

LexLadiesCode

KYCC-WiC Celebration 2015

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Who is LexLadiesCode?

- Women-only programming club
- Started January 2014
- Weekly hack nights
- Group projects
- Focused on Lexington area

How did it start?

- One woman wanted to learn to code
- Her friend knew how to code
- They found others
- We formed a club
- We made it official
- We made it Facebook official

What do we do?

- Code together weekly
- Pair programming
- Group projects
 - Sometimes for nonprofits
- Personal projects

How do we do it?

- Slack, Facebook, Twitter
- Github
 - LexLadiesCode organization
 - Github Issues for tasks
- Sublime Text, Atom

Past Project: LexPlayPacman

Rails

Ruby

SCSS

HTML

ERB

The screenshot shows the LexPlayPacman website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: LexPlayPacman, Submit Your Score, Leaderboard, Arcade Locations, and About. Below the navigation bar is a section titled "2014 WINNERS" with a trophy icon. The main content area features a congratulatory message: "CONGRATULATIONS to PRC - the Ms. Pac-Man King of Lexington 2014". It also mentions other winners: "Cheers also to STV - winner of the Baller Random Score Award and LSJ - winner of the Horse of Golden Spirit". A thank-you message follows: "Thanks to all for playing - keep practicing for next year and continue submitting your scores here for the glory!". Below this is a button: "+ Submit your score now!".

The "Top 10 High Scores" section contains the following table:

Rank	Score	Name
1st	222720	PRC
2nd	206310	LSJ
3rd	190950	KOP
4th	188260	LSJ
5th	182870	KOP
6th	180180	PRC

The "Where to Play" section features a map titled "Known Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man machine locations in Lexington, KY". The map shows several red Pac-Man icons scattered across the city, with labels for landmarks like Rupp Arena, University of Kentucky, and various streets and highways.

Past Project: Wedding Site

Ruby

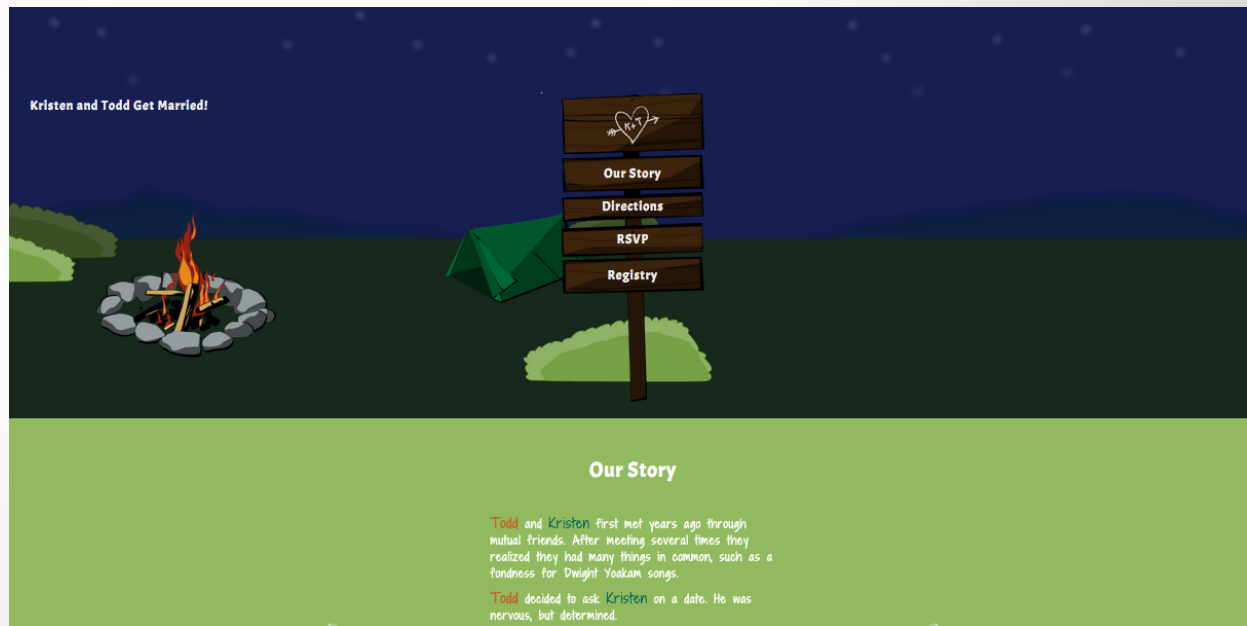
Rails

JavaScript

SCSS

HTML

ERB



Past Project: KYCC-WiC Site

Jekyll

Ruby

JavaScript

SCSS

HTML

Markdown



Current Project: Hygge Homes

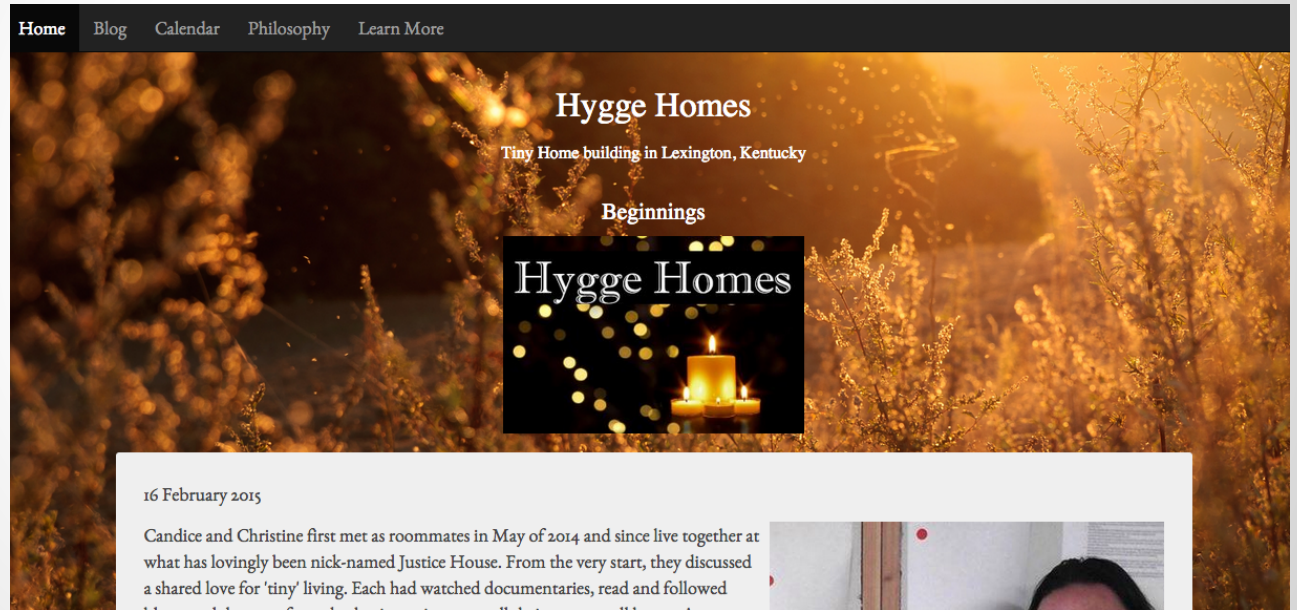
Jekyll

Ruby

Markdown

HTML

SCSS



Current Project: Editor Plugins

- Create Github gists
- Help remote members
- Atom
 - JavaScript
- Sublime Text
 - Python 3

How do we choose projects?

Will it:

- Teach us something?
- Be fun?
- Be useful?
- Help the community?

What We've Learned

- Sugar-coating is unnecessary
- Have a goal
 - Helps maintain enthusiasm
 - Better than just learning facts
 - Get beginners on a task
- No touchy another's keyboard

Working with Beginners

- Still working on our process
- Can overwhelm
 - New terminology
 - Lots of languages, frameworks, libraries...
 - System setup: text editor, XCode, rbenv, RubyGems, Github...
- OS differences can be painful
 - Especially older versions

Struggles

- Access to technology:
 - Hardware
 - Internet access
- Getting the word out
- Maintaining attendance
- Prior assumptions

Assumptions

- What “beginner” means
 - What is “common knowledge” about tech?
- Mismatched goals
- What resources do our members have?
 - Laptop? OS?
 - Internet access?
 - Time?

Projects We Avoid

- Strict deadlines
 - Done at club's pace
 - Optimizing for learning, not productivity
- For-profit companies
 - Not your free labor
 - Unpaid

Next Steps

- Continued group learning and teaching
- Wider variety of projects
- Refining our goals as a club
- Permanent meeting place

Meeting Place Requirements

- Consistent!
- Internet, outlets, seating
- Obligation free
 - \$\$
 - Alcohol
- Access and safety
 - Parking?
 - Convenience?
 - Bathrooms?

Common Questions

- Why no boys?
 - No desire to be tokenized
 - Avoiding negative stereotypes
 - Teaching styles
 - “What if I made a men-only coding club?”
- Why only 18+?
- Where’s the next meeting?

Why We Remain Women Only

- Pros:
 - Nonjudgmental attitudes
 - Good listening
 - Maintaining our numbers
- Cons:
 - Lack of experienced resources
 - Limits opportunities
 - Dudes complaining about it

Links and Social

<http://lexladiescode.org>

<https://github.com/LexLadiesCode>

@LexLadiesCode

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Questions?