

Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh

Executive Summary

Community Partner

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Background

The Filipino-American Association of Pittsburgh (FAAP) is a non-profit cultural organization that was founded in 1957. It was initially an informal cultural and social group, and later, in 1964, it became a formal organized group known as SPNP. In 2000, SPNP developed into the non-profit organization it is today. FAAP aims to support Filipino culture and heritage in Pittsburgh. Supporting its mission, the organization has defined three pillars, culture, charity, and education. The pillars are realized through cultural activities, fund-raising events, and scholarships.

Project Description

Project Opportunity

The main issue that the FAAP faced was the lack of a centralized member database and membership portal. Previously, all membership data was stored in an admin-managed SQL database. With this pre-existing information management method, members had no way to directly access their information, such as their membership status, how many hours they volunteered, and how much they donated. The lack of a member portal also led to repetitive labor and difficulty accessing or updating information, as only board members with SQL experience were able to access it.

Project Vision

The project vision was to develop a membership portal, which includes portal landing page, registration form, login form, payment redirection, and user profile page. This would keep all of the FAAP user data centralized in one database that is synced to the FAAP's payment collection methods and mailing list. The next step of the project was to migrate users from the pre-existing database to the new one, connected to the portal, such that all their information is populated and accessible through the portal.

Project Outcomes

The main technical outcome of our project was a prototype for a user membership portal built in WordPress. This new membership portal features a registration form for new members, supports membership payments, allows members to view current membership expiry status, and edit information about themselves. We also migrated the existing users from the old database to the new WordPress membership database.

In the process of developing the prototype and performing the migration, we also had several intermediate outcomes, such as documentation, designs for guiding the final website development, and a feasibility analysis of the FAAP's desired features.

Project Deliverables

The project deliverables include the FAAP website, forms for membership registration and donations, documentation on process and sustainability, and a Python script to import membership information. These deliverables will be provided through a Github repository.

Recommendations

To sustain progress and continue to increase capacity, the team recommends the organization and future development teams update the current database, consistently maintain the WordPress website and the plugins, and only add necessary plugins to the tech stack. These recommendations will help ensure that the website is functioning at an optimal level and is safe from any security issues.

Student Consulting Team

Lea De Vylder served as the project manager. She is a junior at Carnegie Mellon, majoring in Information Systems and minoring in Human-Computer Interaction and Software Engineering. This upcoming summer, she will be working at Atlassian as a Software Engineer intern.

Michelle Liu served as the client relationship manager. She is a junior at Carnegie Mellon pursuing a degree in Information Systems and minoring in Computer Science and Human-Computer Interaction. This summer, she will be working at Bloomberg as a software engineer intern in New York City.

Alex Barrios served as the lead developer. He is a junior at Carnegie Mellon studying Information Systems and minoring in Software Engineering, graduating in May 2023. He developed the user registration form as well as the membership purchase page. He will be interning this summer at Goldman Sachs as a Software Engineer intern.