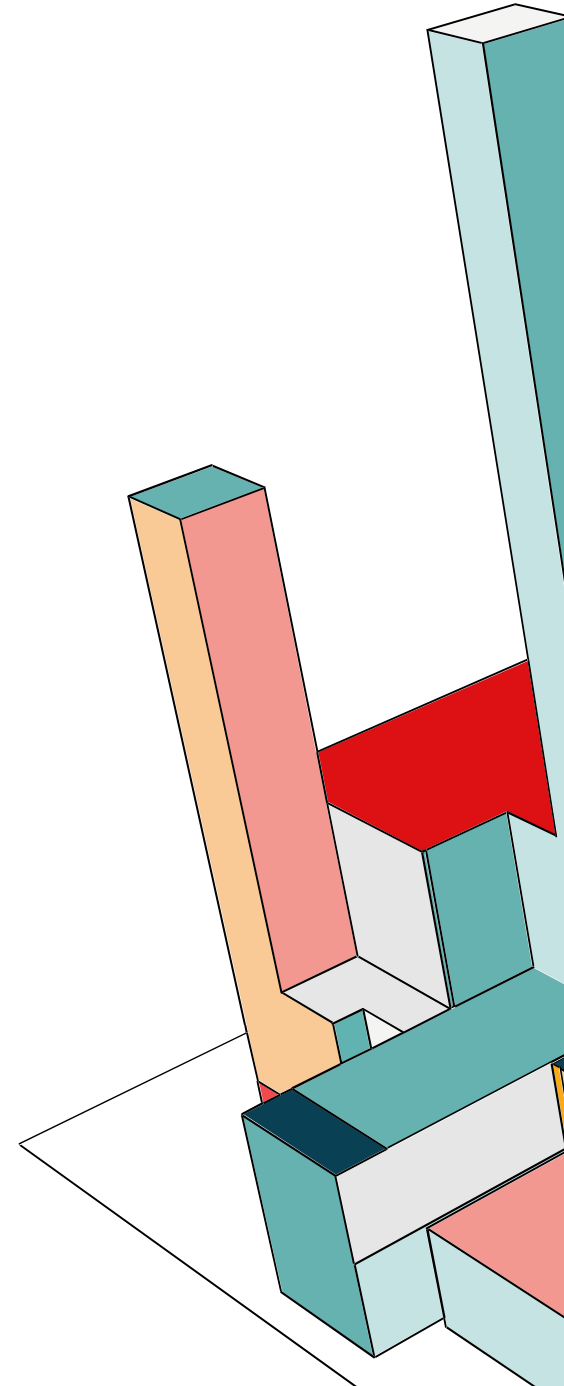


SUSTAINABLE HOUSING SAN DIEGO

**LA JOLLA HIGH SCHOOL
MS. EATON, ADVISOR**

MY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AND MY GOALS

- Introduction
- My non-profit organization
- Educating the community
- Working with partners
- Goals for the future



LUKE DEMOTT

**CREATOR OF
SUSTAINABLE
HOUSING SAN DIEGO**

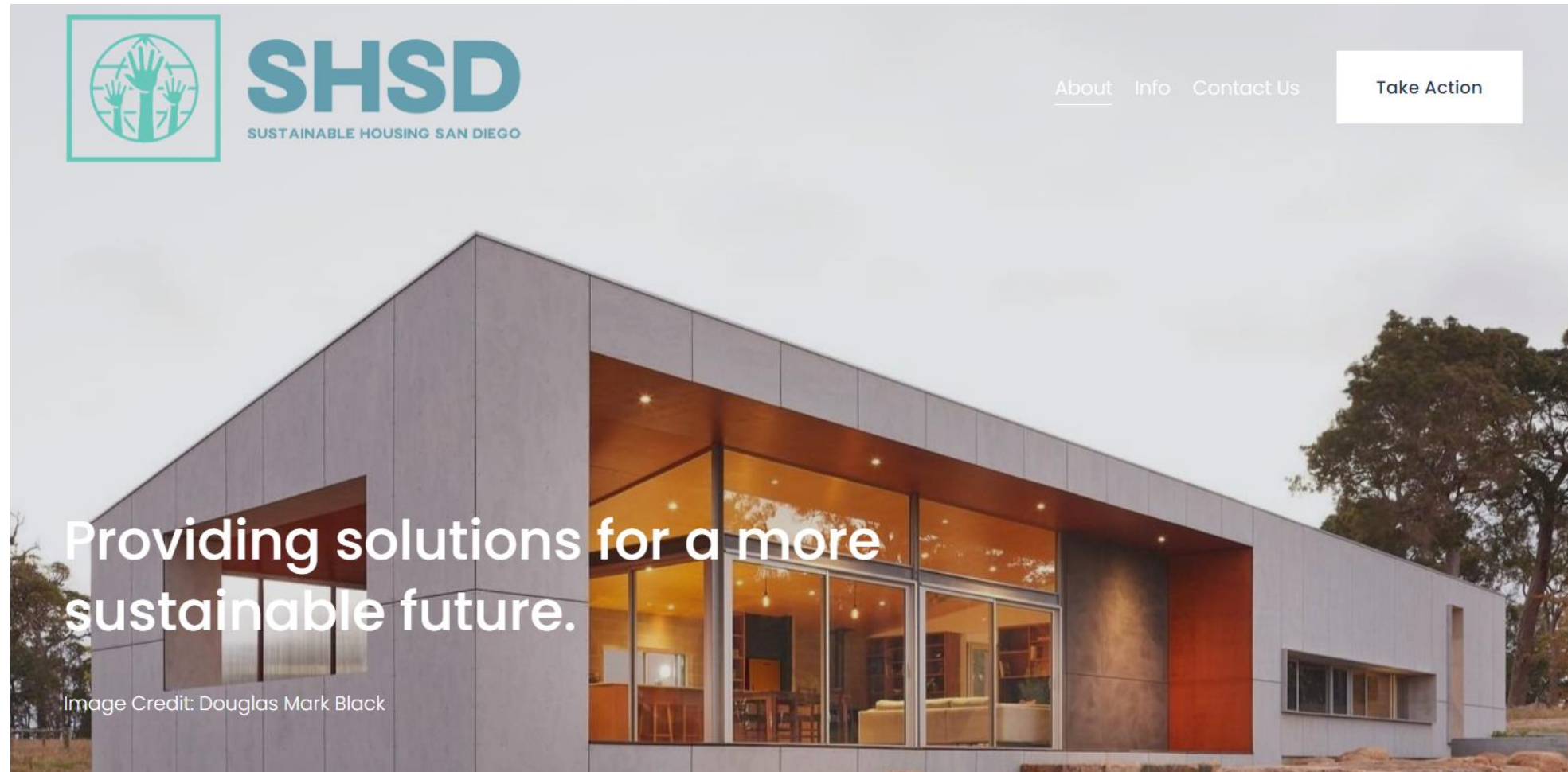


SUMMARY OF PROJECT

- I started a non-profit organization called Sustainable Housing San Diego which works to educate individuals and businesses about sustainable housing, including cost-saving strategies and how to implement them. I am particularly interested in addressing environmental injustice in low-income communities by educating them about the financial incentives of implementing sustainable housing practices.
- I provide education to individuals and businesses about sustainable housing. I answer their questions and help guide them as they build and design housing and businesses. I work to inform them about cost-saving strategies to implement these solutions, including the tax-benefits that can offset the increased price in their implementation. Another goal of my organization is to educate lower income communities about the cost-benefits of these strategies, so as to fight against environmental injustice. I am working with organizations such as the City of San Diego, I Love a Clean San Diego, and also private companies that share my goals and vision.



MY WEBSITE FOR MY ORGANIZATION: SUSTAINABLESD.COM



SUSTAINABLE HOUSING SAN DIEGO

- Educating the community
- Webpage resources for personal homes and businesses
- Guided advice on why sustainable housing is beneficial and how to apply for governmental rewards for implementing sustainable solutions
- Fighting environmental injustice pervasive in implementing sustainable housing solutions





WHY MY PROJECT MATTERS

Sustainable Housing San Diego works to end environmental injustice, by ensuring that lower-income families are also educated about sustainable housing solutions, including the tax-benefits that can be levered with implementation. There is inequity in sustainable housing, as many of the environmentally-friendly solutions appear cost-prohibitive. As a result, many low-income communities do not utilize sustainable housing solutions and thus, cannot reap their long-term community benefits. However, the cost of many solutions can be offset by government programs that offer tax incentives. For instance, adding solar panels to your house not only lowers an energy bill in San Diego, but they also lower the rates of electricity that are used from the power grid. Also, solar panel installation and roof replacement are tax-deductible endeavors. In addition, solar panels can be used to power electric vehicles, which decrease carbon-emissions in the environment. All of these savings not only offset the installation of solar panels, but also make them profitable for homeowners. I seek to educate others about these solutions and bring these rewards to San Diegans of all income levels. I openly invite others to calculate their personal cost-savings benefits, as it is easy to persuade them when looking at the positive financial impacts.



TIMELINE OF MY PROJECT

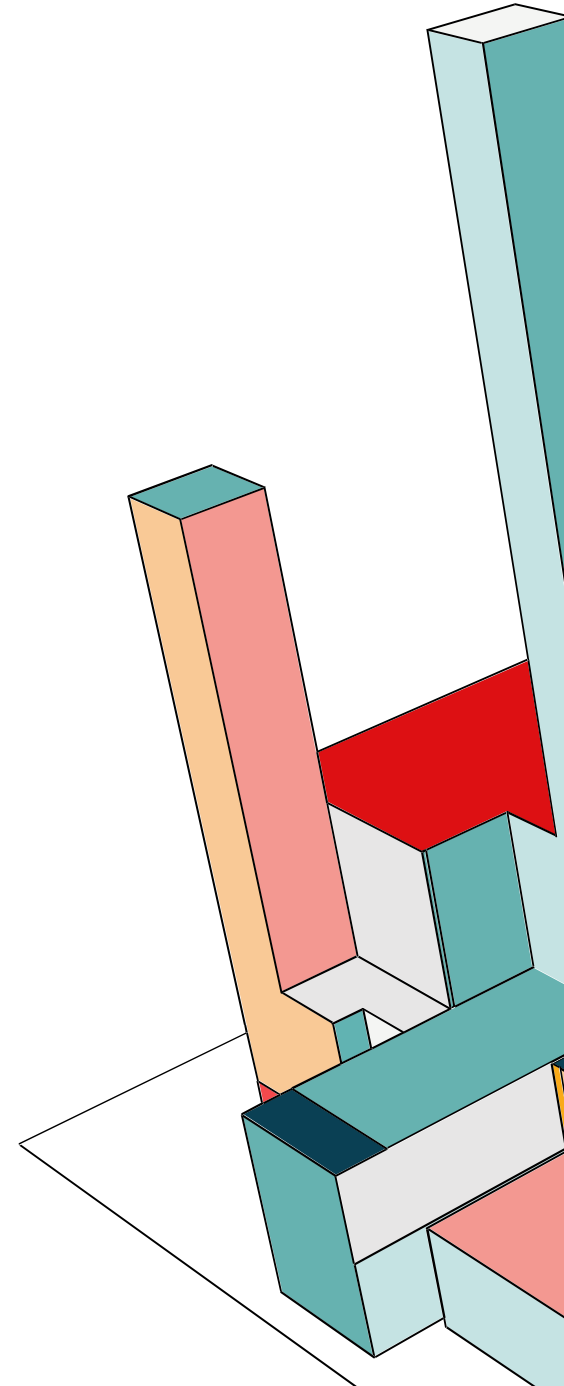
I have an interest in city planning and environmental science that began when my family was remodeling our house. We were looking at ways to improve energy efficiency for our household and decided to purchase solar panels and an electric car. This, along with my enrollment in AP Environmental Science, sparked an interest in sustainable housing. My experience with my AP Environmental Science class has further influenced my interest in environmental design and sustainable city planning.

During our house remodel, we began exploring the idea of home energy management systems as a method to improve energy efficiency in our house. To explore this issue more deeply, I conducted a literature review on neural networks for energy management systems (HEMS) and how weather impacts these systems. As I researched areas of HEMS, I also became interested in sustainable housing solutions in my community. This developed into a further interest in educating others, and I started a non-profit organization that focuses on these issues. My organization is called Sustainable Housing San Diego, and it educates individuals and businesses, while also guiding them to cost saving strategies, so that these solutions can be implemented.

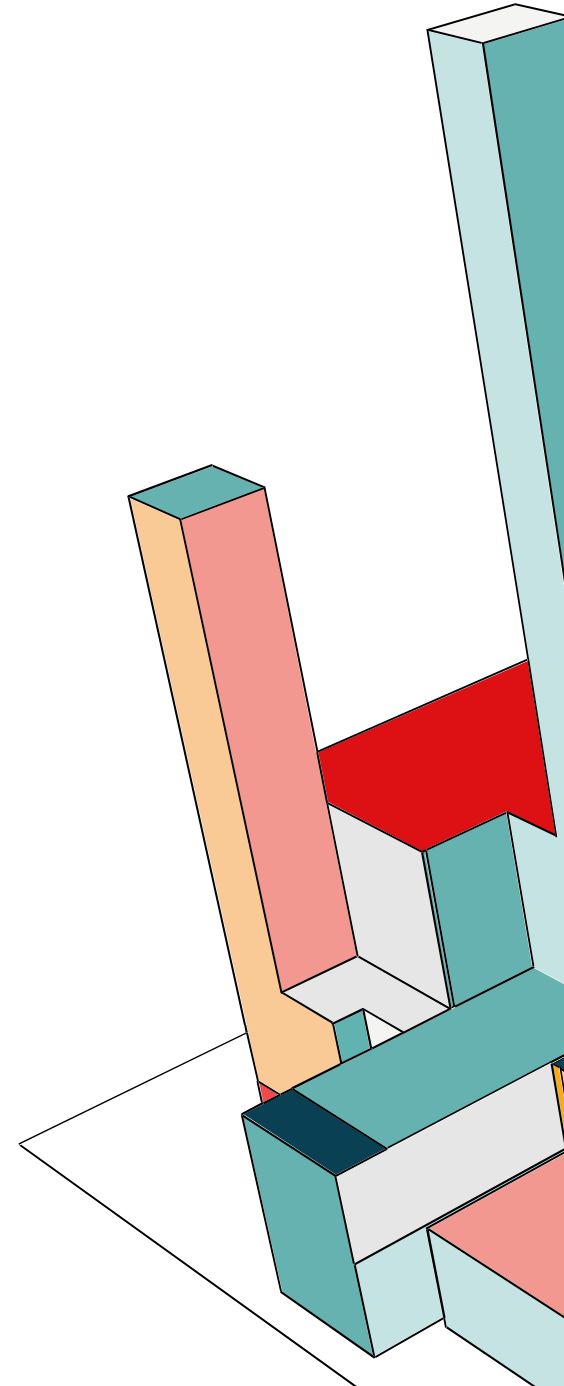
The goals of my project Sustainable Housing San Diego are to reach and educate as many individuals and companies as possible. I started the company at the end of July 2023, and applied for non-profit 501(c) status in September. In October, I created the website for my organization and it was approved for 501(c) status at the end of the month. For the last several months, I have been reaching out to government individuals and organizations for partnership. Last month, I was able to speak with individuals in the City Planning Department for the City of San Diego, including the Environmental Review Program Manager. For the City of San Diego, I have applied to a summer internship with the city which educates and provides outreach to the city of San Diego. I have also worked with I Love a Clean San Diego, and have offered educational materials for those involved with their organization. This month, I also reached out to and met with private companies with similar goals to provide environmental and engineering services to the City of San Diego.

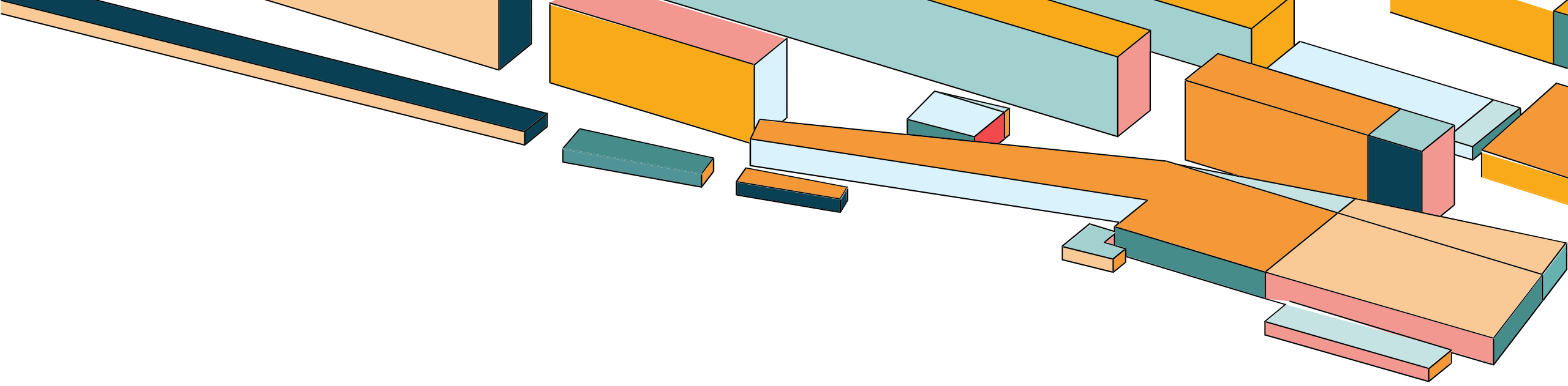
WORKING WITH THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

- -working with the Sustainability Department for the City of San Diego
- -working with I Love a Clean San Diego
- -intensive volunteer work this summer in the area of Sustainable Housing



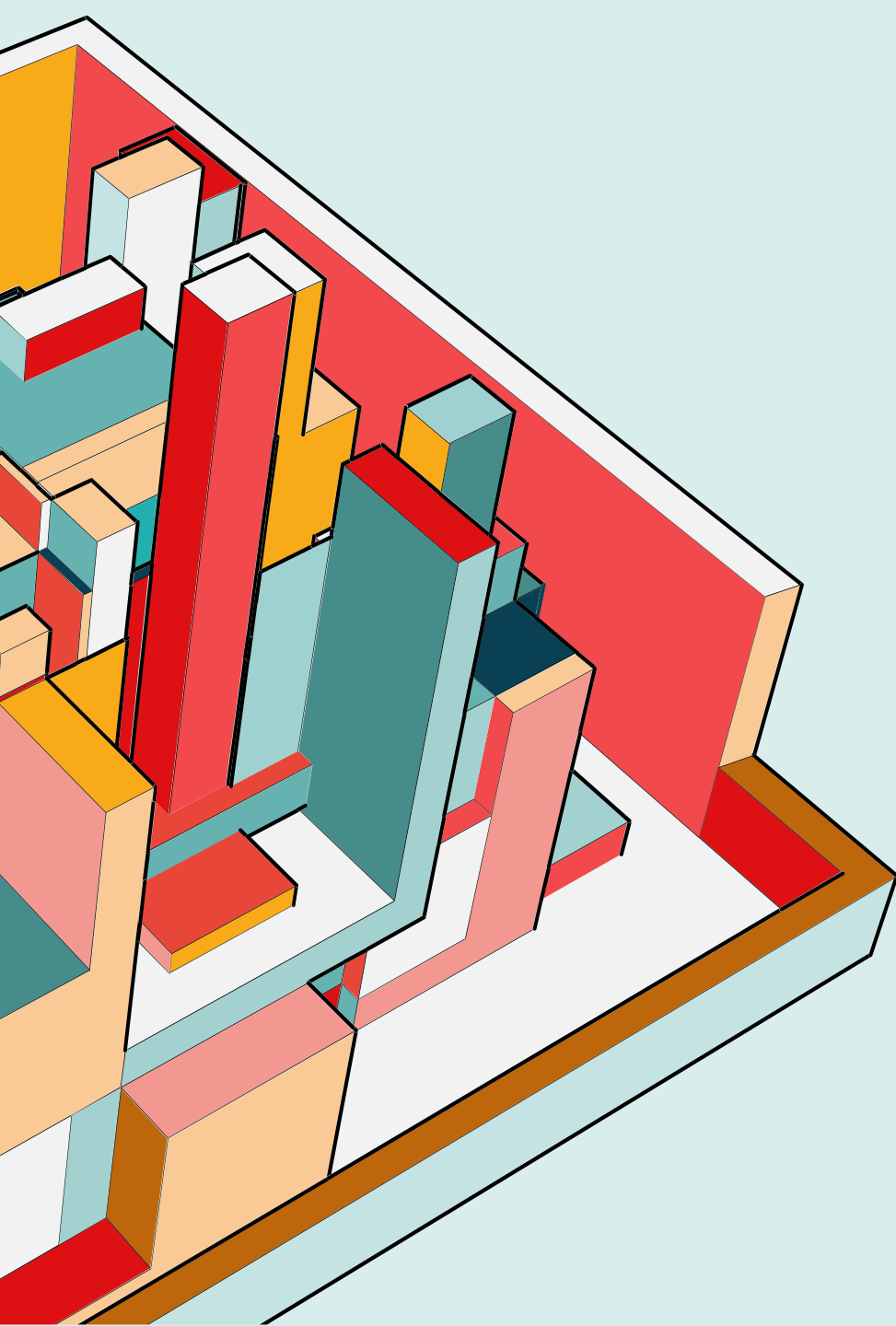
WORKING WITH OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS





HELPING HANDS

My parents have supported me in this project and with this idea. They have advised me and provided moral support. I especially used their insight when navigating the government website to establish my non-profit organization. In addition, my AP Environmental Science teacher, Ms. Holly Eaton inspires, educates and challenges me on a daily basis. She has taught me about the ways in which environmental solutions are implemented in our community and also how low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental injustice. With the City of San Diego, I have been working with the Sustainability Department, and will be volunteering with them this summer, so as to learn more about how to implement the ideas for my non-profit organization. I am grateful for the people in my life who have exposed me to the issues surrounding sustainable housing. I learn from them on a daily basis, and they have encouraged my activism.



SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES

With Sustainable Housing San Diego, I have learned that many goals of a non-profit are long-term in nature, and also that not all non-profit organizations function primarily as fundraising organizations. My organization's goals are primarily educational. Through my experience with my non-profit, I have learned that environmental injustice is pervasive in our society, with many citizens deterred by the costs of implementing sustainable housing solutions. Similarly, because of the environmental injustice with implementation, this has made fundraising efforts difficult. These experiences have been both surprising and enlightening for me.

I have educated others by creating a website for my non-profit, which is searchable and receives inquiries from keywords involving "Sustainable Housing San Diego". My website offers information and education for the community. I have reached out to offices at the City of San Diego and also companies that contract with the city for environmental and engineering services. I have reached out to other non-profit organizations that work in the same sector to offer my educational services for those involved in their work.

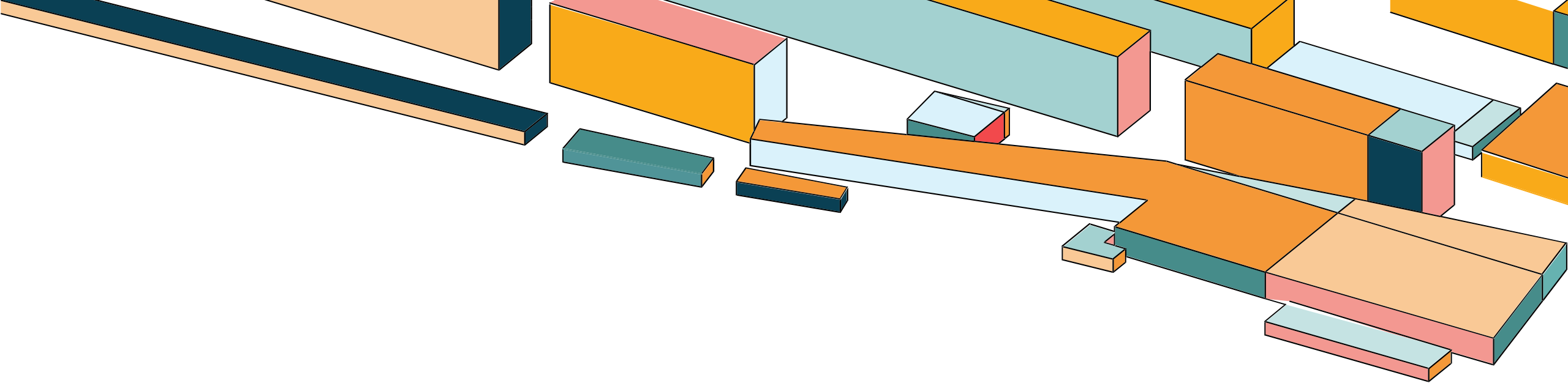
GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

Attending summer program at UC Berkeley that focuses on Sustainable City Planning

Continue to further educate myself and the community of San Diego

Further the goals of my non-profit, which include tackling the issues of social injustice in the area of Sustainable Housing





GOALS FOR THE FUTURE (CONT)

My plans for the future involve continued community outreach. I have applied for an internship with the City of San Diego during the summer, which provides education and outreach in areas of energy and the environment. I have also met with employees of a private company that works to provide environmental and engineering services for the City of San Diego. I plan to volunteer my time and partner with these organizations and also Habitat for Humanity, in an effort to further spread information about Sustainable Housing San Diego. I also was admitted to a summer program at the University of Berkeley, with the College of Environmental Design that focuses on architecture, urban design and sustainable city planning. I plan to use my summer to educate myself and further the goals of Sustainable Housing San Diego.

THANK YOU

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