SID's goal is to assist local businesses in having a physical presence in downtown Columbus through a multitude of programs. We see our partnership with SID as an excellent opportunity to re-imagine the existing fabric of Lynn and Pearl Alleys and provide the community with a more vibrant urban environment. The Weight of Architecture program will offer us great opportunities to directly connect with the Columbus Community and show how collaborative engagement can solve problems through design and enhance the built environment.

SID Public Services has been working towards developing a retail alley at Pearl and Lynn alleys one block north of the Statehouse. City funding has been provided to improve the right of ways within the alleys, and now the need is focused on the existing stock of buildings. Our intent is to create a marketing/developer package showing both retailers and developers the great opportunity at this location. This will likely be similar but separate packages for these two audiences. We are seeking your help/expertise in retail and developer work, as well as architect and designers interested in revitilizing our downtown.

There are several precedents to help inform the potential of this alley. In Seattle, WA, Pioneer Square is a historic alley. The rendering at the right proposes various ways to activate that space through greenery, lighting, and outdoor seating. These are components that could be implemented at Lynn and Pearl Alley to make the alley more pedestrian.

Alley right of way improvements are underway with the guidance of SID and city funding. These improvements include pavement, brickwork, bollards, lighting, and trash enclosures. All will improve public and business appeal in the area.

Pearl and Lynne Alleys are home to a few small businesses as well as the Pearl Alley Market. The vision of SID and the market demand of downtown Columbus is to add local businesses flanking both sides of this pedestrian alleyway. The existing building stock varies from single story early 1900’s to multistory 1970’s. There are existing vacant storefronts that could be new homes for local businesses.

Ideas from Clarion Alley in San Francisco can also be incorporated to Lynn and Pearl. Clarion Alley is activated through murals that have been applied to the alley. The colors help create a more vibrant and inviting space.

To come up with ways to enhance Lynn and Pearl Alley our group met to charrette various ways we could activate the space. A charrette is when multiple people get together to brainstorm solutions to a problem. During our charrette we came up with many ideas which are illustrated through our sketches (pictured left).