

# Organ Donor Appreciation Project

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Funded Project Amount: \$15,000

## Abstract

The Organ Donor Appreciation Project brings together the UHealth Transplant Centre with the Division of Multi-disciplinary Design (MDD) to design, promote and ultimately deliver an interactive organ donor installation within the Transplant Clinic at University Hospital. This project acknowledges organ donors (living and deceased), providing a tangible place where this gift of life can be expressed. The installation will give hope to patients, carers and staff who engage with it by including inspiring physical and digital interactive wall elements (lighting, touchscreen displays and sculptural elements) that change over time.

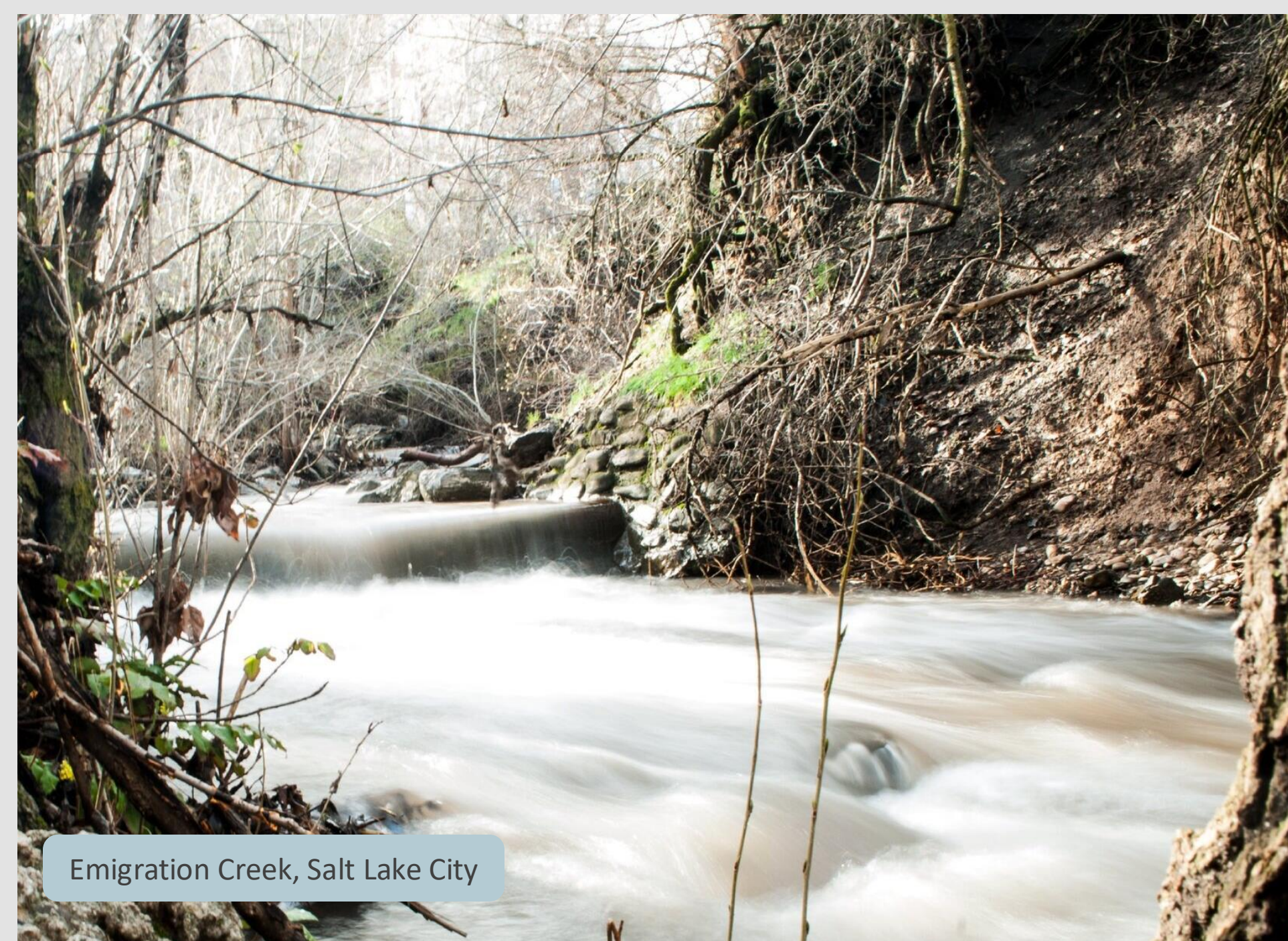
Senior undergraduates within MDD worked directly with Transplant Clinic members to generate installation proposals for a specific location in the newly established clinic space. Initial design concepts were developed into a final design proposal with multiple elements, presented as physical prototypes and a compelling design package.

## Opportunity

As part of a new clinic at the University Hospital in 2022 – 2023, UHealth identified an opportunity to recognize the gift of organ donation. This project seeks to acknowledge the individuals who are living organ donors, providing a tangible place where this gift of life can be expressed and interacted with, as well as acknowledging the gift of life that is given by deceased organ donation.

Four aims were articulated by the hospital's transplant team:

- **Recognition** of the importance of organ donation to each patient
- **Education** about the ongoing critical need for donation
- **Inspiration** to those who may be waiting or have received a transplant
- **Thankfulness** and appreciation to those that have chosen to donate

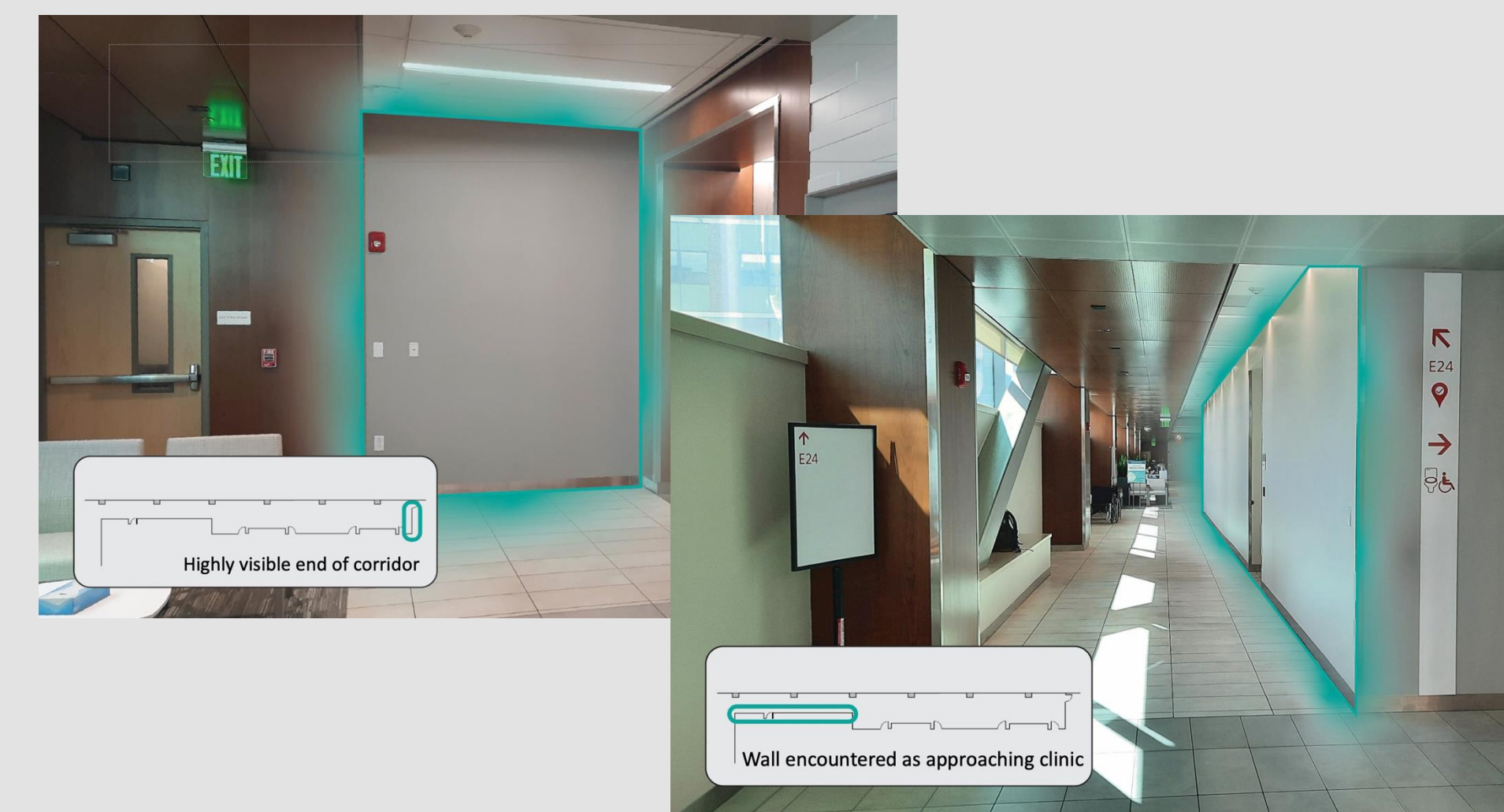


A key theme was established early in the design process—imbuing this installation with the qualities of a river. Just as water forever flows downstream, activating and replenishing the creek, so does organ donation provide a human with life, nourishment, and renewed possibility. Local rivers offer inspiration and a place-specific reference.

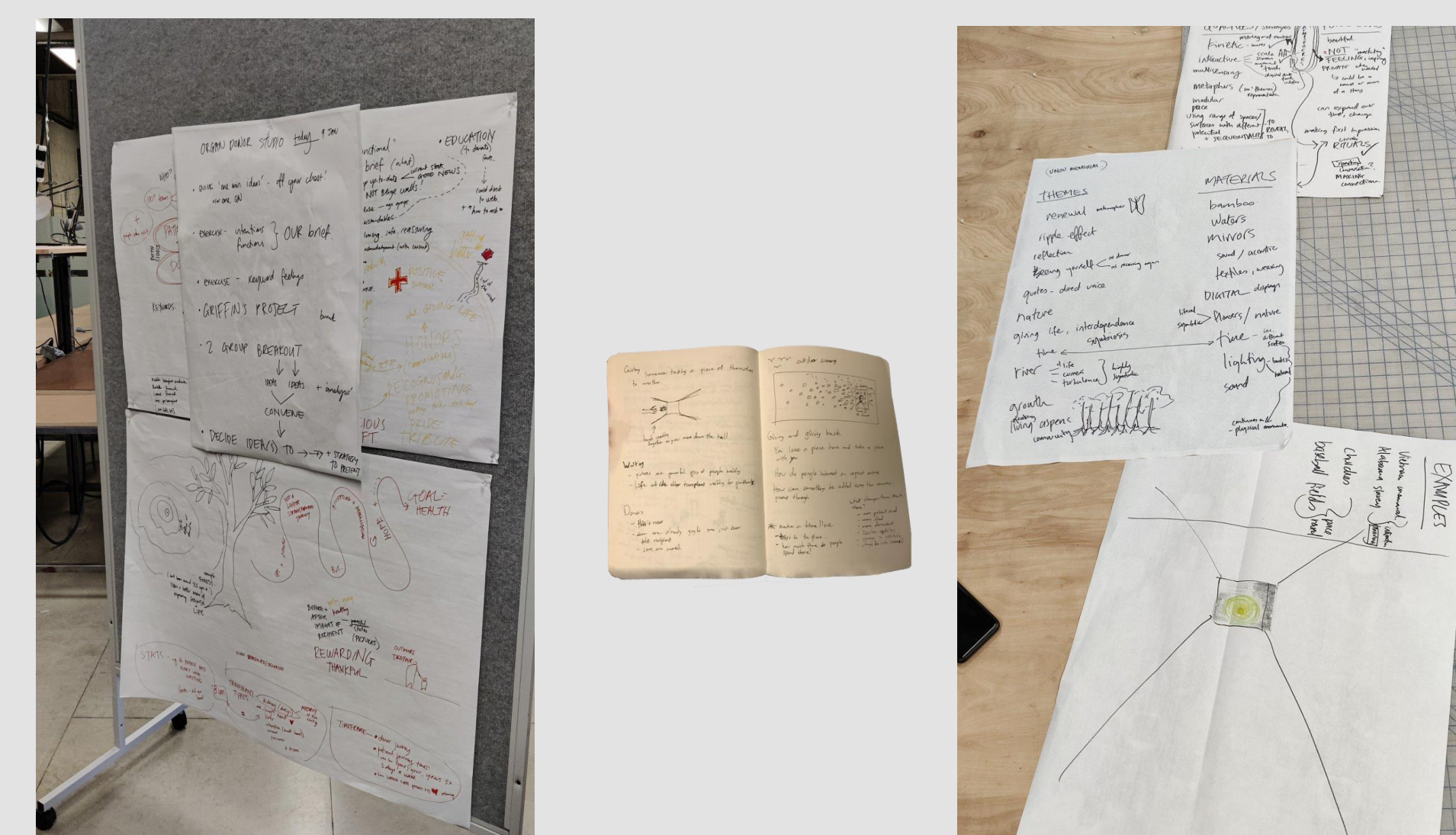
## Design Criteria

- **Atmosphere and Meaning:** Project feelings of WARMTH and HOPE to the people who will be present in the space
- **Values and Ethics:** Consider privacy, feelings, sustainability, energy
- **Functionality:** The design should be site specific and set by scale of the physical space – multiple areas for sequential flow and experience
- **Ritual and interaction:** Engage users in interactions and “rituals”
- **Audiences:** The design should appeal to different perspectives ranging from donors, receivers, family members, staff and any other visitors
- **Encourage donors:** Inform audiences about how they could become organ donors and provide inspiring stories that motivate them to act

## Methodology



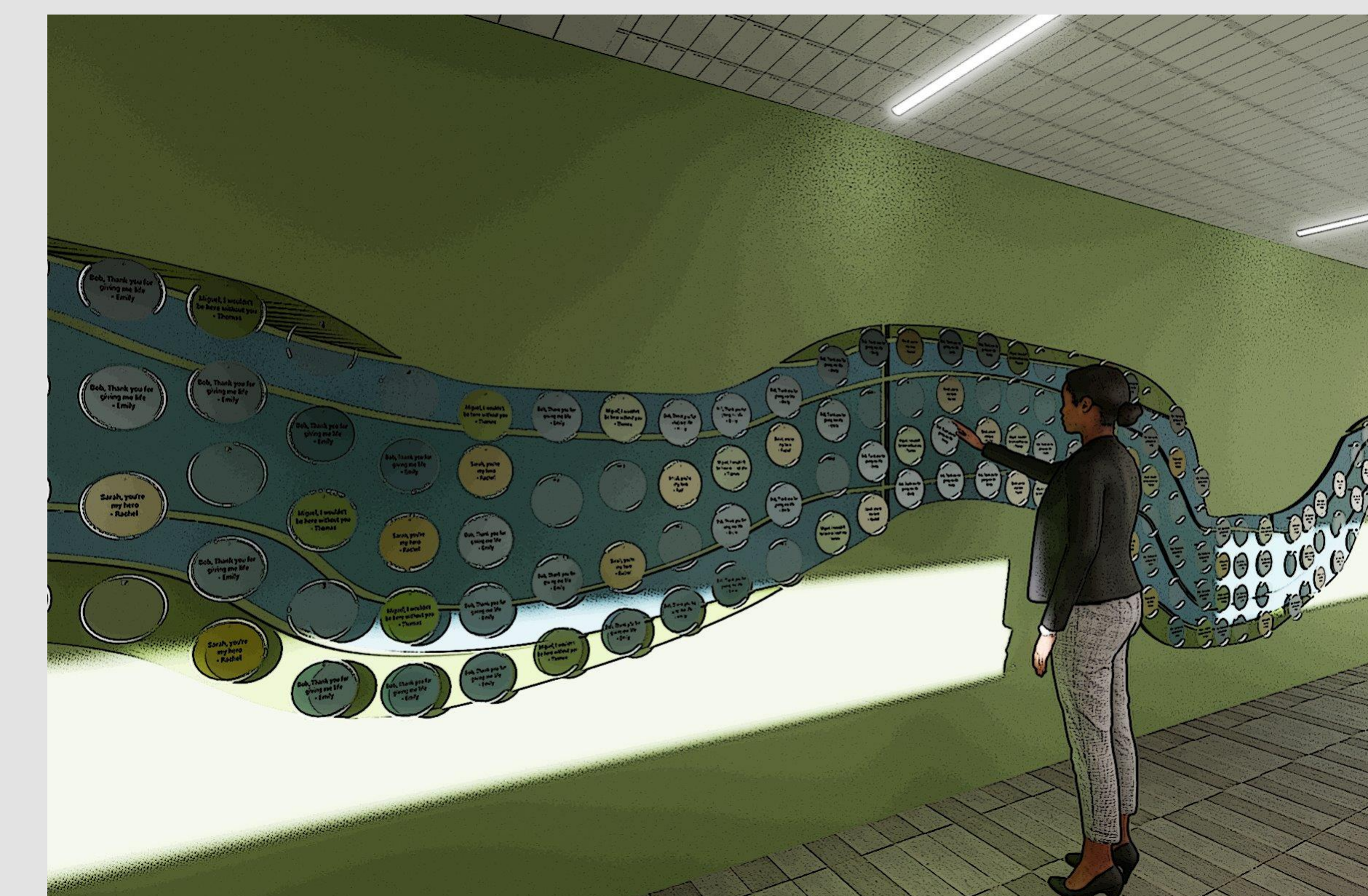
The existing clinic arrivals area has multiple blank surfaces, each presenting different opportunities for unique interactive experiences and messages to be conveyed. These were mapped and measured.



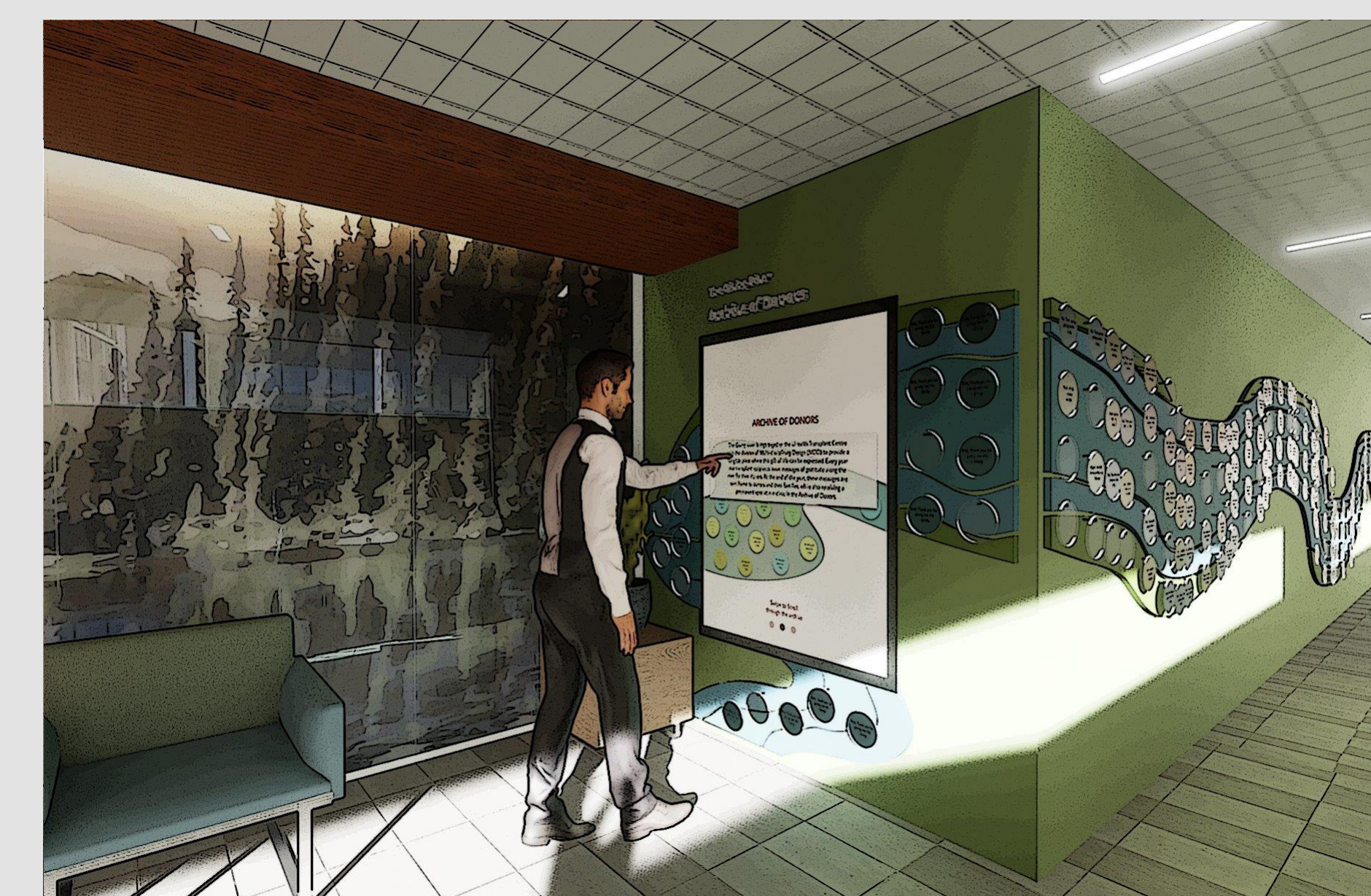
The design team conducted workshops, interviews with transplant stakeholders and hospital infrastructure staff to generate and test design solutions. Case studies of existing design solutions, for example memorials and healthcare art installations, were researched. Based on this data, concepts were refined into a single proposal and developed as a set of drawings and physical prototypes of component parts.

## Design Outcome: The Giving River

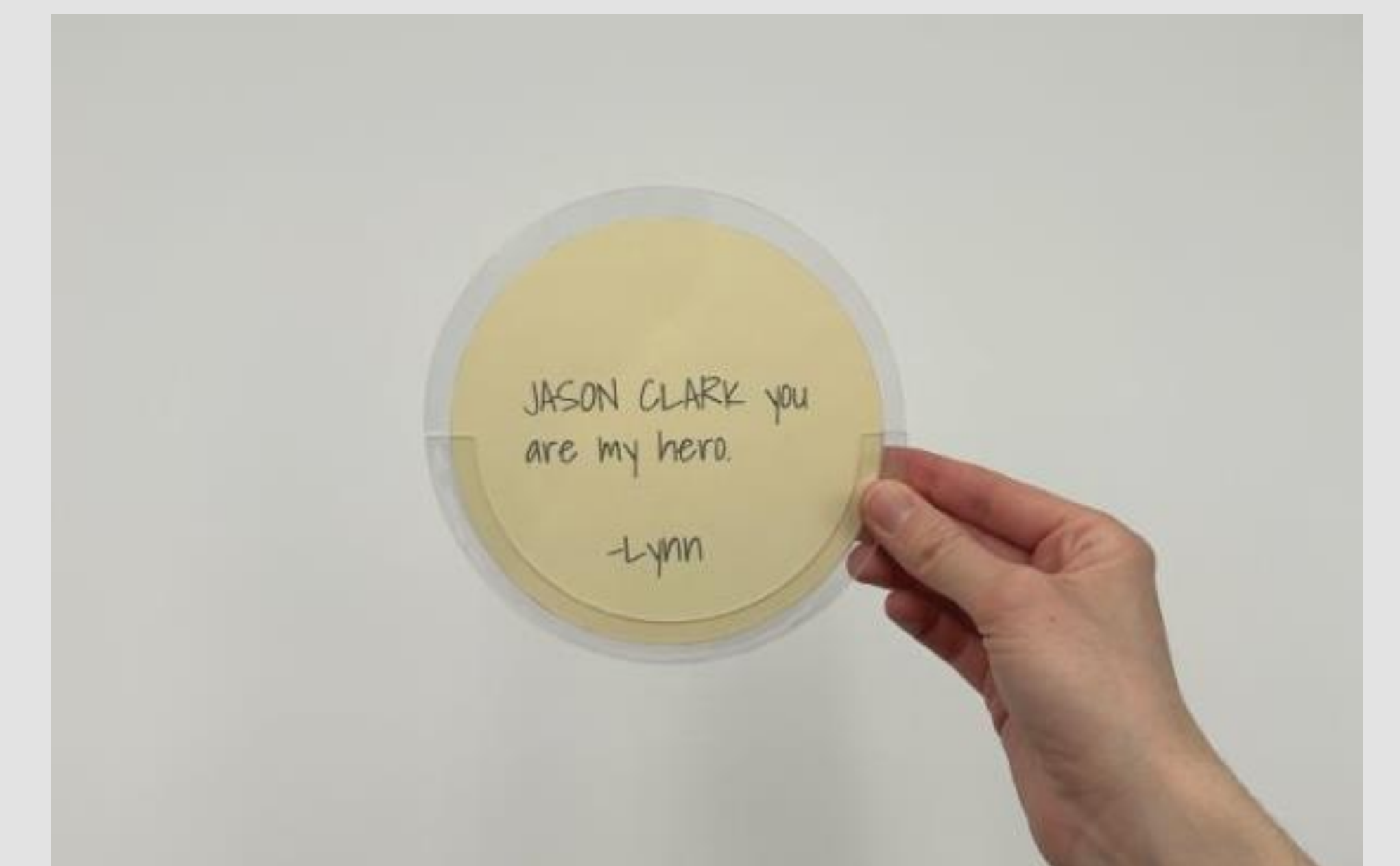
The Giving River consists of three main installation components illustrated below



The **Walls of Appreciation** display the names of organ donors alongside the benefactor of the transplant. Throughout a calendar year, the river fills to the brim with these medallions and their messages of gratitude.



At river's end, the **Digital Archive** will contain not only information about the installation, but a record of every previous year's transplant medallions. This ensures recognition keeps flowing, year after year.



The recipient of an organ transplant is given the opportunity to create a personal **Transplant Medallion** to place on the wall — perhaps sharing their story, thanking a donor, or inspiring others who might come next.



The acrylic **Hope Beacon** illuminates in-real-time when an organ transplant occurs. Its liquid contents move and shift through a heat-activated process, emanating new life within these currents.

## Acknowledgements

Campeon Ramirez and Landon Cragun - design team members

Kim Phillips - Senior Director, Transplant Section U Health

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Multi-disciplinary Design students who contributed to design concepts - Vincent Burns, Knox Heslop, Adam Kemp, Sarah Kraft, Jan Pell, Katya Pogodaeva, Isabelle Powell

Griffin Hale and David LeCheminant - Guest artist advice

## Next steps

By recognizing the importance of organ transplants, this installation hopes to raise awareness and inspire hope within the hospital and the greater community. If installed, The Giving River will activate the existing space in new and exciting ways; expressing gratitude, recognizing those who have walked a challenging path, and promoting behavior change in those who might have not considered organ donation before.

To make this design concept a reality, next steps are:

- Securing financial donors to support the realization of this design
- Receiving infrastructure / UHealth approvals for construction works