature, testing feedback and other design documentations for Oppia's developers' community.

## Recommendations

Our recommendation for Blue Sky Fund on keeping the sustainability of Oppia is to maintain regular and effective communication with Oppia's open-source community. In this way, the sustainability of Oppia, both for Blue Sky Fund and for the open-source community, would be well maintained.

We also recommend future IS student team to first look into the design documentation that our team has developed. The future team may find these design documentations inspiring, highly feasible or relevant to their client's needs.

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## Student Development Team

**Jason Chen** served as a developer for the project, and contributed towards documentation and communicating with the open source community. He is a senior studying Information Systems with an additional major in Human Computer Interaction. He will be working full time at Intuit in August. His hobbies include photography, working out, and eating Taco Bell.

**Jordan Stapinski** is a junior at Carnegie Mellon studying Information Systems with an additional major in Human-Computer Interaction and a minor in Computer Science. Jordan has interned as a software engineer for Bank of America in 2016, and will be developing educational software at MongoDB in the summer of 2017. For this project, Jordan worked to help guide the vision for the client interaction, as well as contributed on the developmental side, working in Python, AngularJS, and HTML on the new interactions. Jordan also spearheaded the deployment of blueskyoppia.appspot.com. In his spare time, Jordan enjoys playing trumpet as well as making time for sports.

**Fang You** is a junior at Carnegie Mellon studying Information Systems with an additional major in Statistics and a minor in Philosophy. Fang was responsible for producing the team's managerial documents and tutorial documents for Blue Sky Fund. She also worked closely with Blue Sky Fund's liaison to test the current version of Oppia.