

WPI

From Scrap to Symphony: A Lesson in Human Ingenuity

Akul Agarwal, Cheyenne Day, Geoffrey Garsson,
Jenny Lewitzky, Srikar Nekkanti, Mason Watts-Rich

GPS: Recover, Reuse
Acknowledgements:

Svetlana Nikitina, Martín Burt,
Luis Szarán, Sarah Hooper

Abstract

The H2O Orchestra is a unique organization from Paraguay where young musicians from underprivileged backgrounds play instruments made from trash collected from local rivers. As such, the orchestra is looking for new ways to develop more instruments and place them in the hands of Paraguayan youth who would otherwise be unable to have any form of music making experience. The orchestra needs to gain more visibility in order to attract support and continue to function. Currently, few people know about this orchestra; its website lacks information, and few news articles have promoted it in the past. Our project was designed to bridge some of these gaps and offer recommendations, so that the orchestra can continue to thrive. We recommended several updates to the orchestra's website and have documented the construction of an instrument of our own to serve as a prototype. With these improvements, we hope to expand the orchestra's repertoire of instruments and sources of support to ensure its future.

Methodology

- 1 • Collaborated with Martin Burt throughout project development
- 2 • Contacted Luiz Szarán about manufacturing process of instruments
- 3 • Drafted improvements for orchestra's current website
- 4 • Designed blueprints for xylophone
- 5 • Utilized campus workshops for instrument construction

Project Goals

Increase visibility and assist with instrument development by:

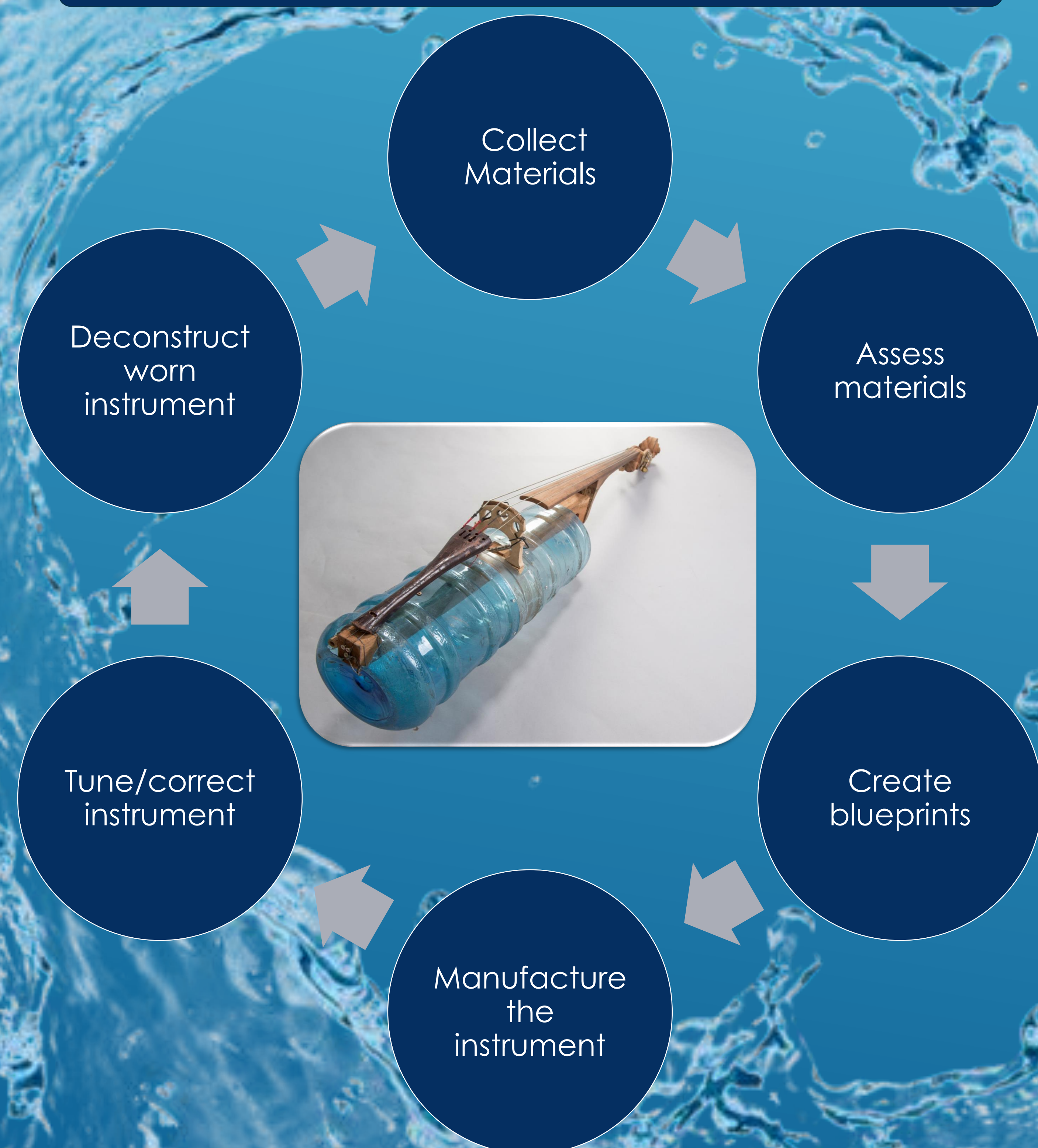
- Drafting website improvements
- Creating prototype of a new instrument
- Video documentation of the instrument's creation

Background

We worked with the H2O Orchestra of Paraguay, part of the Sonidos de la Tierra organization, which is a globally famous group whose instruments are made of trash that pollutes nearby bodies of water. The orchestra combines raising awareness for the critical state of the country's environment with helping disadvantaged children achieve their musical dreams. By increasing the orchestra's visibility, we hope to shed further light on the widespread poverty and pollution in Paraguay.



Instrument Creation Process



Website Suggestions

The current website for the H2O Orchestra is missing key pieces of information, including their manufacturing processes and group achievements. In order to increase the orchestra's publicity, we streamlined the site, added new features, and drafted a list of improvements and updates to their content.

