

Starlingship:

Gift and Book Shoppe,

Interstellar Space Station,

and Alien Apartment Complex

This is a sort of business proposal.

It's an idea I have, which combines a variety of things that are very dear to my heart.

They include my greatest passions in life.

Miniatures and dollhouses.

Science fiction and fantasy.

Arts and crafts.

Plants and nature.

Bicycling and local artist communities.

They've all coalesced in my mind to form this concept, which feels very much like a distillation of all that makes me happy.

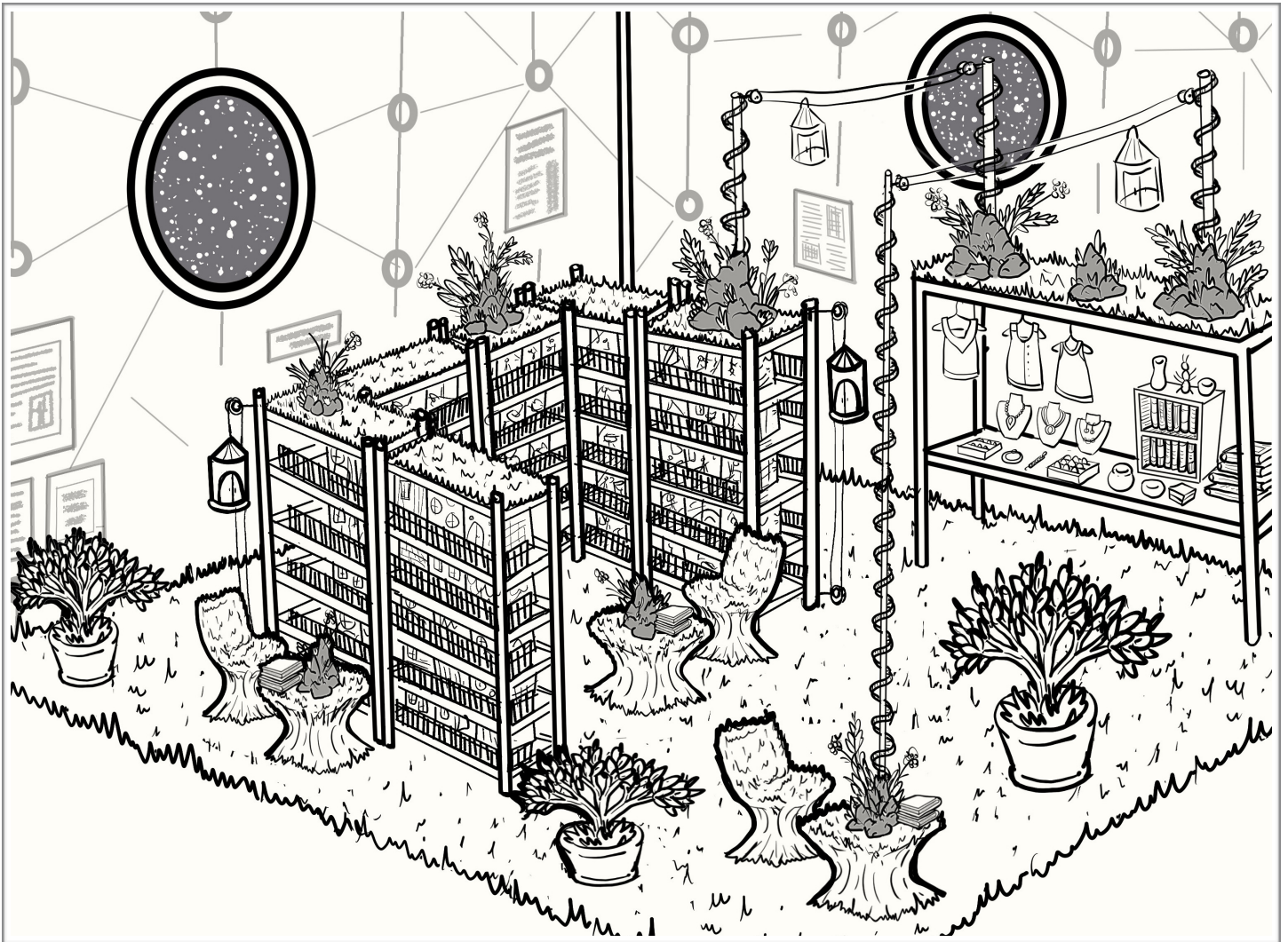
In addition... since the idea is based around the theme of homes and housing... I would eventually want to donate part of the proceeds to housing initiatives in Los Angeles. (It remains to be seen whether this plan can even sustain itself, let alone make enough to donate to charity, but I do hope that someday it can do more than just raise awareness and interest in that cause.)

If putting this idea into action could become a big part of my life, I would feel like the luckiest lifeform in all the galaxies.

—Erika Hammerschmidt

Concept

- The Starlingship will be many things.
- **First and foremost: an imaginative, immersive art experience.**
- Those who enter the exhibit become temporal and spatial travelers.
- Visitors to a time-paused moment of daily life, in distant space.
- **A moment inside a miniature alien apartment building.**
- They'll step through a portal to a faraway space station, populated on a Lilliputian scale.



Miniature Worlds

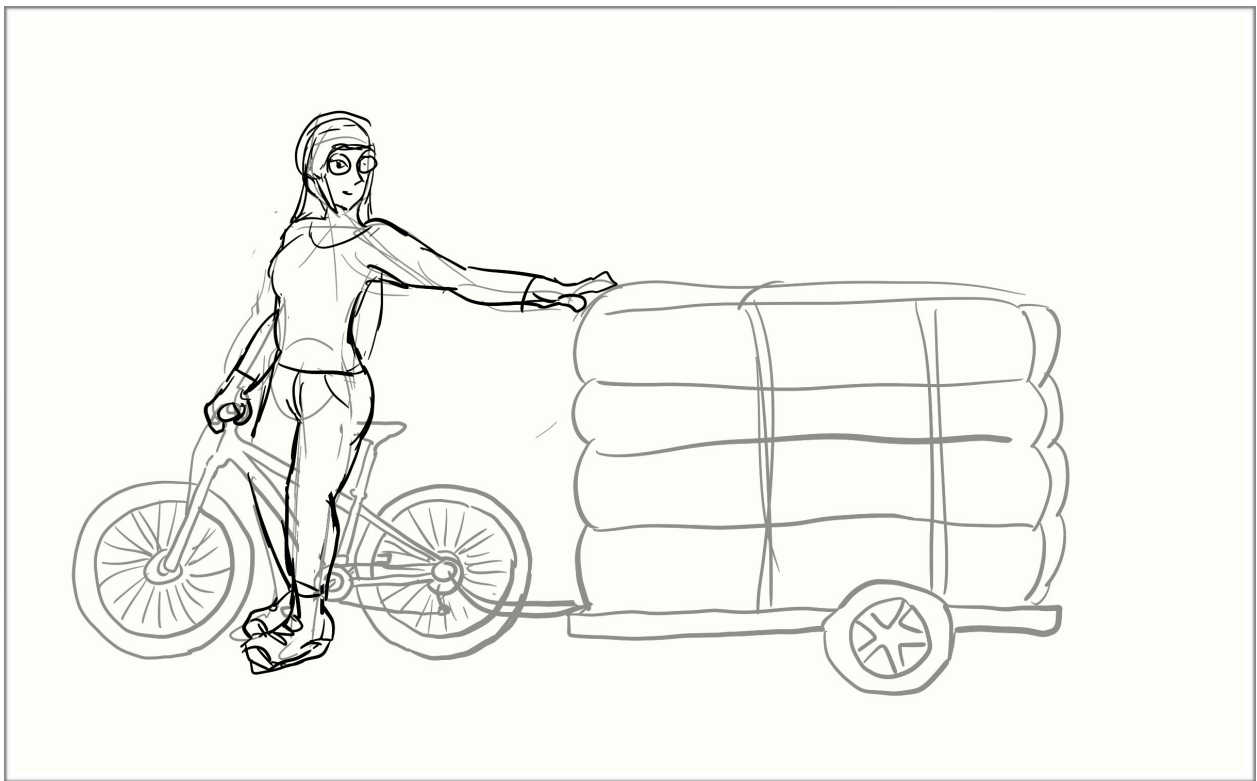
- **By creating this otherworldly scene in a tiny size**, I delve into my fascination with how meanings change when the scale gets bigger or smaller.
- When I create dioramas, small found objects tend to get re-imagined as larger ones.
- A bottle cap becomes a pie pan. A blister-pack of pills becomes a handful of muffin tins and egg cartons. Vitamin capsules become eggs, and beads are berries on top of muffins.
- Some pill-bottle desiccant canisters go on a shelf as food cans, while others are emptied to scatter sprinkles on clay cookies.



- **By making the scene otherworldly as well as miniature, the potential widens.**
- In outer space, maybe some tiny creatures cook their omelettes with clear yellow eggs, instead of opaque white ones. Perhaps some of them sleep in fuzzy tubes that look just like hair rollers, or bathe in tubs shaped like seashells.
- However, my own creative approach to tiny things... is one of many.
- Some of the greatest joy in this project is going to come from seeing the variety of styles that *other* artists contribute to it.
- **The diversity of the community in this little space station should reflect the diversity of my local artist community.**
- That is my greatest hope for the Starlingship.

The Starlingship will be a few other things, besides a space diorama exhibit.

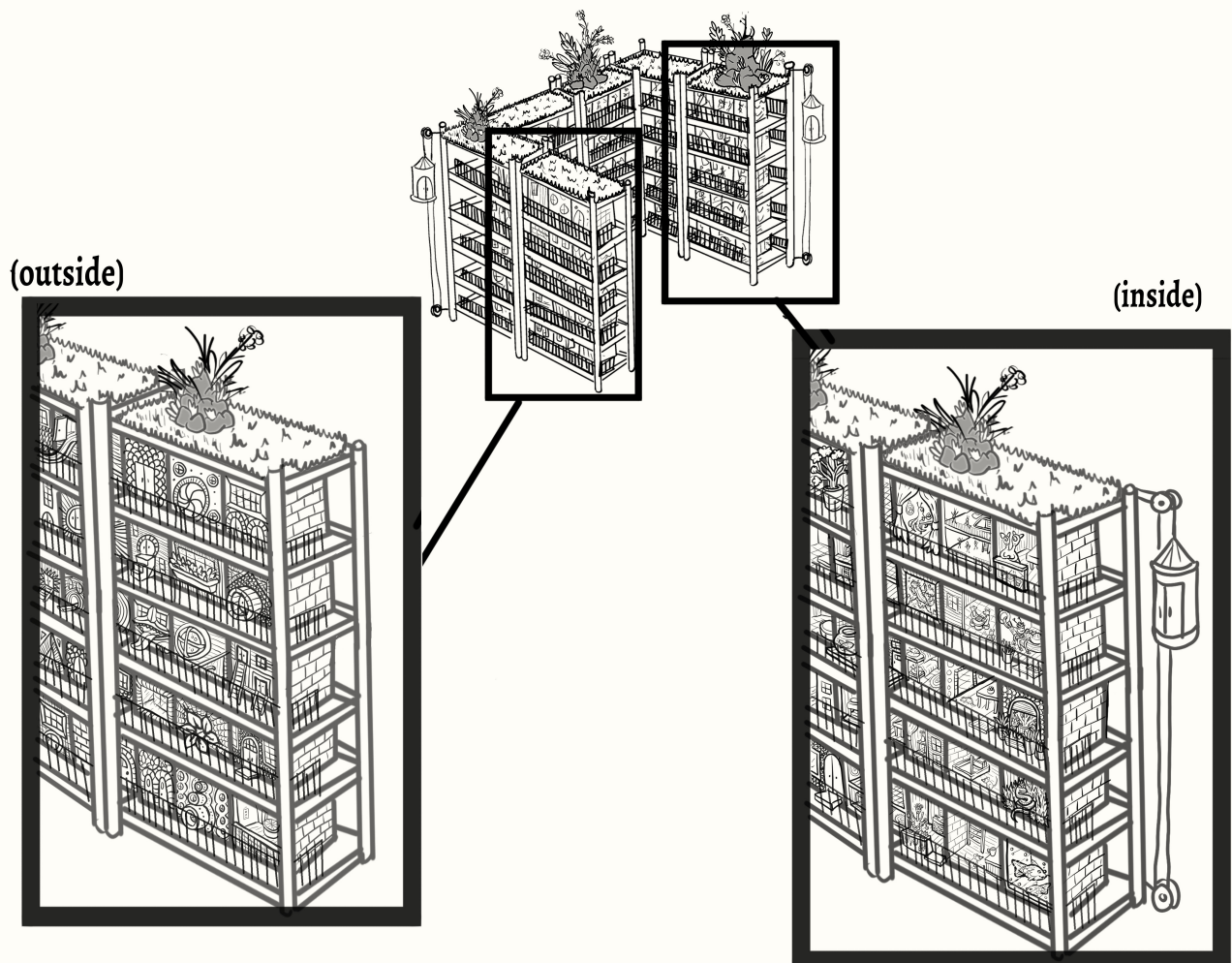
- It will also include a gift and book shop that sells writing, art, jewelry and other creations to support independent artists.
- It will feature areas for relaxation, with chairs, coffee tables, books, and potted plants.
- **The location could take many forms.**
- It could be a whole building, or a room in a building.
- Or it could be something smaller, a popup attraction transported by bicycle.
- (I don't drive, and I'm an experienced cyclist, so a bike trailer is a good fit for me.)

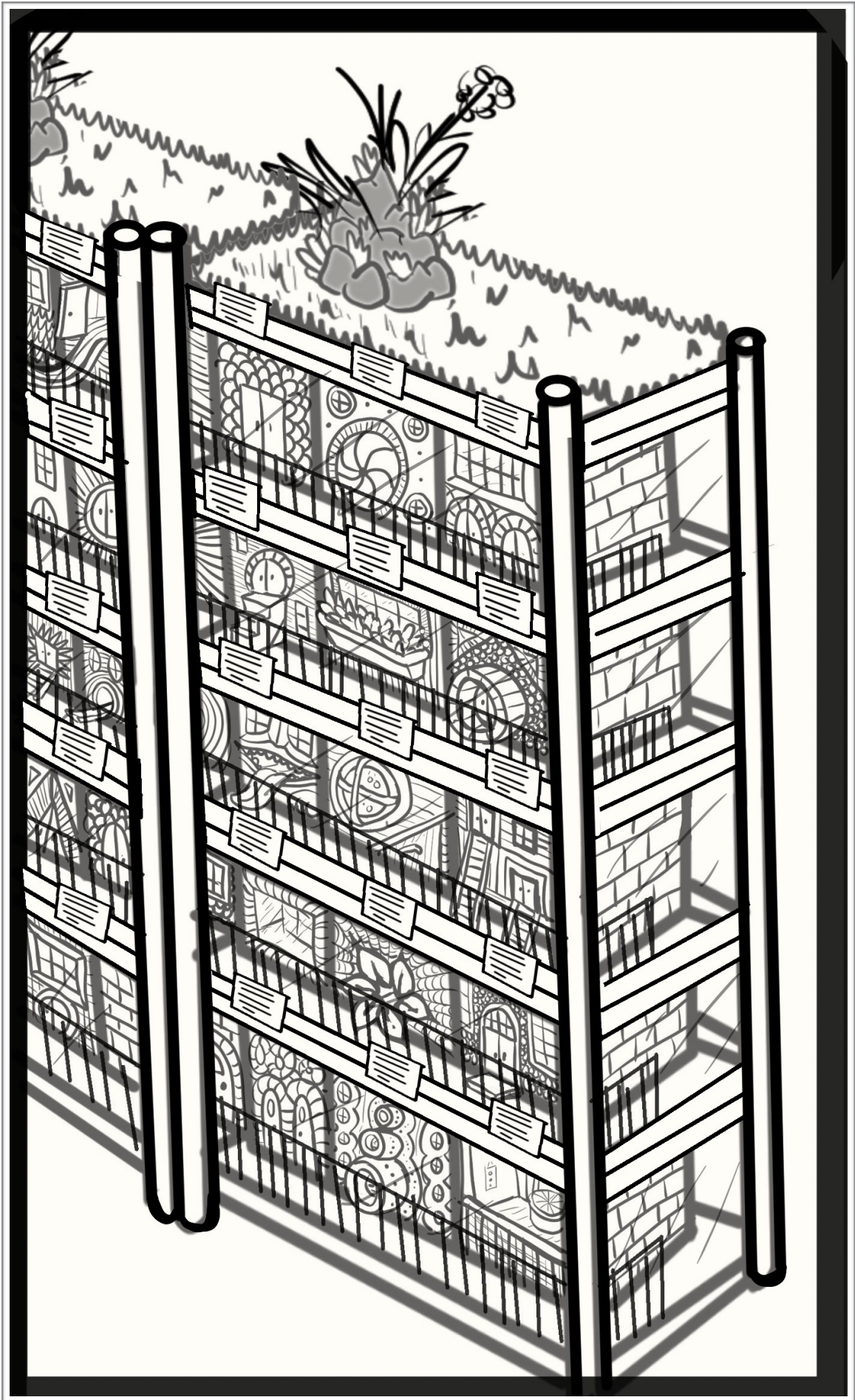


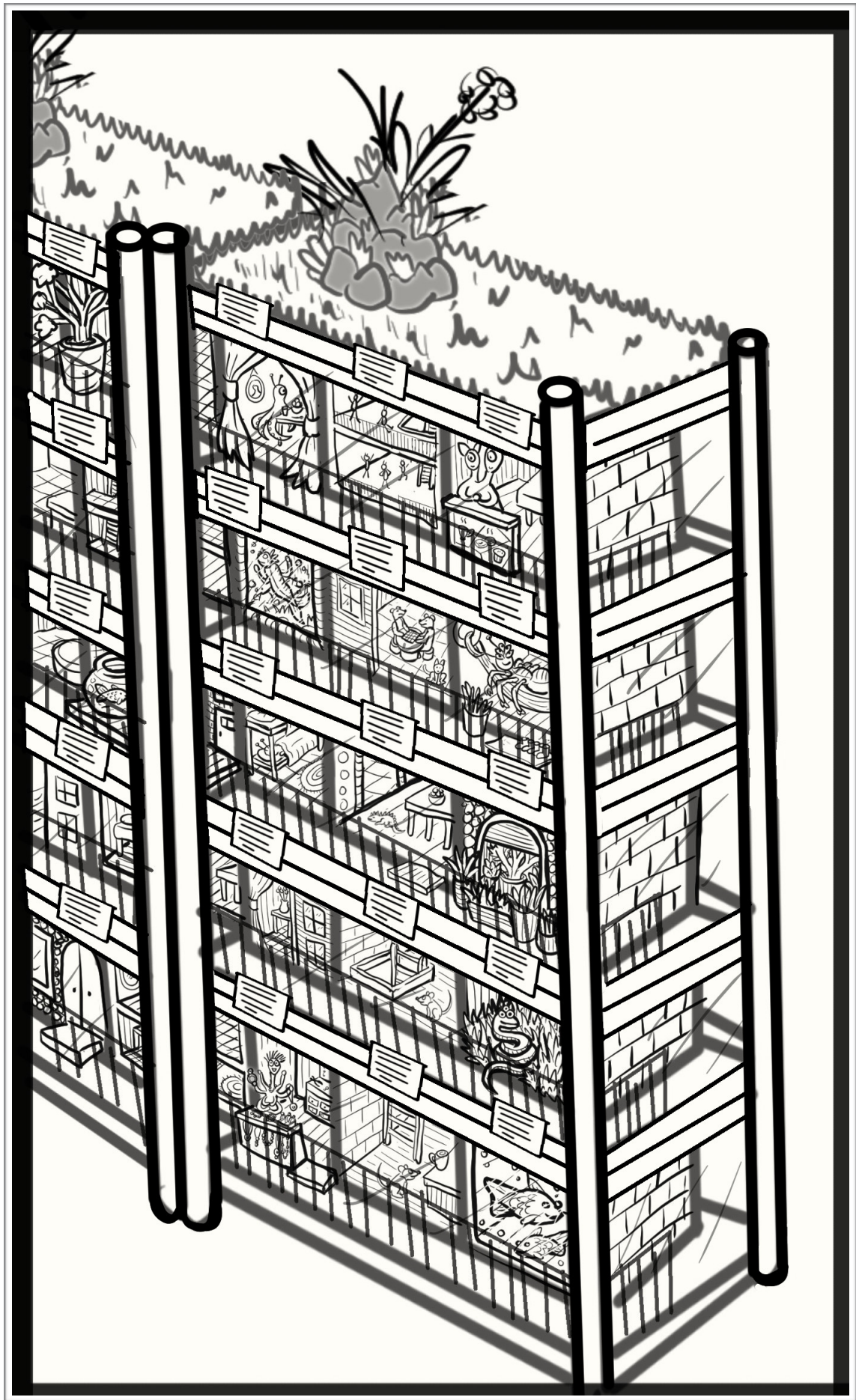
- This version could show up at festivals and events in different areas.
- It could be assembled in an indoor or outdoor setting, in any large square area.
- The installation could stay up for long periods of time in non-festival areas, if any property owners are interested in leasing me space for a longer while.
- **This small, portable version would have just one tower of apartments.**
- **If I have the opportunity to do this in a more permanent location, I can expand it to include more apartment buildings. A whole tiny city in outer space.**

Description

- The art installation could fit into almost any room.
- It just needs space for a gift-shop shelf, a few small tables and chairs... and, of course, the shelves of miniature diorama sculpture, representing apartment buildings in a space station.
- **This apartment building is the residential center of a diverse starbase.**
- **Creatures from many different planets live and work together here.**
- The main thing they have in common is that they're all much smaller than humans.
- Their apartments are tiny ten-inch cubes, making up five-story buildings that reach about the height of a standing person.
- **The number and size of these will depend on what I can afford to set up.**
- In the small portable version, it would be just one shelf.
- **In a permanent installation, there would be a square or semi-square of apartment buildings that surround a miniature courtyard.**
- One side of the apartments will be closed, the other will be open like a dollhouse.
- Both sides will be shielded behind protective clear vinyl.

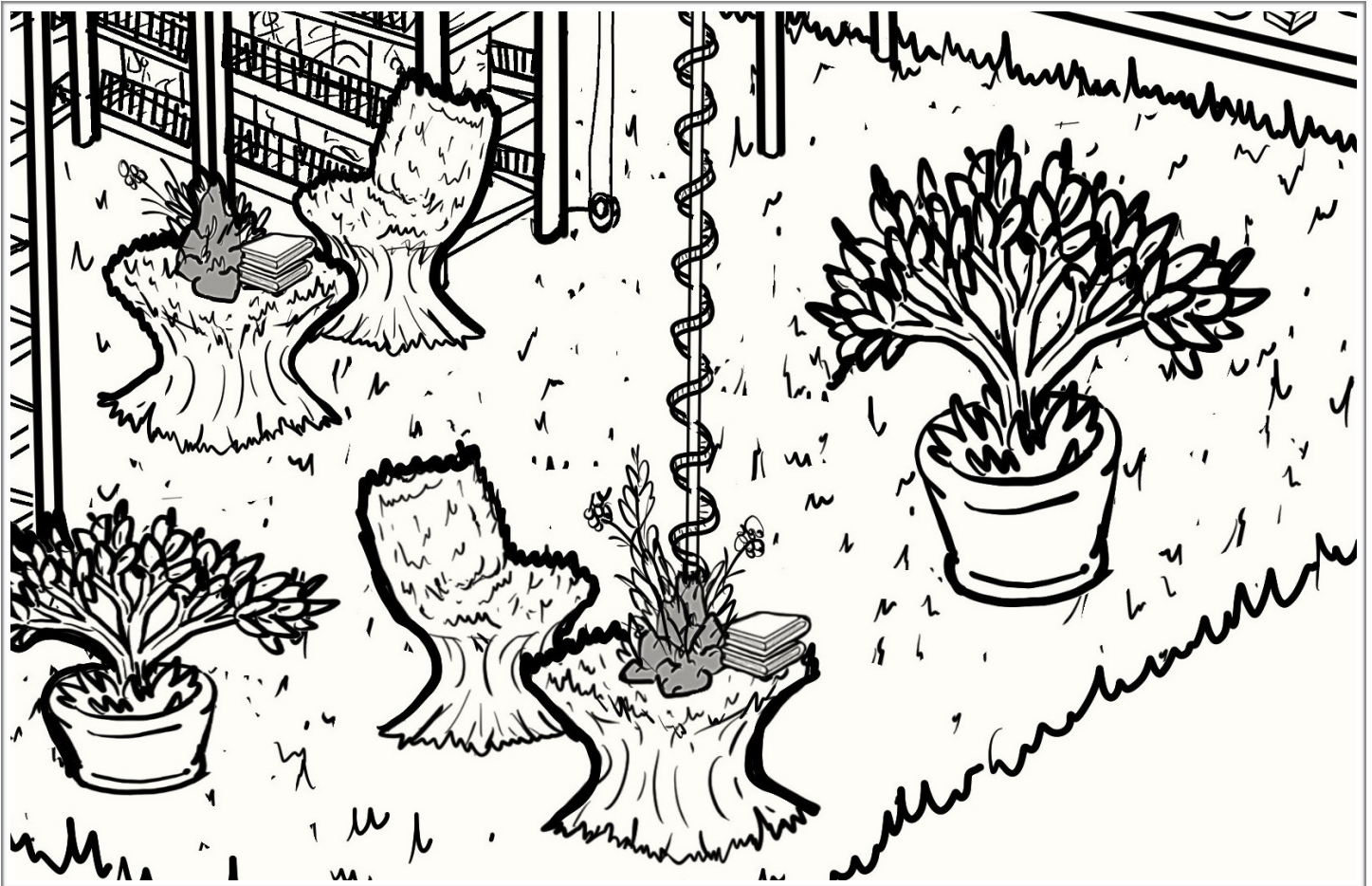






The Experience

- The installation will provide an immersive experience.
- **Visitors can imagine themselves as interstellar travelers, exploring this station after discovering it through a mysterious portal.**
- The dioramas in the Apartment Building will be commissioned from various artists.
- They'll be like wildly creative sci-fi dollhouses, in a variety of different styles.
- Each one will be labeled with a description of the home and the creatures that live in it.
- **More information about the starbase (including stories by various writers) can be in books on the tables, and for sale in the gift shop.**
- **While guests rest and talk, they can also explore an imaginative world of multicultural, multi-planetary life.**



Exterior

On the outside of the building will be signs that read:

Starlingship

Book and Gift Shoppe and Interstellar Space Station



Doorway

The entryway will be decorated with an ornate door frame, with a sign hanging nearby.

This could be the outer door of a building, the door of a rented room within a building— or even the entryway to a canopy, set up at an outdoor festival.



On the doorframe, a sign reads:

**What is this doorway?
A magic portal? A space warp?
Wardrobe, wormhole, or something else?**

**We don't know. We just found it.
All we know is that it leads into a space station
in the far reaches of the galaxy.
Welcome, travelers.**

Welcoming the Visitor

- Among the first things you will see, when entering, are two sculptures.
- **These help to frame the immersive experience.**
- One sculpture is the **Stopwatch Time Machine**.
- It resembles an ornate, alien-looking clock.



There's a sign on the clock. (It can be in an easily-readable comic-like format, with the lines printed in circles or ovals, connected like speech bubbles.)

It reads:

This is the Stopwatch Time Machine.

**The tiny creatures said it's okay if we tour their space station
and admire their apartments.**

But they prefer if we visit only one moment of their lives at a time.

Thanks to the Stopwatch Time Machine, we can do that!

**Each morning we set the Starbase Time to "Pause,"
and leave the Visitor Time set to "Regular."**

Time passes as usual for you.

But no time passes at all for those who live here.

**For them, this is all just one moment in their day.
It goes by in a blink of their eyes.**

When we close for the night, we set the Starbase Time back to "Regular."

The apartment-dwellers go on with their lives, undisturbed.

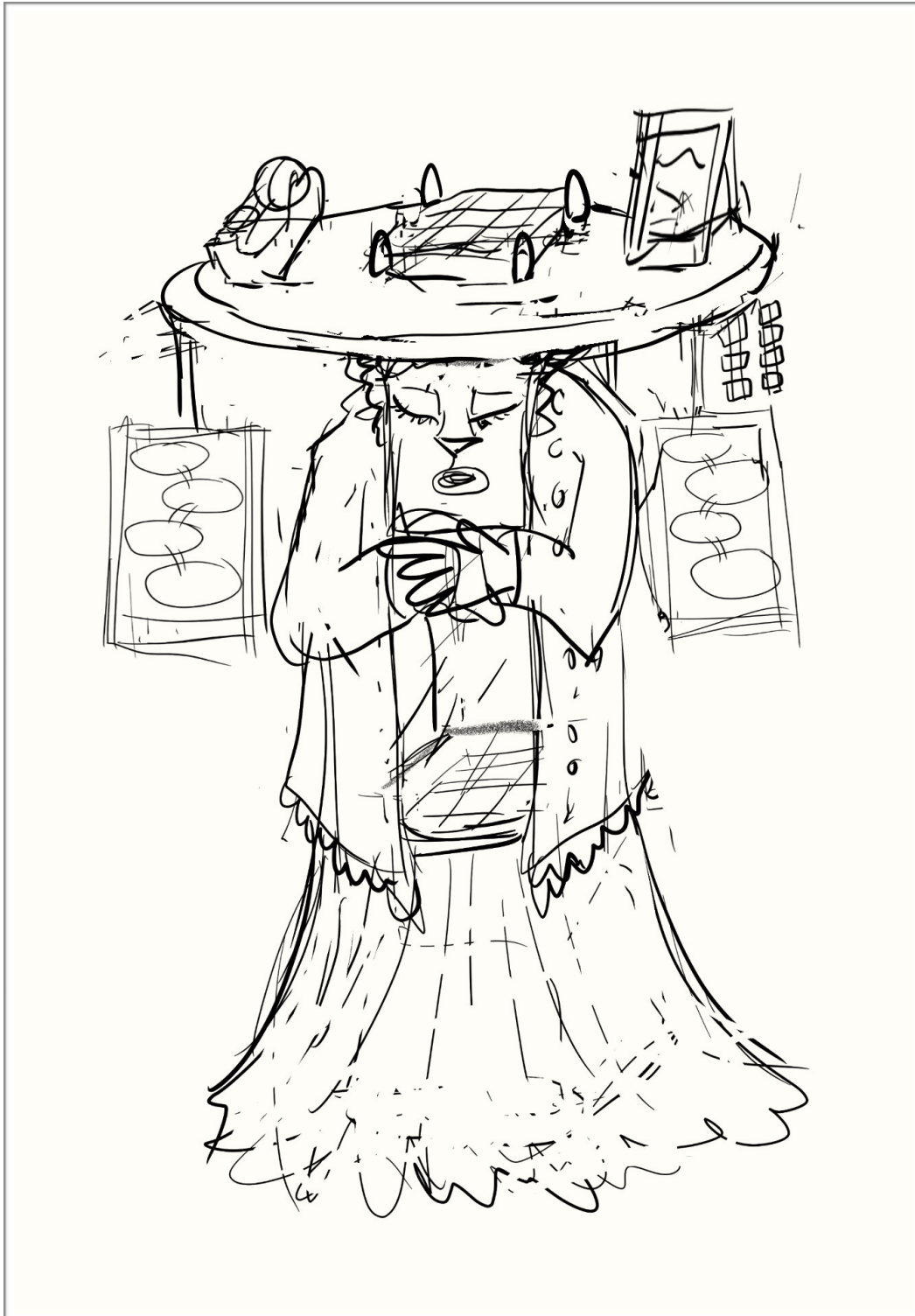
So each time you come here, there may be changes.

Keep visiting and looking closely.

**(The time-pausing effect appears as a transparent film
over the surfaces of the apartments.**

Please don't touch it!)

- The other statue is a creature named **Starlight**.
- **Visitors can interact with this statue to begin their experience.**
- **(This interaction also provides a way for visitors to donate money to the exhibit.)**
- The creature has a slot for a mouth, and a transparent abdomen.



A similar set of signs on this statue can read:

This is Starlight.

**She's a Nocturnal Space Janitor.
She helps maintain this starbase.
(She's sleeping right now.)**

**As you can see, she's much larger than
most of the tiny lifeforms who live here.**

**We don't have to pause time for her.
She doesn't mind visitors like us.**

**She's learned our language,
and she knows most of the alien languages here.**

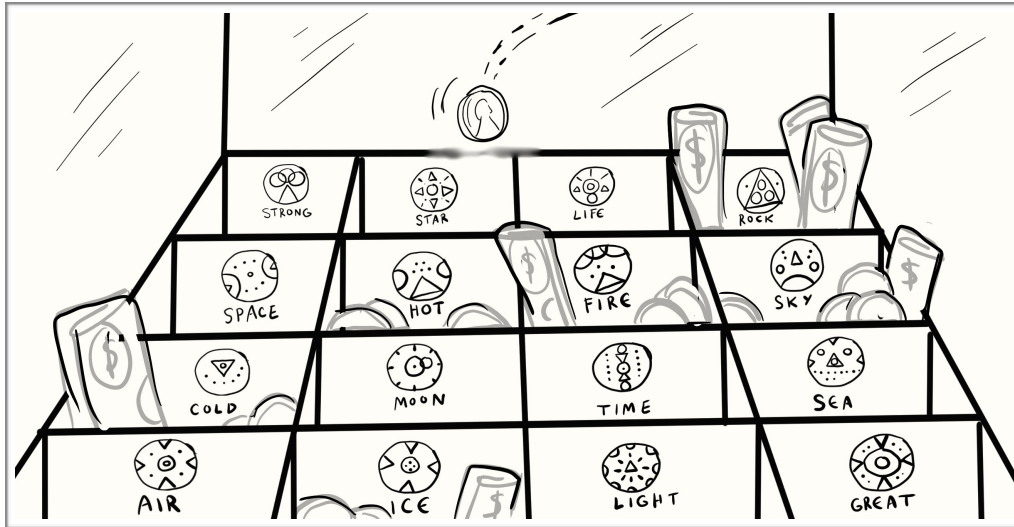
**To help out, she uses her Telepathic Dream Powers
to make words show up in English for us.**

**That's why you can read most of the signs on the apartments.
She's doing that in her sleep! How cool is that?**

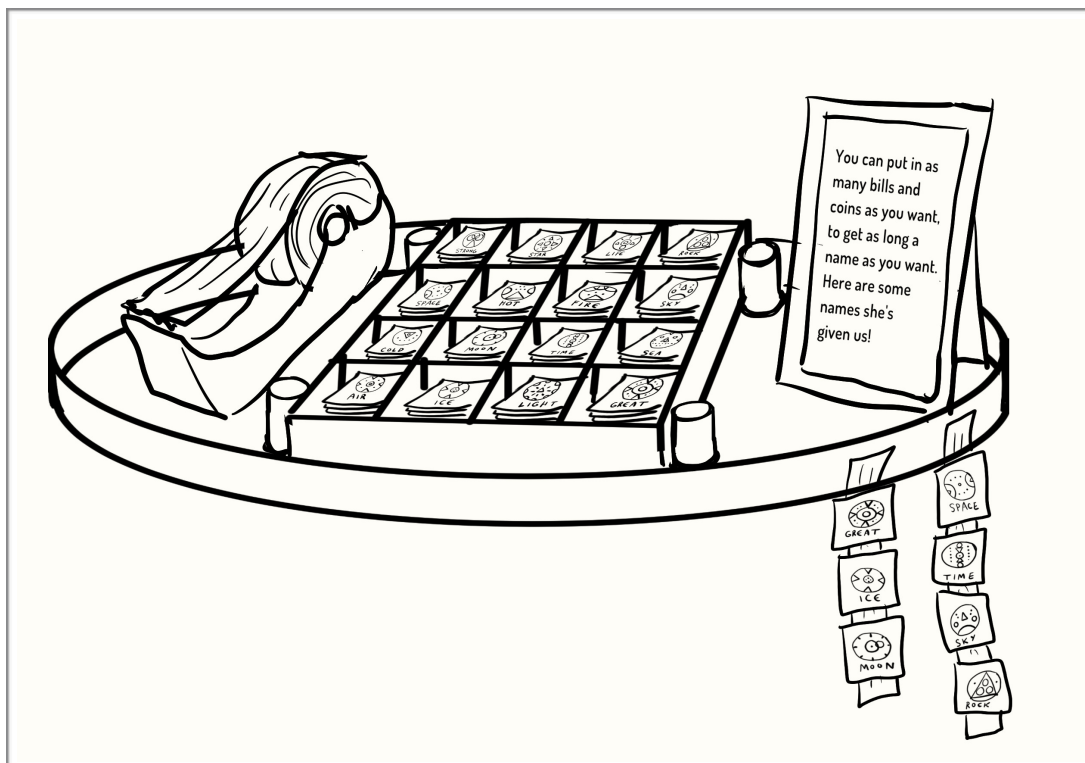
**You can thank her by feeding her coins and dollar bills.
Watch her clear belly to see where they fall.
She'll make up a name in her language for you.**

**Yep, she can do that in her sleep too.
She's pretty talented.**

- Starlight's belly is a transparent compartment. The bottom of it is divided into 16 sections.
- Each section is labeled with an alien symbol, and its meaning in English.
- **If money is pushed into the mouth, the visitor can watch each coin or bill fall, and land in one of the compartments. Where it lands indicates a part of the name.**
- Visitors can put in as many bills and coins as they want, to get as long a name as they want.



- On her hat, we can place 16 compartments where guests can get small paper copies of the alien symbols and translations, after they watch their donations fall. (And a tape dispenser, so that the guest can stick the paper symbols onto a length of tape to form a strip of them.)
- **That way, they can keep a copy of the “alien name” that Starlight gives them.**
- To show guests how this is done, a few pre-made strips can hang nearby.



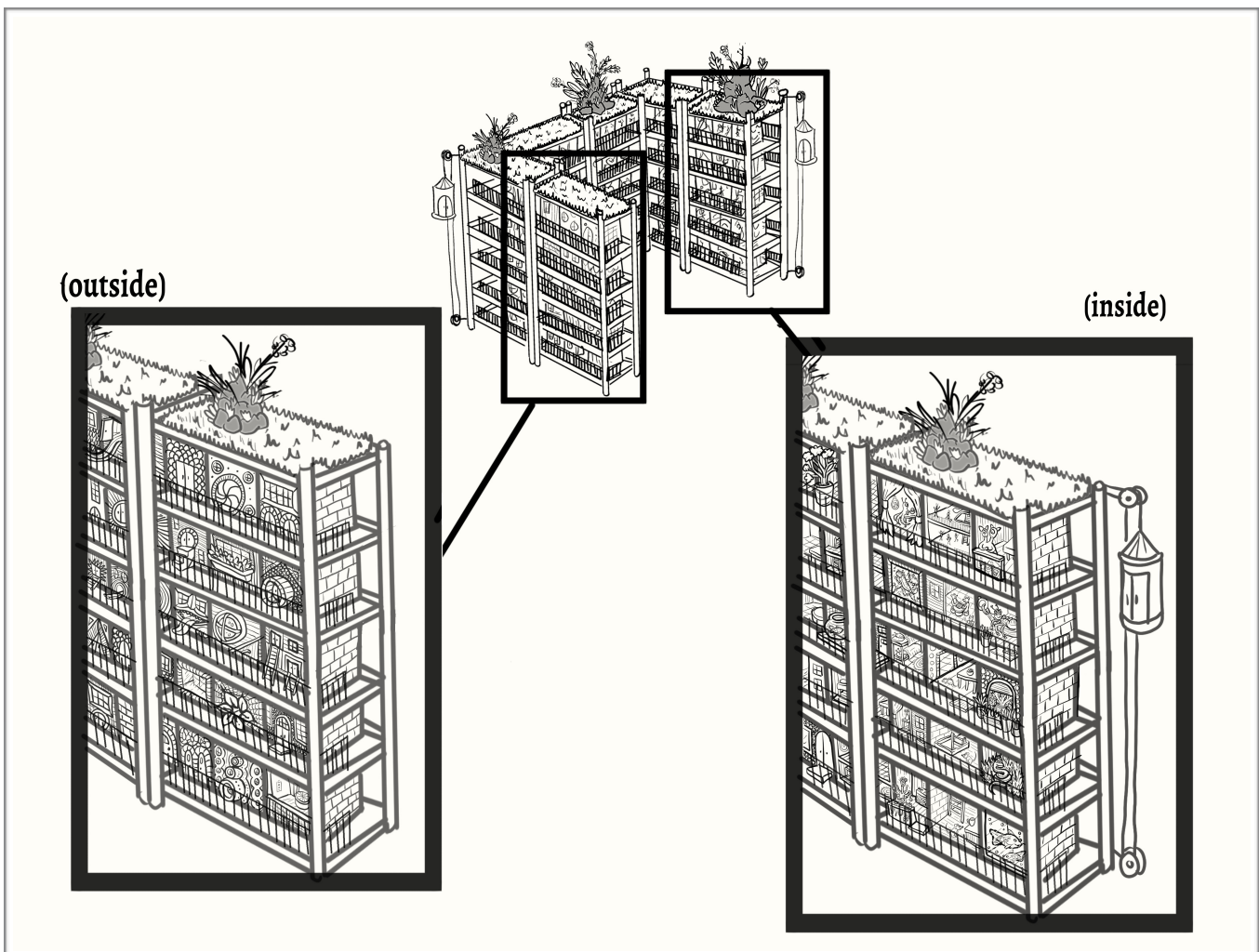
Finally: The Apartments

Near the center of the room is the Apartment Building.

This may be built from a single shelving unit, or may consist of several.

Each shelf is at least 30" wide, 50" tall and 20" deep, supporting 5 stories of miniature apartments.

- The apartments are little ten-inch cubes, with a walkway along each side.
- (The shelves can have strings of lights along them, powered by battery packs.)
- **On the ends are elevators, which visitors may operate by pulling a string.**
- Above each apartment is a small sign with the apartment number and an artist-written description of what is inside, along with some details of the world-building behind it.
- Some alien creatures (“Wanderers”) are on the walkways instead of inside their apartments. Their position and location can change from day to day.



At first, viewers see the mostly-closed-off outer side, peering in through the windows.



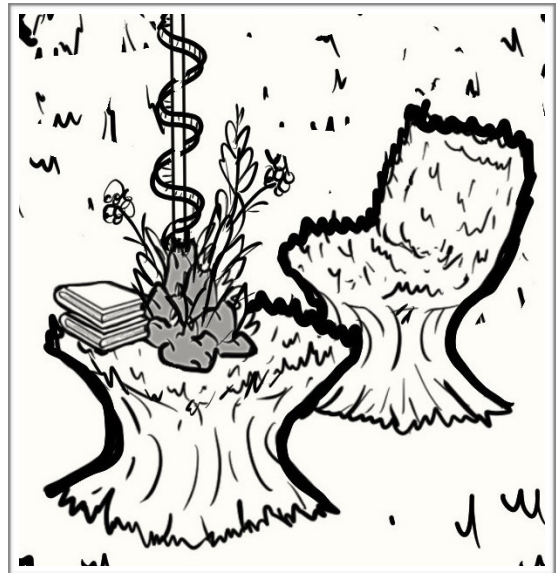
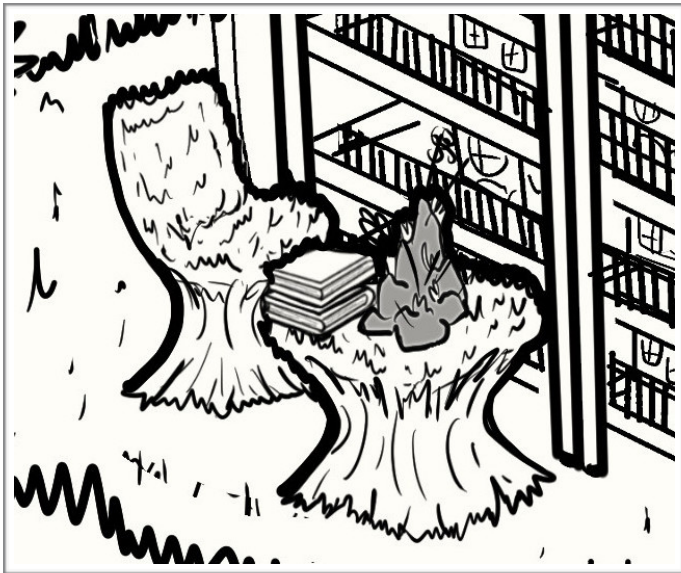
As they walk around it, they can see that the other side is open like a dollhouse. The shelves are wrapped in clear marine vinyl for protection. (This is what the Stopwatch Time Machine means by the “transparent film of the time-pausing effect.”)



Seating Areas

Inside the exhibit are at least two small seating areas.

- A short stool or chair, and a short coffee table, are located in each one.
- The tables have small potted plants and books on them.
- **Books on the tables can contain stories, pictures and info about the station and its community of inhabitants.**
- **They can be submitted by local artists and writers.**
- **Visitors can read about the Apartment Building while they sit and rest near it.**

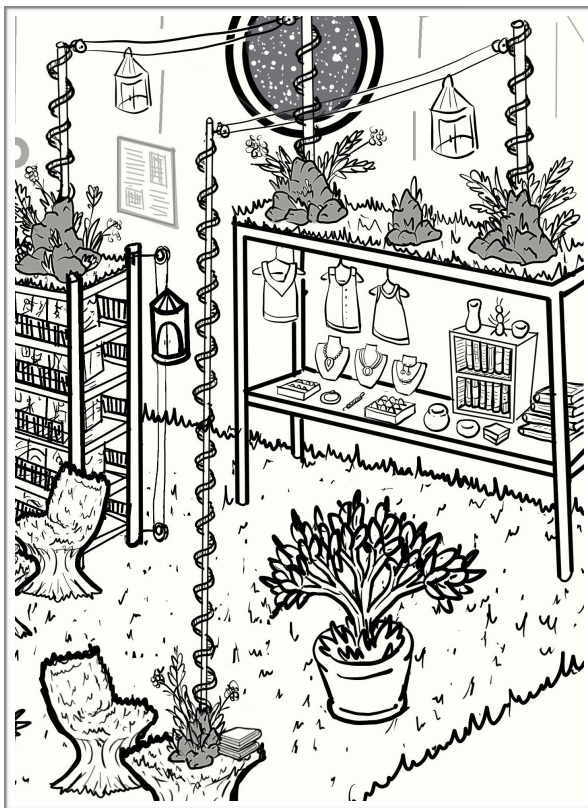


Explaining the seating areas (in the context of the immersive experience)

- **In the setting of the starbase, the tables are nature parks for residents' recreational use.**
- Traveling by the cable car lines overhead, the tiny creatures in the apartments can go on vacation to these parks to camp and hike.
- **To add to the appearance of nature parks, I can make covers from green velvet, so the chairs and tables resemble grassy hills.**
- The floor of the whole exhibit can be made of similar-colored green carpeting.

In the center of each table, plants can grow in a planter shaped like a small rocky mountain. A tall pole can be stuck into the center of each planter.

- Tiny zip lines or cable cars can lead from the apartments to the tops of the poles.
- Tiny ladders or steps can lead down the poles onto the rocky planters.
- **This can give the tiny apartment residents an adventurous mountain-climbing experience, whenever they want some time away from their homes.**
- Wanderers from apartments (with camping gear) can be placed on the planters sometimes.



(Books on tables are not part of the starbase. In the immersive experience, it can be imagined that they are written for visitors, and get removed when time is unpaused in the evening.)

Gift Shop

There can be a section with arts and crafts, books and trinkets, for sale on shelves.

- Art sold in the shop will be bought from independent artists, and sold at a small markup from what the artist would ordinarily charge in person.
- Artists will be encouraged to submit art that reflects the themes of the starbase.
- The shelves can be draped with green velvet like the tables and chairs. A sign can indicate that it is also a nature park, which the interdimensional visitors are permitted to use as a shop.
- I can sit or stand nearby, ringing up purchases.



Examples

- Here are some **examples of Starlingship Apartments** that I've designed. This may help to give an idea of what sort of community this Space Station can be, and what sort of things other artists may be inspired to add to it.
- **I built early versions of these** out of found objects, and gave them away at WisCon, years ago. Here are some photos I have of them.
- **Drawings are on the following pages**, to illustrate more clearly.
- I plan to re-create all of these Apartments to be part of the Building someday.



The Baking Cooperative



Operator #16's Charging Cube



Sessaris' Violin Studio



Kit's Painting Pool



A, G and F#'s Workshop



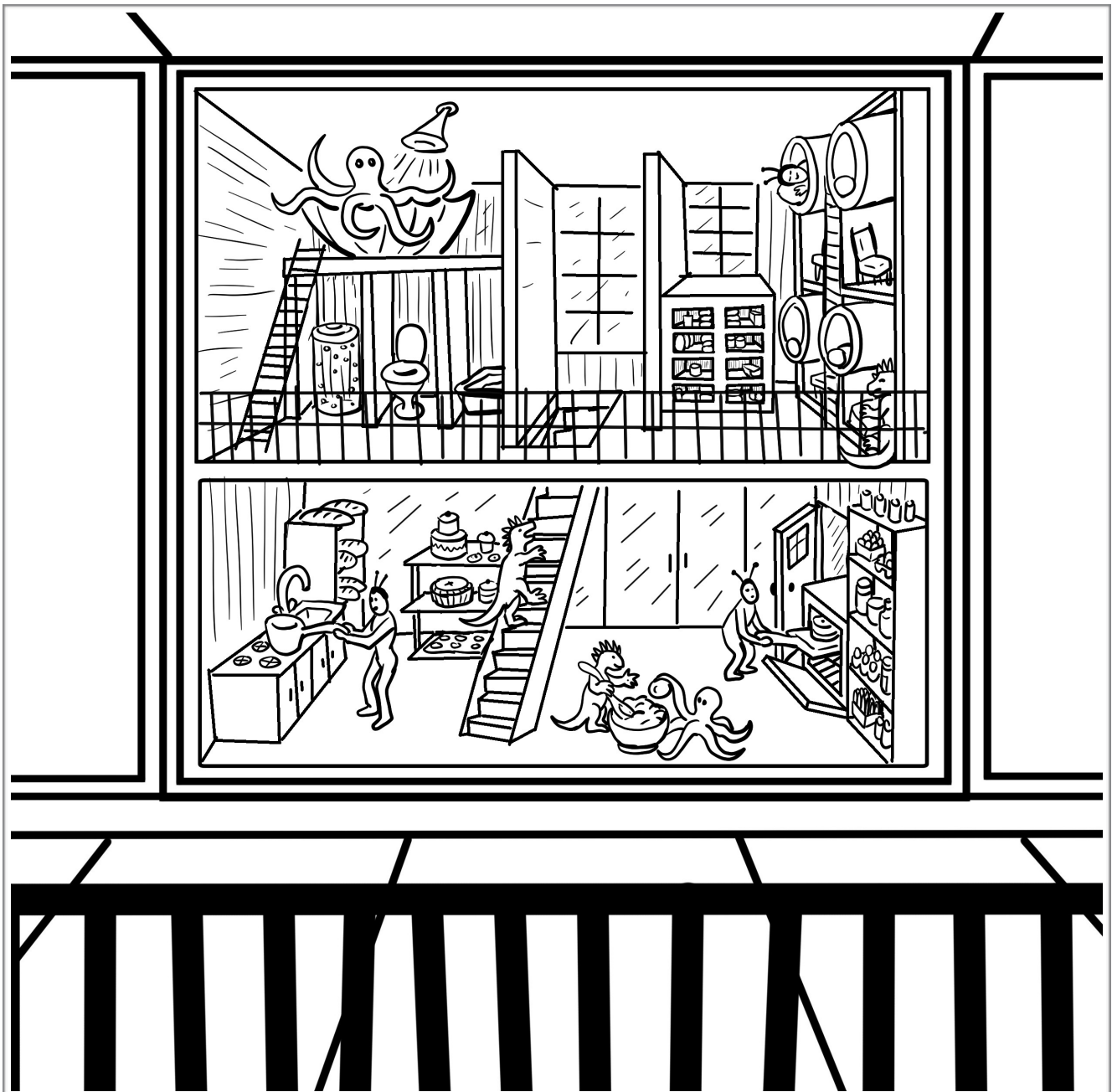
Tree Mother's Garden

The Baking Cooperative

The Baking Cooperative is a shared home and workplace for eight different chefs, all belonging to species of extra-short stature. Their tiny size permitted them to divide a standard cube into two floors, with the bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs and the kitchen downstairs.

Plumbing provided a bit of a challenge, since there was enough variation among the species to require three different types of toilets. But they found bathtub and bed designs that worked for all of them, and their sleep differences actually helped with scheduling. The complementary sleeping cycles of the various species enable them to work and rest in shifts, so they need only four beds and can keep the shop open all day and night.

On the whole they get along well as both roommates and coworkers, and can cooperate to make pastries big enough for people many times their size.



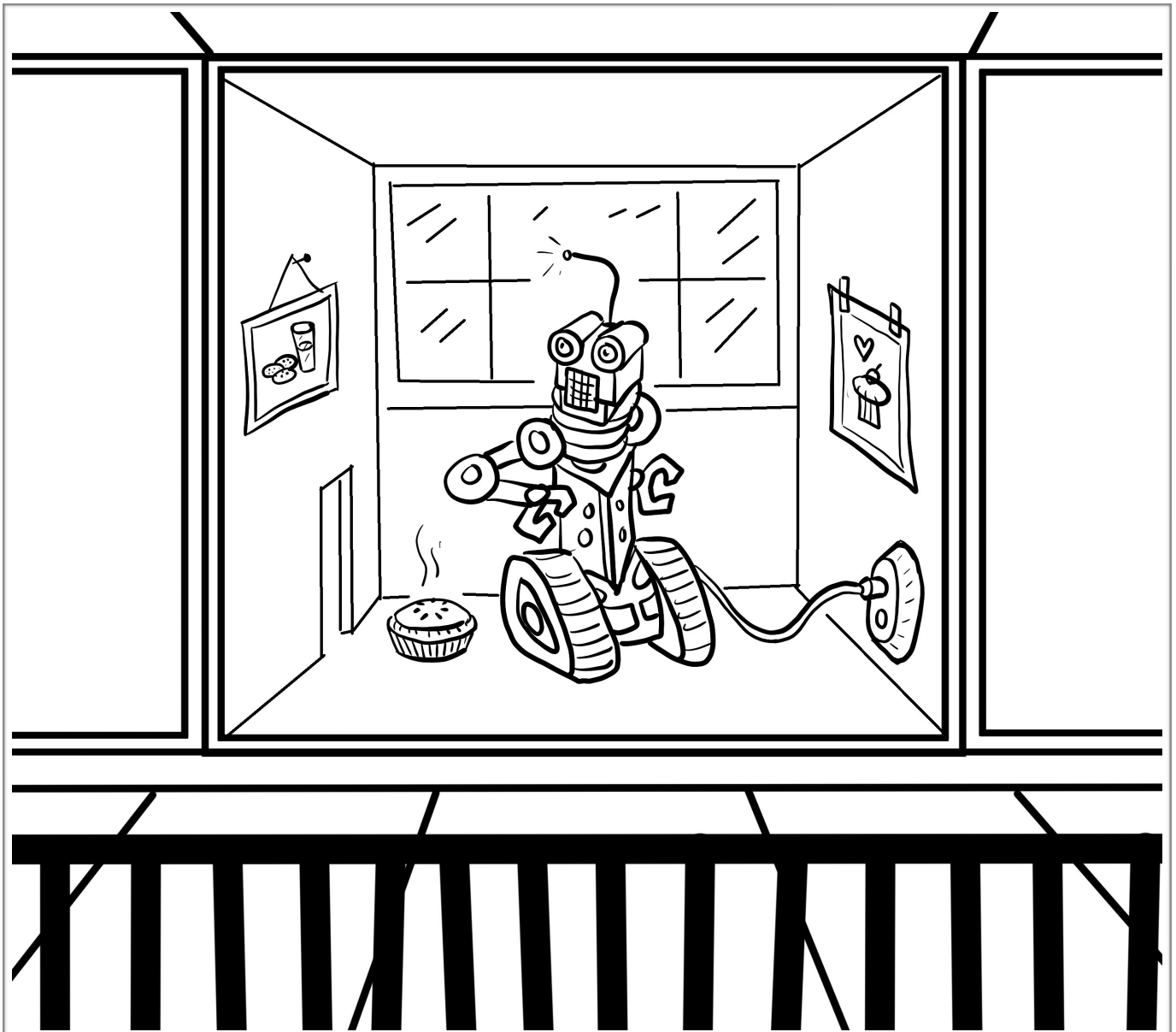
Operator #16's Charging Cube

When the station was first built, all the elevator operators were robots like Operator #16. Now the job is open to anyone strong enough to pull the elevator cords for two shifts a week, but Operator #16 has felt no desire to look for a different position.

A much simpler machine could do the job, and the station provides for everyone's needs regardless of employment... but the station also likes to give its residents a chance to be involved in the community however they wish. Operator #16 enjoys meeting and talking with the people it transports in the elevator.

In its spare time it participates in several online chat groups, shares its poetry, and watches theater productions on the other side of the station.

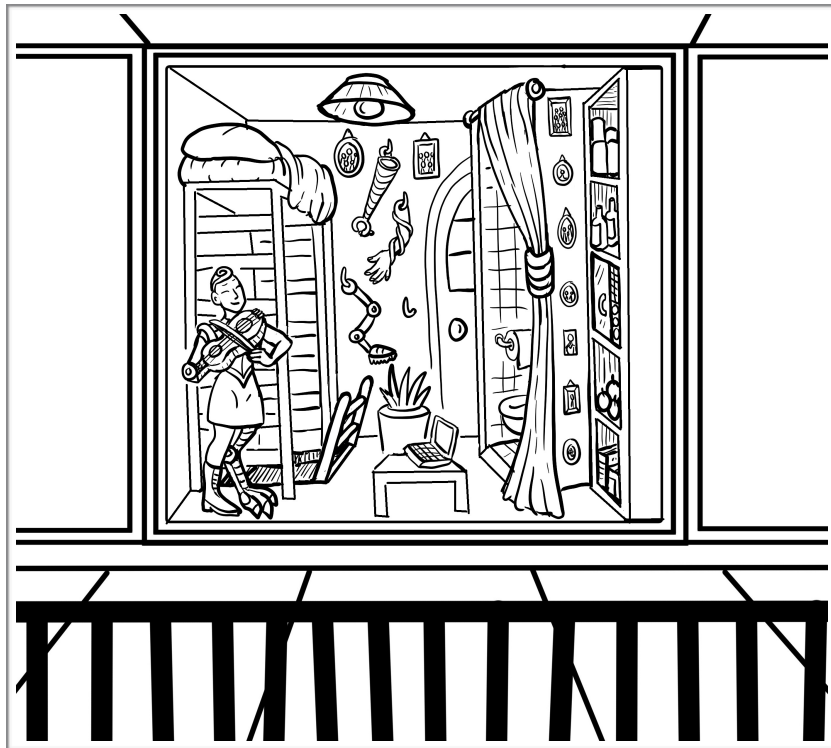
Its apartment is bare, since it doesn't need anything except its charger and the internet connection in its brain. But its neighbors, the members of the Baking Cooperative, are some of its best friends. They visit so often that a door has been built between their two homes.



Sessaris' Violin Studio and Kit's Painting Pool

Kit and Sessaris are humanoids from the planet Becca. No one knows why their world has so much variation in the number of limbs people are born with, but their society excels at accommodating all sorts of body configurations. Sessaris has only one arm and one leg, and Kit has only arms. Both of them use an assortment of prosthetic limbs, which can be switched out as needed. Kit is a painter, and Sessaris is skilled with the prosthetic violin.

Their shared home consists of two connected cubes on different floors of the building: a dry upstairs, and an aquatic downstairs for swimming with fin prostheses.



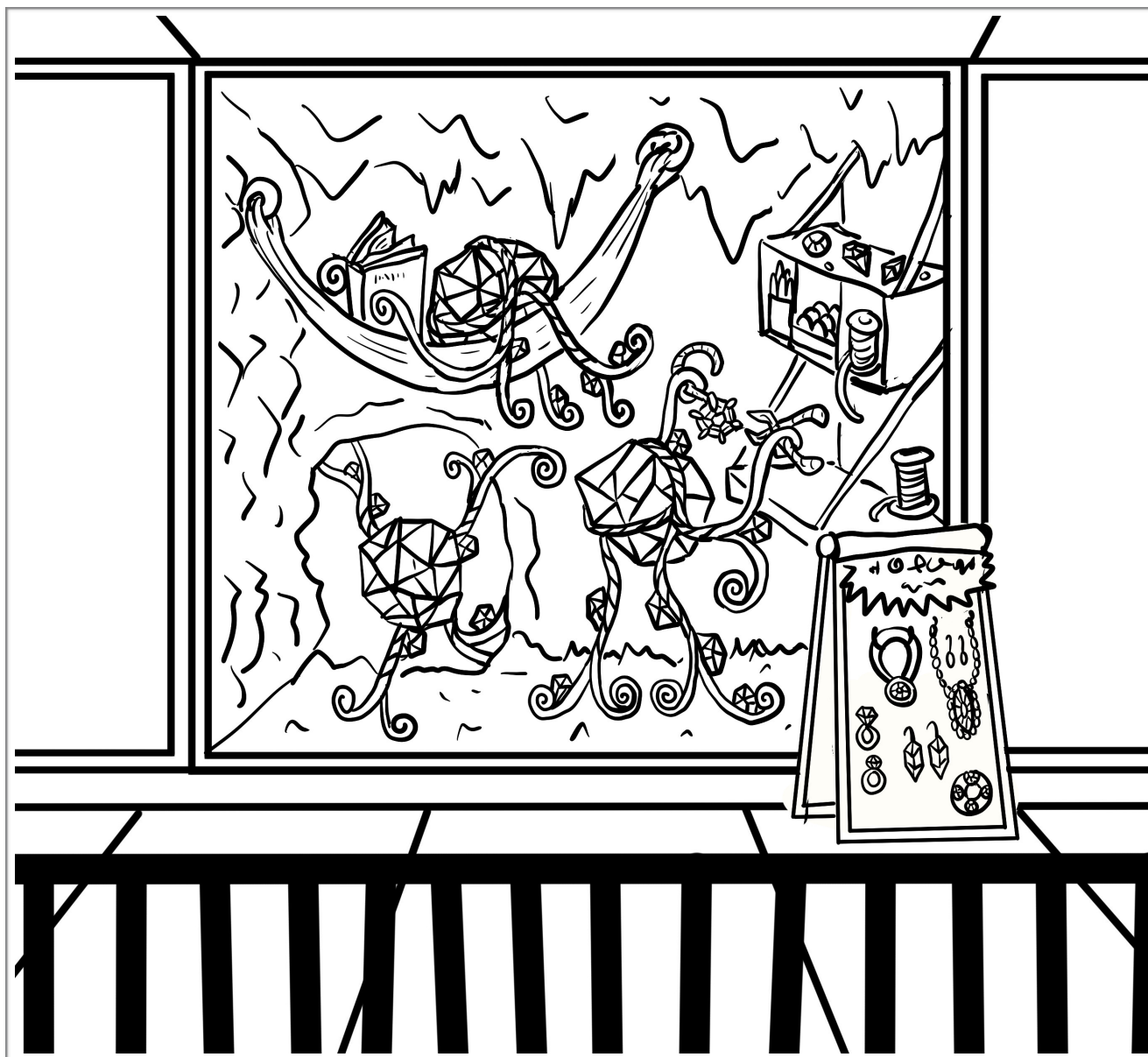
A. G and F#'s Workshop

A, G and F# are a family of crystalline beings from the Ambrian diamond caves. Their language is sound-based, but resembles musical notes more than words, so any attempt to write their names usually ends up in some sort of music notation.

The walls of their apartment are made of a self-replicating alloy invented by their species, who needed it to support their growing population (all of whom must eat certain types of metal and minerals to survive). With a connection to the power grid, it converts energy into matter to keep growing.

In addition to providing food, the metal that grows on their walls serves as a resource for their jewelry business. They find it amusing that the extra crystals that grow on their bodies—and fall off like hair or fingernails—are considered so beautiful that other species will pay to have them set in a ring or necklace made of metal.

They appreciate both music and visual arts, and they make plenty of income to spend on concerts and art exhibitions held by their neighbors Kit and Sessariss.



Tree Mother's Garden

Tree Mother's real name can't be pronounced, because she doesn't communicate through sound. Her language is based on movements of the feather-like flaps on her chest. When introducing herself, she has her name translated into words of the same meaning in the other language. ("Tree Mother" is how it translates to English.)

Her translator and life companion is a Dian Cliff-bird named Singer, who knows her language and over seventy sound-based ones— thanks to a brilliant linguistic mind, individually controllable feathers, and a vocal tract that can mimic nearly any sound.

On Tree Mother's homeworld, people choose their own names, and hers reflects her passion for gardening. On her potted plants and trees, she grows fruit that she sells to chefs like those in the nearby Baking Cooperative.

She feels more need for privacy than most other beings in this sector, so her bed and bath are behind a door. She even has curtains, but she usually keeps them open for the plants.



Call to Action

- The Apartments, the contents of the coffee table books, and the crafts in the gift shop can all be commissioned from independent artists.
- A brochure and submission form, inviting their participation, will read something like the following 8 pages.

Seeking Artists

to Build Apartments for Space Creatures

www.starlingship.com

We are offering:

\$500 for your homemade 10-inch cube diorama
+ \$100 for an additional small sculpture

Do you love miniatures?

Can you make a sculptural scene in a box?
Do you like to imagine how a variety of different alien creatures would live their everyday lives on a multicultural space station?

**You are invited to become part of *Starlingship*:
an art installation based in Los Angeles.**

It's an imaginative art experience where the viewer becomes a temporal and spatial traveler:
a visitor to a time-paused moment in an alien apartment building.

Go to www.starlingship.com for more information!

Details:

- You're invited to design a **ten-inch cube-shaped diorama**, representing one of many miniature apartments in a residential space station.
- A building, no taller than the average human, will hold **five stories** of apartments edged with walkways.
- Human visitors to this space station are far larger than any of the species occupying it. The inhabitants are **tiny space creatures**, living in apartment cubes that measure only ten inches on each side!
- The whole thing will be an immersive **art experience**, open to the public.

We invite you to **create your own alien apartment cube diorama** out of materials of your choice.

- Wood, metal, fabric, plastic, yarn, found objects, whatever!

- **Just follow these rules:**

* It must weigh less than **5 pounds** (about as heavy as a 2-liter soda bottle) due to weight limits on transportation.

* It must be **durable enough** to survive shipping, or whatever transportation you use to bring it to us, and then to survive at least 1 year being publicly displayed (and possibly transported from one place to another).

* All objects inside it must be **very securely** glued, wired, nailed, sewn, or otherwise fastened in place.

- If anything comes loose at any time, we're going to have to reattach it, and then your creation might not end up looking exactly how you intended.

* It must **not** require any connection to electric power, water or other external resources.

* It must **not** contain anything that could be hazardous to viewers standing nearby, or harmful to the adjacent dioramas.

* The dimensions should be as close as possible to **10" x 10" x 10."**

- It may be divided into multiple rooms and even floors, depending on the size of your creatures.

- But the whole thing should fit within a 10-inch cube.

- (Some stores sell cubical storage bins that could make a good starting base.)

* One side (the front) must be **fully or partially open**, at least enough for visitors to see inside.

- Different lifeforms prefer different amounts of privacy.

- Your characters might be fine having a whole open wall (with or without curtains that can cover it when needed.)

- Or they may prefer just a few windows to peek through.

- Just as long as visitors can see most of the interior if they look close.

* The opposite side (the back) should be **more closed off**, with a door leading out onto that side's walkway.

- It may have as many windows and doors and exterior decorations as you wish—as long as their default position doesn't extend more than half an inch beyond the outside of the cube.

* The top and bottom of the cube won't be seen. The sides also won't be seen unless we place your cube on an outer wall.

- **If you submit more than one cube, you may connect them** through openings in the walls, floors and ceilings.

- Maybe the creatures in your two apartments are next-door neighbors who are such close friends that they built doors and windows directly between their homes.

- Or maybe your two cubes form one big two-story apartment with a ladder and firepole connecting them.

* The design must be **your own original idea**.

- (It can contain bits and pieces from pre-existing ideas— for example, the creatures can be built from found objects, like commercially produced dolls or action figures— but you should alter them enough to show your own unique creativity!)

* It should not contain anything that's likely to get parents angry at us if their kids see it.

- Yes, we know the boundaries of this are very unclear, and depend a lot on the children and the parents.

- But just try your best to avoid offense. We *don't* currently have plans for an adults-only section of the installation... so keep in mind that **this WILL be in view of children**.

How to submit:

* **Send us your concept at starlingship@erikahammerschmidt.com**

* **Fill out the attached forms. They will ask you to include:**

- at least 3 **photos** of any relevant crafts you have done before
- **sketches** of the piece you plan to create, showing as much as you can of the exterior and interior
- a **physical description**, listing the materials you plan to build it from, and how it will look
- a **conceptual description**, telling us what your creatures are like and why their home looks this way
- and your expected **timeline** for how long this will take.

* **If you are submitting a cube, you may include all the occupants fastened in place— or you may choose to submit a special kind of sculpted creature that we'll call a "Wanderer."**

- This creature lives in the apartment you designed, but goes other places too.
- In other words: You permit us to **move this sculpture** from place to place, positioning it on different parts of the walkway on different days, to give visitors a changing experience.
- You may point out places inside your creature's apartment where we can position it on occasion (and where we may also place other artists' Wanderers who may be visiting your creature.)
- You may also include **Props that will be posed in association** with your Wanderer. A musical instrument? A bike? A favorite book? What possessions are most likely to be found near the creature you've designed?
- Wanderers and Props must be **durable** enough to withstand daily handling and moving. They must weigh **less than 8 ounces each, and be able to fit on a 5-inch-wide path under a 10-inch-high ceiling.**
- By submitting a Wanderer, you agree that we may decide where to place it every day.
- If you will be making one, please send **sketches and descriptions!** If approved, we will pay you an extra \$100 for the Wanderer. We will also pay you an extra \$100 for a Prop.
- These payments are **half up front and half after completion.**
- You may submit as many proposals for cubes, Wanderers and Props as you like. There is a limit on how many we can accept, but we are interested in seeing **every proposal you have!**

* **If your proposal is accepted, we will immediately pay you the first \$250 up front for each cube you submit** (plus the first \$50 for each Wanderer and each Prop).

* **Then we'll pay the remaining \$250** (and the remaining \$50 for the Wanderer or Prop) upon receiving the completed work, if we receive it as described (or reasonably close) within the timeline you set.

* **You retain all copyright to the work and the ideas within it.**

- You also are invited to send us **original stories** about your creatures, if you wish.
- They must be written by yourself, or by a collaborator who will also sign this agreement with us.
- As with the dioramas, the creator of each story will retain copyright.
- But we may purchase limited rights to **use these stories in the Starlingship.**
- We may choose to make them available **in books** for guests to read while visiting the exhibit, and we may also **sell them** as printed booklets (paying the author up front and charging customers a small markup).
- If you or your friends make **any other art** that you wish to submit, we may also consider purchasing it from you and selling it in the associated gift shop. Prices are open to negotiation.

- * **If your submissions are accepted, we'll send you an agreement to sign.**
- * **Basically, it will say that we have the right to display and photograph your art, and use photos and/or descriptions of it in promotional materials.**
- * **You and we both agree that we will display your diorama in the exhibit for at least 1 year, possibly more.**
- * **After 1 year, if you ever want to reclaim your piece, we will return it to you upon request.**
- * **Also, after 1 year, if we ever decide to remove your piece from the installation to make room for new work, we will return it to you if you wish.**
 - If this happens and you do not want it back, we may auction it off, give it away, or destroy it, depending on your preference.
 - Before doing anything with it, we will make every effort to contact you and ask what you prefer.
 - If we are unable to reach you after trying for a month or more, we may have to make a decision ourselves.
 - But we will make a sincere effort to contact you first.
- * **Once we accept your submission, we'll ask you to sign an agreement to all of this.**
- * **Terms are open to negotiation, if you have changes you want to make to the agreement before signing.**
- * **Feel free to email us at starlingship@erikahammerschmidt.com with any questions.**

Your Name _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

- Attach if possible: at least 3 photos of crafts you have done before, and any relevant description of them.
- Also attach if possible: any sketches or illustrations of the pieces you plan to submit.

How many dioramas are you submitting? _____

If more than one:

Will they physically connect to each other in any way? Yes _____ No _____

If so, describe the connection here. Check all that apply.

___ Doors/windows between their walls

___ Ladders or steps from the ceiling of one cube into the floor of another

___ Other (specify)

Would it be acceptable for us to include one diorama and not the other(s), or do they need to go together?

___ Just one is okay. They can stand alone.

___ They go together. I don't want one of these accepted without the other one(s).

___ Other (specify)

- We will pay **\$500** for each diorama we accept, **\$100** for a Wanderer, and **\$100** for a Prop (*see pages 3 and 4*).
- **If your proposal is accepted, we will immediately pay you the first \$250 up front for each cube you submit** (plus the first \$50 for each Wanderer or Prop).
- **Then we'll pay the remaining \$250** (and the remaining \$50 for each Wanderer or Prop) upon receiving the completed work, if we receive it as described (or reasonably close) within the timeline you set.

Fill out a copy of the next page for each diorama you are submitting.

Also, feel free to send us more information about your project on additional pages.

Title of your diorama

- **Must weigh less than 5 pounds, and must fit within a 10-inch cube.**

- **Must be durable enough to withstand frequent handling and moving.**

Dimensions in inches (length / width / height) ____ ____ ____ Weight (pounds / ounces) ____ ____

Description of what it looks like (Attach more pages if needed, including any sketches and illustrations)

Materials you plan to build it from (Attach as many more pages as you need)

How will the furnishings be secured in place? Check all that apply.

Nails ____ Glue ____ Wire ____ Screws ____ Thread ____ String ____ Sculpted all as one piece ____

Other (specify) _____

Tell us what the inhabitants are like, and why their home looks this way. (Attach more pages if needed.)

May we place other artists' Wanderers or Props inside your cube sometimes? Yes ____ No ____

If so, where? (Attach more pages if needed)

Anything else we should know? (Attach as many more pages as you need)

When do you expect you can get the finished piece to us? Month _____ Date _____ Year _____

You may also submit a Wanderer. This is a sculpted creature that is NOT fastened in place in the cube, and can be moved. If you create a Wanderer, that means:

- We can move this sculpture from place to place, positioning it on different parts of the walkway on different days, to give visitors a changing experience.

Will you be submitting a Wanderer? Yes ____ No ____ If yes, how many? ____

If more than one, is it acceptable for us to include one without including the other(s)? Yes ____ No ____

- **Fill out a copy of the next page for each Wanderer you are submitting.**

Name of your Wanderer _____

- **Wanderers must be durable enough to withstand daily handling and moving.**
- **They must weigh less than 8 ounces, and must be less than 10 inches tall and 5 inches wide.**
- **You agree to let us decide where to place it every day.**

Dimensions in inches (length, width, height) _____ Weight in ounces _____

Description of what it looks like (Attach more pages if needed, including any sketches and illustrations)

Materials you plan to build it from (Attach more pages if needed)

Describe your Wanderer's life and personality. (Attach more pages if needed.)

Where inside your cube can this creature be placed when at home? (Attach more pages if needed)

May we place your Wanderer inside other artists' cubes sometimes? Yes ___ No ___

Anything else we should know? (Attach as many more pages as you need)

You may also include Props that will be posed in association with your Wanderer. A musical instrument?

A bike? A favorite book? What possessions are likely to be found near the creature you've designed?

Will you be submitting a Prop? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, how many? ___

If more than one, is it acceptable for us to include one without including the other(s)? Yes ___ No ___

Is it acceptable for us to include your Wanderer without the Prop(s)? Yes ___ No ___

Fill out a copy of the next page for each Prop you are submitting.

Name of your Prop _____

- **Props must be durable enough to withstand daily handling and moving.**
- **They must weigh less than 8 ounces, and must be less than 10 inches tall and 2 inches wide.**
- **You agree to let us decide where to place it every day.**

Dimensions in inches (length, width, height) _____ Weight in ounces _____

Description of what it looks like (Attach more pages if needed, including any sketches and illustrations)

Materials you plan to build it from (Attach more pages if needed)

Tell us what the prop is for, and why it's important to your Wanderer. (Attach more pages if needed.)

Where inside your cube can this Prop be placed when it is at home? (Attach more pages if needed)

May we place your Prop inside other artists' cubes sometimes? Yes ___ No ___

Anything else we should know? (Attach as many more pages as you need)

Logistics


- The following pages illustrate the **engineering details** of how each part of the Starlingship will be set up, and what I will need in order to do so.
- **This will focus mainly on the smallest-scale version of this project: a popup attraction towed on a bike trailer.**
- I'm including screenshots and links to potential **online sources** of the required materials.
- This is **just for reference**. There is no guarantee that these will be the best places to get these resources, or that these specific items will even be available by the time I have the opportunity to build the Starlingship.

Trailer

- If the exhibit is going to be a portable popup installation, I'll want a bike trailer.
- The bike trailer can be about 64" x 27" and can hold the disassembled canopy, shelving, apartment cubes, folded tables and chairs, and merchandise for the gift shop.

Here is one possible option: (<\$1500)

<https://www.bikesatwork.com/store/product/64awd-bicycle-trailer>

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[Bicycle Trailer Hitches](#)
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64AWD Bicycle Trailer

\$1375.00

[add to cart](#)



[Description](#) [Related Products](#) [More Information](#)

This bicycle trailer has the same cargo area dimensions as our #64AW, but has double the weight capacity (600 lbs!) thanks to its four-wheel axle. It also has extra crossmembers and a tougher towbar clamp.

See the [features](#) and [specifications](#) pages to learn more about this trailer and all the trailers we make.

- Carries 600 lb / 280 kgs loads up to 8' / 2.4 m long.
- Wide bed accommodates cargo up to 27.25" / 69 cm wide.
- Adjustable length and axle position
- Includes one bicycle trailer hitch plus four shock cords to secure your cargo
- Cargo area (L x W): 64" x 27.25" / 1.62m x 69.2 cm; empty weight: ~59 lbs / 26.8kgs

There is also a less expensive version that can carry only 300 pounds instead of 600.

<https://www.bikesatwork.com/store/product/64aw-bicycle-trailer>

- And I don't expect that my setup will weigh more than 300 pounds...
- or that I would even be comfortable towing more than 300...
- But, I think it will be worth investing in the one with the higher capacity, in case I do someday end up finding that I'm able to tow larger weights.
- Owning a high-capacity bike trailer could be useful for many applications besides the Starlingship.
- However, I will still plan for my display to add up to **no more than 300 pounds**.

Feasibility of using a bike trailer

The bike trailer may not even be necessary — if I can partner with someone who has a car large enough to transport all the parts of the Starlingship disassembled.

But any time I need to transport things by myself, to a place within biking distance, it would be very helpful.

I'm a cyclist who can comfortably commute five miles to and from work every day all year. According to BikesAtWork.com, towing 300 pounds on level ground could be realistic for me.

Hill climbing is another story. Until I find out from experience how much I can tow uphill, I'll stick to venues at the same altitude—or enlist the help of a friend with a car whenever I go to festivals taking place up the mountain. **(Also, a bike with electric boost could help.)**

from <https://www.bikesatwork.com/blog/how-much-weight-can-a-bicycle-carry>

How Much Weight Can A Bicycle Carry

2006-06-01 (updated 2012-02-02)

Theoretically, a human being can haul a load of almost unlimited size given unlimited time and unlimited equipment. Practically, however, equipment, geography, and time puts limits upon what is physically possible.

Our experience has been that most people can comfortably pull 300 lbs (137 kg) with a typical mountain bike and cargo trailer or cargo trike. How quickly a person can move load of that weight will depend on his or her physical condition. Someone in reasonable physical condition can generally pull a 300 lb load at 10 mph (16 km/hr) on level ground if there's no wind. A person exerting the same effort could pull a load of 600 lb. (275 kg) at a speed of about 8 mph (11-13 km/hr), and a 1000 lb load at about 6 mph.

Pulling a load up a hill

Climbing a hill with a load, however, takes considerably more effort. Pulling a 300 lb load up a slight 2% grade at 10 mph, for instance, requires about three times as much effort as on level ground, while a 600 lb load up such a hill requires 4.5 times as much effort. Riders compensate for this by shifting into a lower gear and going up the hill more slowly. This reduces the amount of effort required but increases the amount of time it takes to climb the hill by a proportional amount.

But I have to say that a bicycle towing a foldable space station onto the grounds of an art festival would be an eye-catching sight.

Portable Exhibit

- If the exhibit is to be a pop-up attraction at temporary venues, there are several options.
- At indoor events I could bring the furnishings inside to set up in the space provided.
- At outdoor events I could set it up inside a foldable canopy bought or made for the purpose.

- **This one is compact and under 40 pounds:**

<https://smile.amazon.com/ABCCANOPY-Instant-Shelter-Outdoor-Portable/dp/B07LBNYQB6/>



- **In any case, the setup should be light, and easy to disassemble and transport (either by car or by bicycle trailer).**

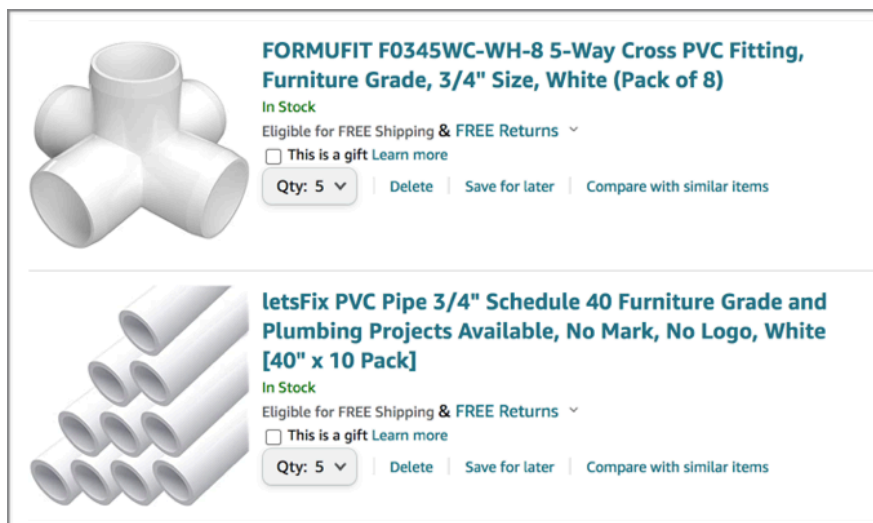
- I am considering a setup involving shelves made from PVC tubing, as I'll describe below.

- **40" furniture-grade PVC pipes, 10-pack (4 packs, total 40) (weight: about 40 pounds)**

<https://smile.amazon.com/Schedule-Furniture-Plumbing-Projects-Available/dp/B0876P42SK>

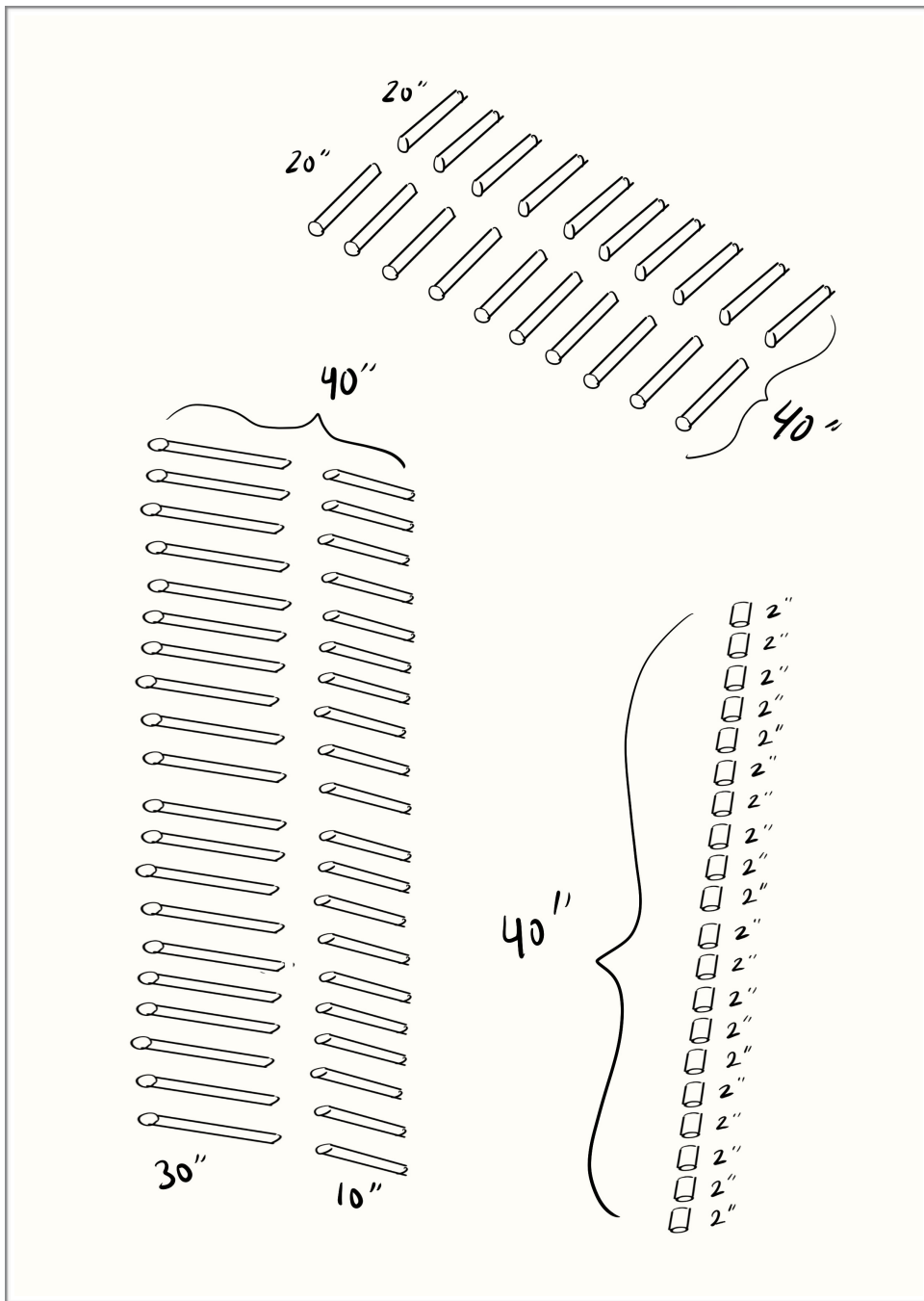
- **5-way Connectors, 8-pack (6 packs, total 48) (weight: about 6 pounds)**

<https://www.amazon.com/FORMUFIT-F0345WC-WH-8-5-Way-Fitting-Furniture/dp/B00MNIYZ1W>



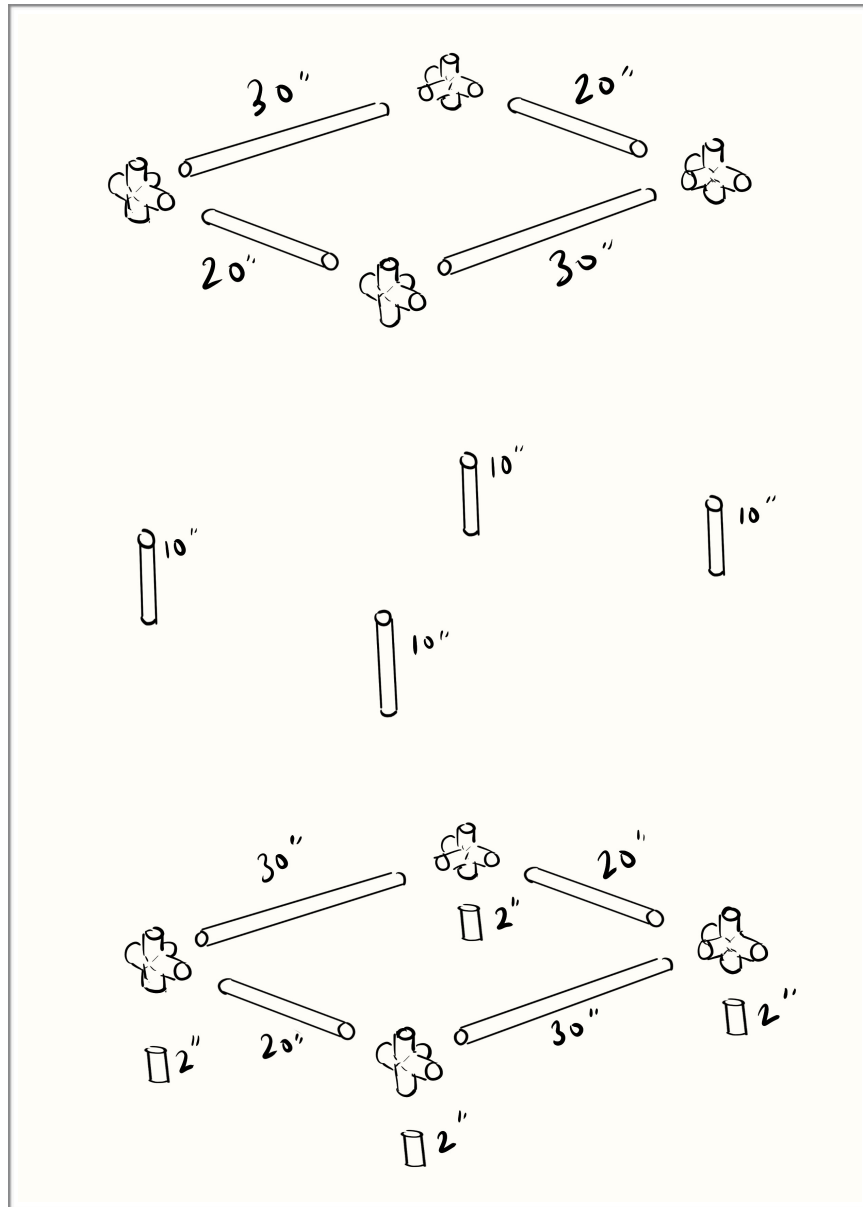
Building the Shelves

- Set aside 10 of the 40" tubes.
- Cut each one into two 20" halves.
- Set aside 20 more of the 40" tubes.
- Cut each one into a 30" piece and a 10" piece.
- Cut one of the remaining 40" tubes into twenty small 2" pieces.
- Total cut pieces: Twenty each of 30," 20," 10" and 2."



For **EACH ONE** of the 5 stories of the apartment building, use the following:

- Four 30" pieces
- Four 20" pieces
- Four 10" pieces
- Four 2" pieces
- 8 connectors



Plus:

- At least 4, possibly as many as 12 binder clips
- A 3" x 100" strip of plastic hardware cloth or chicken wire
- Two pieces of sturdy green canvas, about 30 x 45" (to leave room for hemming)
- Two pieces of clear vinyl: one 85" x 18" and the other 65" x 28"
- Four 28"x1"x1/2" strips of foam, and glue as needed

<https://smile.amazon.com/AmazonBasics-Binder-Clips-Large-4-Pack/dp/B074Y17Q4C>
<https://smile.amazon.com/NATGAI-Neoprene-Adhesive-Multiple-Dimensions/dp/B07VZBVC95/>



Amazon Basics Binder Paper Clip, Large, 12 Clips per Box, 4-Pack
 Visit the Amazon Basics Store
 ★★★★★ 6,637 ratings | 17 answered questions
 Amazon's Choice for "binder clip large"

Price: **\$13.46** ✓prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

Thank you for being a Prime member. Get a \$100 Gift Card: Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

May be available at a lower price from other sellers, potentially without free Prime shipping.

Eligible for **amazon smile** donation.

Style: **Large Clips (4-Pack)**

Large Clips (4-Pack) Medium Clips (2-Pack) Medium Clips (8-Pack)

Small Clips (12-Pack)

Pattern: **Binder Paper Clip**

Binder Paper Clip Binder Paper Clip + Binder Paper Clip

Binder Paper Clip + Jumbo Size Paper Clips

- 48 large 2-inch-wide black binder clips with 1-1/16-inch capacity
- Keeps large stacks of loose paper securely fastened together, without the risk of slipping or falling out
- Made of tempered steel for an extra-strong grip; black triangular shape with silver arms

Roll over image to zoom in

Spotlight on Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month See the collection >



NATGAI Sponge Neoprene with Adhesive Foam Rubber Sheet 1/2" Thick X 12" Wide X 54" Long, Cut to Multiple Dimensions and Lengths - DIY, Gaskets, Cosplay, Costume, Crafts
 Brand: NATGAI
 ★★★★★ 36 ratings
 Amazon's Choice for "foam rubber padding"

Price: **\$22.99** ✓prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns
 Coupon Save an extra 5% when you apply this coupon. Details

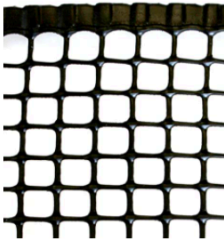
Get a \$100 Gift Card: Pay \$0.00 \$22.99 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

Eligible for **amazon smile** donation.

- [Size] : 1/2" Thick X 12" Wide X 54" Long
- [Temperature Range] : Foam -40° to 155° F, Adhesive -10° to 150° F
- [Durable & Easy Cut] : Made of a durable foam rubber, this tool chest liner features a tensile strength of 50 PSI, making it stronger than other rubber sheets. It can be easily cut for a variety of uses from weather proofing or stripping, DIY gasket or sealing material, sound deadening and much more. Also great for lining your tool box, drawers, cabinets or sealing around windows and doors.
- [Great Fit] : Great window sealer and cushioning to protect against wind and from draft or outdoor pollution; Excellent for noise insulation, padding, and expansion joints of precast concrete and steel.

Roll over image to zoom in

<https://smile.amazon.com/Tenax-Hardware-Net-15-Foot-Black/dp/B000HMA6W8>
<https://www.fabricwholesaledirect.com/products/waterproof-outdoor-canvas-fabric?variant=40748569420>



Tenax Hardware Net, 3 by 15-Foot, Black
 Brand: Tenax
 ★★★★★ 463 ratings
 Amazon's Choice for "tenax hardware net"

Price: **\$27.07** ✓prime FREE One-Day & FREE Returns

Thank you for being a Prime member. Get a \$100 Gift Card: Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

May be available at a lower price from other sellers, potentially without free Prime shipping.


Eligible for **amazon smile** donation.

Size: 3' x 15'

2' x 15'	3' x 15'	3' x 25'
\$17.76	\$27.07	...
✓prime	✓prime	

- UV treated for lasting use
- 3-5 years of life expectancy
- Tree guards & cages

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\$7.99/yd	\$6.79/yd	\$6.39/yd	\$5.99/yd	\$5.59/yd
	Save 15%	Save 20%	Save 25%	Save 30%

COLOR: Kelly Green

VARIETY: 1


ADD TO CART

Order now, receive by Wed, May 5 with Next Day Delivery to zip: 59022

ADD SAMPLE - \$0.99

Content: 100% Polyester
 Width: 60" wide
 Weight: 1.1 lbs per yard (approx.)
 Origin: Imported

<https://www.amazon.com/Clear-Marine-Vinyl-Double-Polished/dp/B08N6YHJVG>



Clear Marine Vinyl 40 Gauge Double Polished 54"W 10 Yards
 Brand: USA Fabric Store

Was: ~~\$220.00~~
 Price: **\$180.00 & FREE Shipping**
 You Save: **\$40.00 (18%)**

Material Vinyl
Color Clear
Brand USA Fabric Store

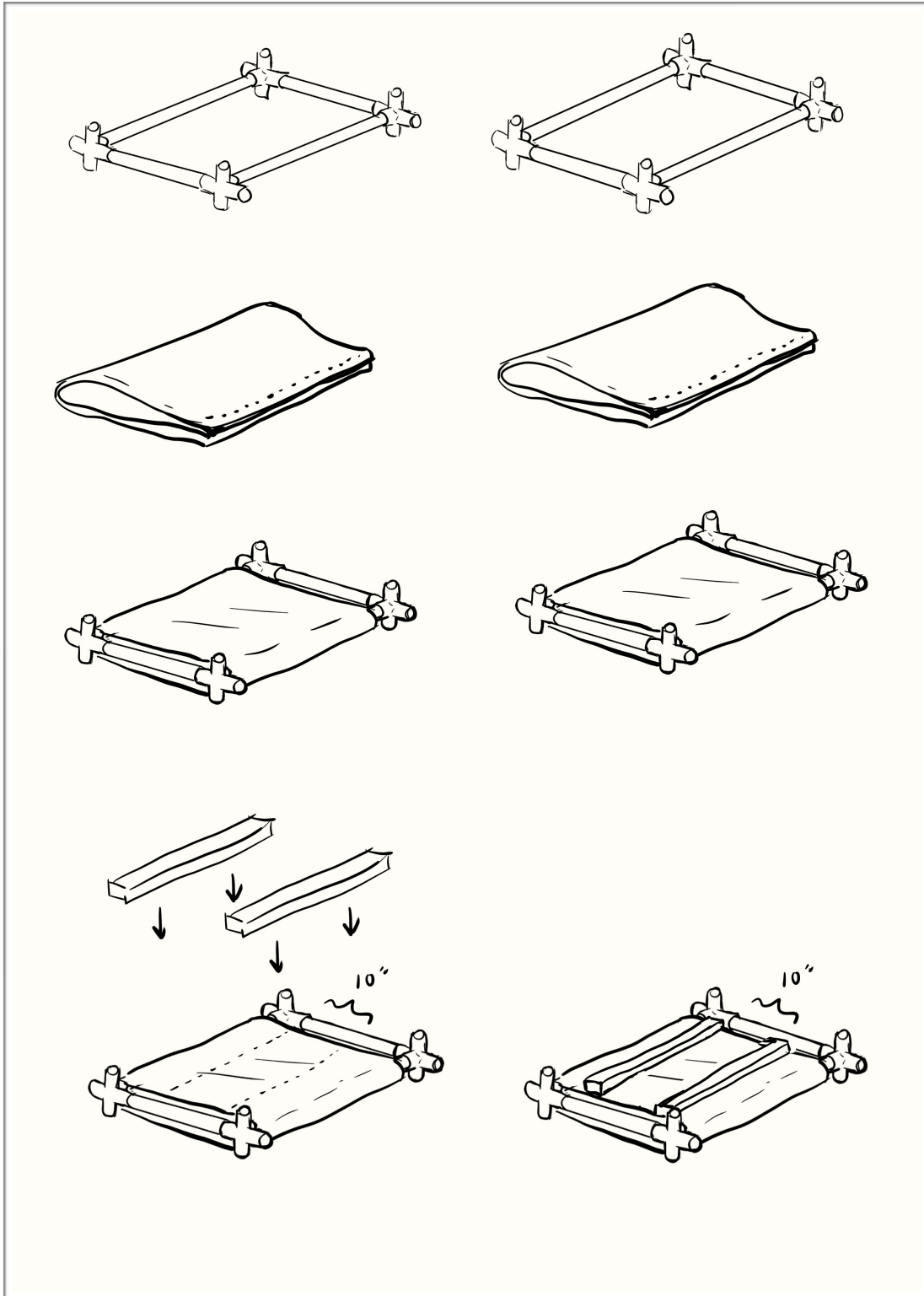
About this item

- 40 GAUGE SUPREME DOUBLE CLEAR & POLISHED VINYL
- Thickness: 1 millimeter
- Size: 30' Foot Long (10 Yards) X 54" Inches Wide
- IDEAL FOR WINDOWS FOR SAILS, DODGERS, AWNINGS, AND TENTS. THIS MATERIAL SEW'S AND ROLLS UP VERY EASILY. POLISHED DOUBLE CLEAR VINYL WORKS GREAT FOR MANY APPLICATIONS

First, make two 30 x 20" rectangles.

Fold over the green canvas and make two tubular sleeves, each about 22" by 28." Slide the rectangles in, leaving the ends exposed. (Detach and reattach the ends if needed.)

Measure 10 inches in the center. On either side of this, adhere a "curb" of foam, the same length as the canvas sleeve, about 1/2" thick and 1" wide. (This will help hold the apartments in place.)

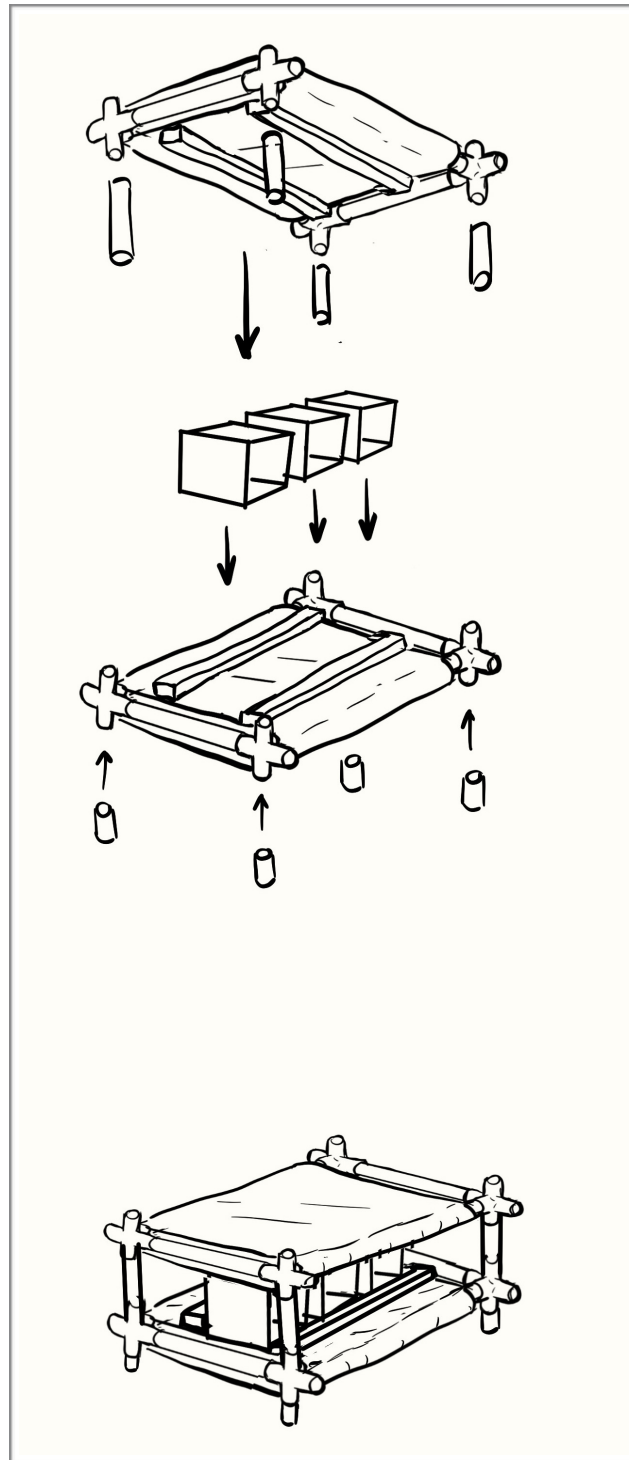


Place the apartment cubes in a row, between the foam curbs.

Join the two rectangles with 10" pipe pieces, making the floor and ceiling of the shelf.

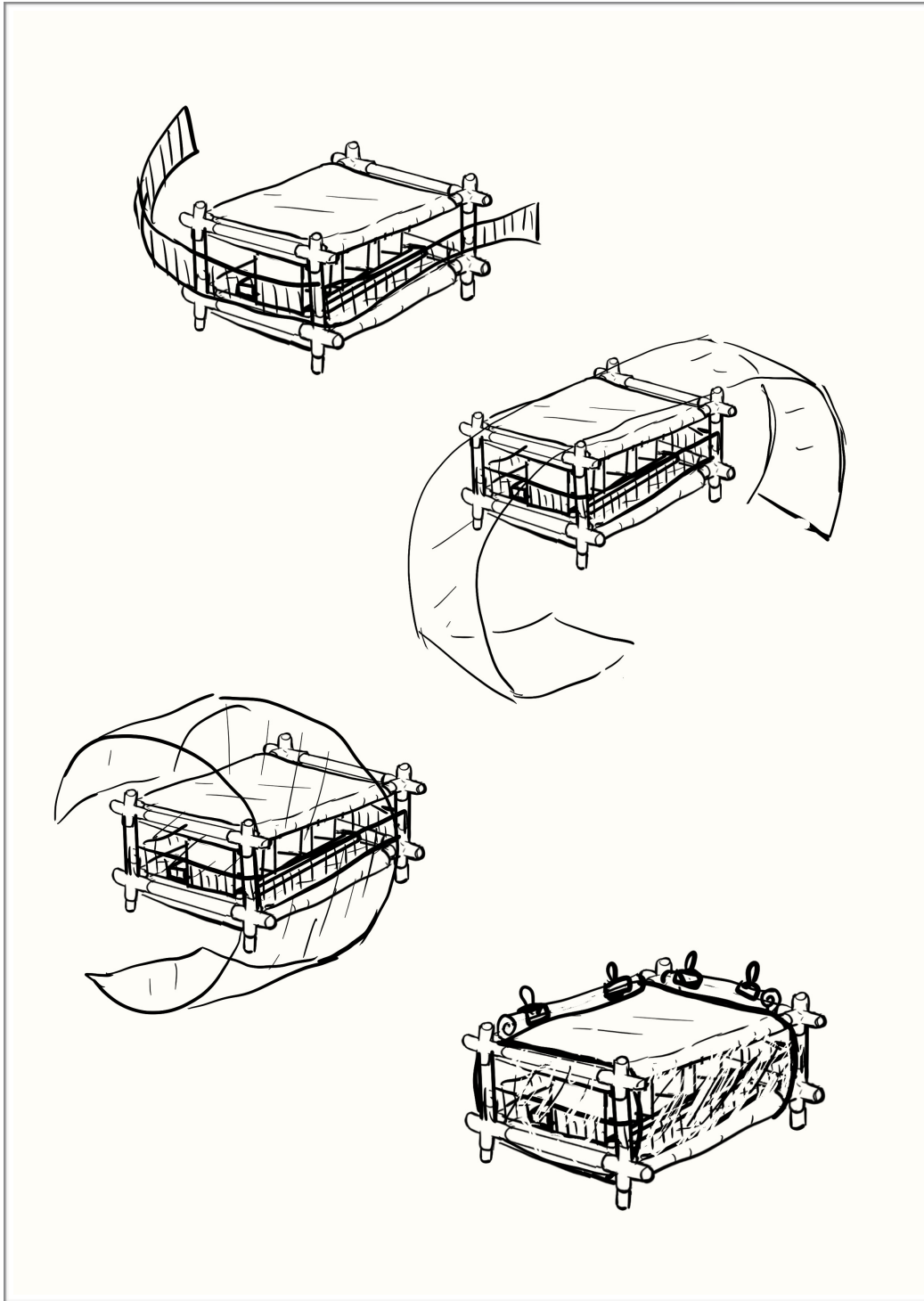
Add four short feet, made from the 2" pieces.

(These will be able to fit into the connectors of the shelf below.)



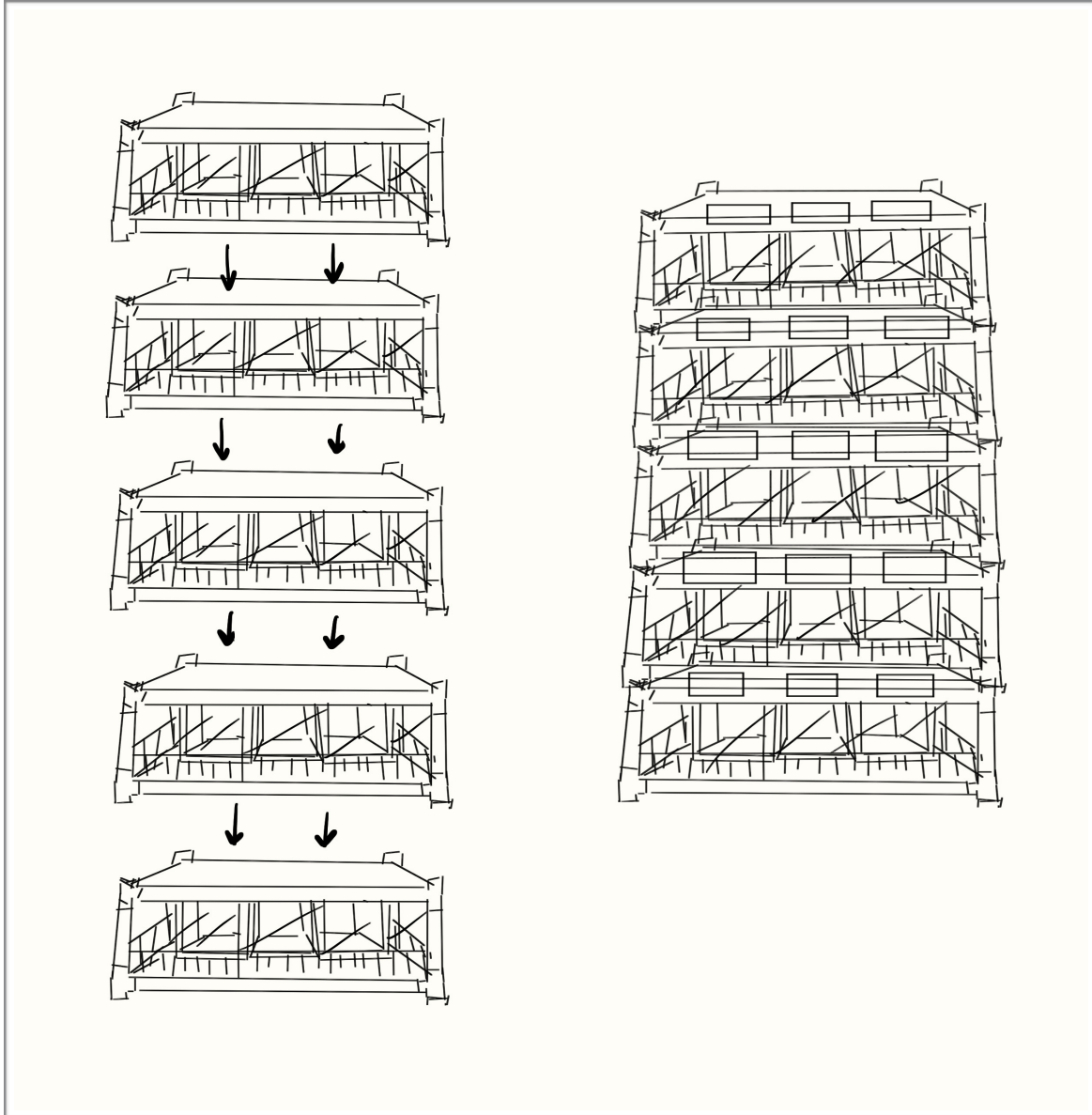
Wrap the strip of fencing around the base, to form the guardrail of the walkway. Leave gap in fence on one end (by the elevator).

Wrap the whole section in vinyl: first lengthwise with the 85" x 18" piece, and then widthwise with the 65" x 28" piece. Roll up the excess and clip with binder clips.



Once I've done this for all 5 shelves, I'll have modular stories of apartments (already safe behind transparent protection) which can be easily separated, transported and reassembled.

(Between each two stories of apartments will be a double width of PVC shelving... this is good because it provides plenty of space for the signs describing the apartments.)

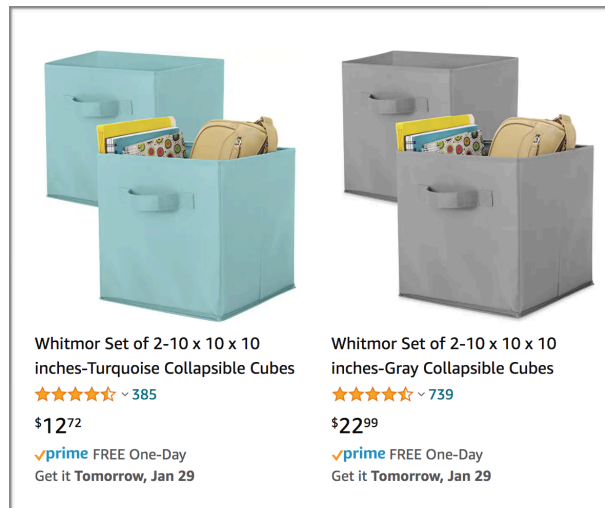


Use remaining pipes and connectors to build the “magic portal” to place at the doorway.

- Not counting the cubes themselves, this could add up to a weight of about 50 pounds.
- This leaves 250 pounds in the 300-pound capacity of the bike trailer. (**300 - 50 = 250**)
- The canopy adds about 40 pounds.
- This leaves 210 pounds. (**250 - 40 = 210**)

- The apartments will be **10” cubes**. Artists can be encouraged to use commercially available cube drawers as a base.

<https://www.amazon.com/Whitmor-Collapsible-Cubes-Set-x10/dp/B01CDOMN6O>



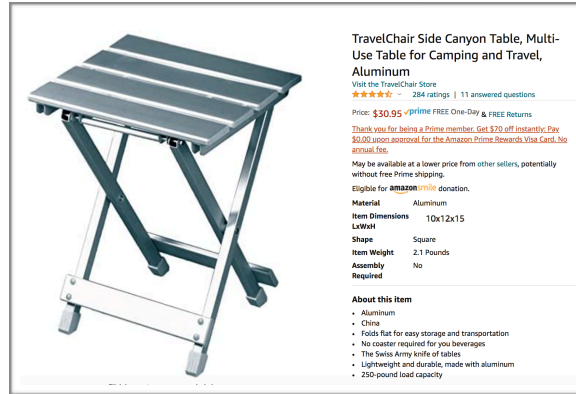
- If each cube weighs 5 pounds, they total 75 pounds, leaving 135 pounds. ($210 - 75 = 135$)
- The cubes will be placed 3 to a shelf, down the middle, edged by 5” wide walkways.
- Miniature elevators will be on the end of each shelf.



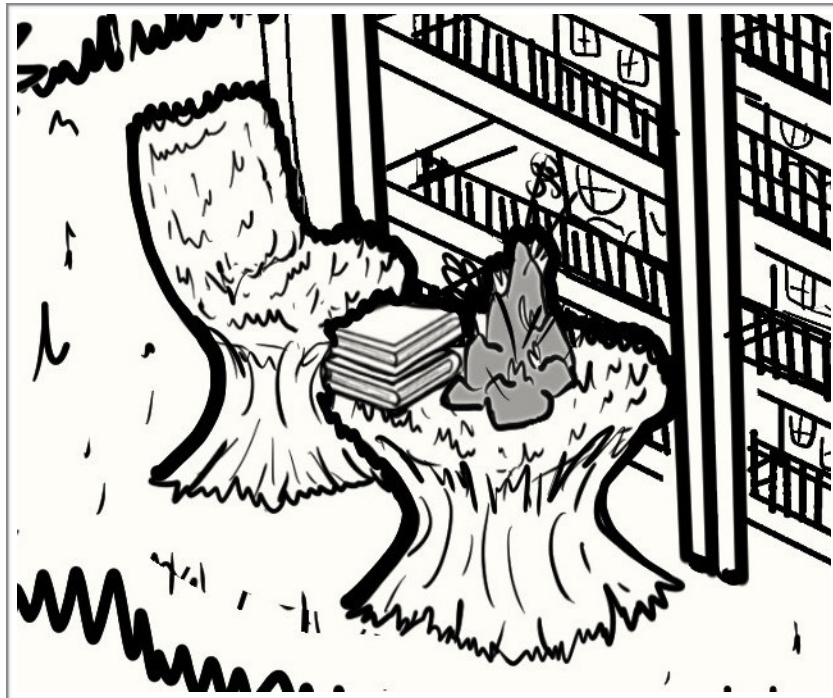
Furniture

- The chairs and tables for guests can each be something like this, covered with velvet.

<https://smile.amazon.com/TravelChair-Canyon-Multi-Use-Camping-Aluminum/dp/B000A76XQ8>



- 6 of these (3 used as chairs and 3 used as tables) would be enough.
- This would weigh under 15 pounds in total. **(135-15 =120)**
- I can make bags to go over the tables and chairs as decorative furniture covers.
- They would be drawstring bags of green velvet, with the cinch several inches from the mouth of the bag.
- The bags would be cinched around the smallest point on the legs, leaving a skirt that goes down to the floor.
- This would make the furniture look like odd-shaped grassy hills, rising up from the matching carpeted ground of the exhibit.



The floor-covering can be a green rug, and the furniture covers will be bags of green velvet. They will be close in color, so the tables and chairs appear to blend into the floor.

<https://smile.amazon.com/House-Home-More-Outdoor-Turf/dp/B004YX0WMK/> (14 lbs)

The screenshot shows an Amazon product page for a green artificial turf rug. The main image is a large green square. To the right, the product title is 'House, Home and More Outdoor Turf Rug - Green - 10 Feet X 10 Feet'. Below the title, it says 'Visit the House, Home and More Store' and shows a 5-star rating with 278 ratings. The price is listed as \$147.00. A Prime member benefit box states: 'Thank you for being a Prime member. Get a \$100 Gift Card: Pay \$47.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.' Below that, it says 'Eligible for amazon smile donation.' A size dropdown menu is set to '10-feet X 10-feet'. A list of features includes: 'Made of outdoor/artificial turf with a light-weight marine backing (intended for outdoor use only)', 'Hemmed on all edges to prevent fraying', 'Reinforced, grommeted corners for easy stake-down (FREE rug stakes included)', 'UV-Protected weather and fade resistant', and 'Durable, yet light-weight (approx. pile height is 1/4")'. A 'VIDEO' button is visible below the main image. At the bottom, there are sections for 'Product information' and 'Additional Information'. Under 'Product information', the size is '10-feet X 10-feet' and the item weight is '14 pounds'. Under 'Additional Information', the ASIN is 'B004YX0WMK'.

<https://www.fabricwholesaledirect.com/products/micro-velvet-fabric?variant=897649683> (5 yards, < 5 lb)

The screenshot shows a product page for 'MICRO VELVET' fabric. The main image is a close-up of the green velvet fabric. To the right, the product title is 'MICRO VELVET'. The price is '\$9.99 / yard' with a 5-star rating and 124 reviews. A quantity selector shows four options: 'Buy 1-4' at \$9.99/yd, 'Buy 5-39' at \$8.99/yd (highlighted with a 10% discount), 'Buy 40-119' at \$8.49/yd (15% discount), and 'Buy 120+' at \$7.99/yd (20% discount). A 'COLOR' dropdown menu is set to 'Kelly Green'. A 'YARD(S)' selector is set to '10', with a 'Total: \$89.90' and a '10% volume discount applied' message. There are 'ADD TO CART' and 'ADD SAMPLE - \$1.99' buttons. A delivery note says 'Order now, receive by Wed, Feb 3 with Next Day Delivery to zip: 91602'. At the bottom, it lists 'Content: 100% Polyester', 'Width: 44/45"', 'Weight: 7.2oz per yard (approx.)', and 'Minimum Order: 1 yard'. A color palette is visible at the bottom left.

- Total weight added by carpet and fabric: about 20 pounds (120 - 20 = 100)

Plants

On the tables, on the top of the Apartment Building, and on the top of the Gift Shop shelf, there can be decorative potted plants.

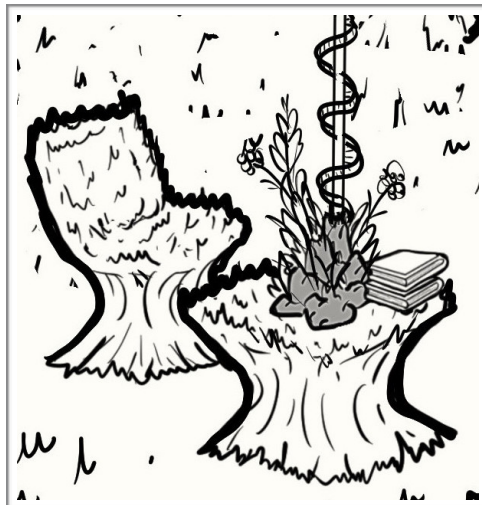
- They'll be potted in lightweight mountain-shaped planters with several small planting spaces, built out of clay or concrete and/or lava rocks adhered together.

<https://smile.amazon.com/Midwest-Hearth-Lava-Rock-10-lb/dp/B084C2DDYY>



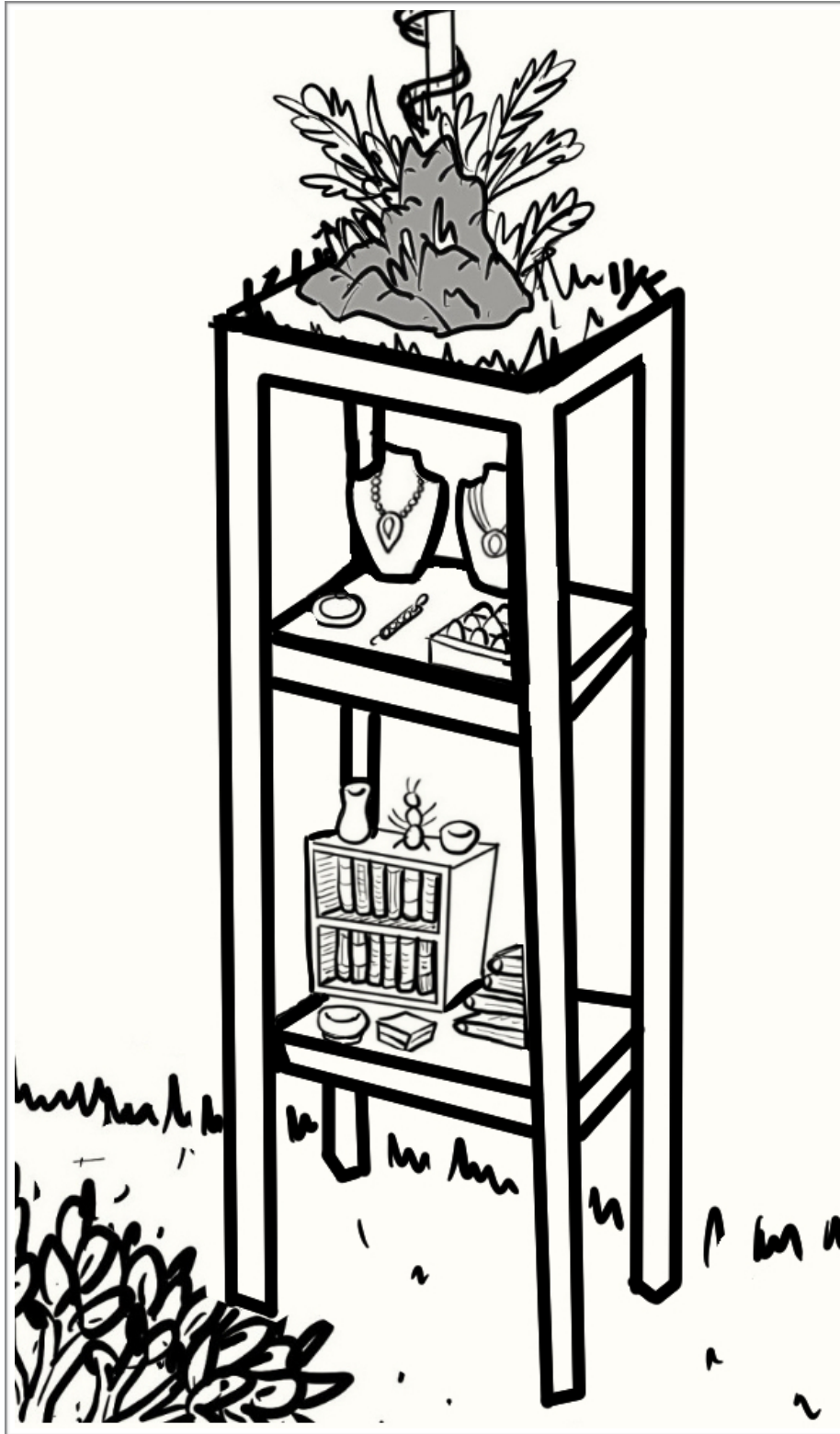
- **For a version of the exhibit that has cable cars and mountain climbing:**
- Make a hole in the center of each planter and put a length of PVC pipe inside it.
- Put soil and small plants in each planting space.
- Transport planters in a basket. On site, set each one up on a table, and slide a long dowel into the PVC pipe in the center. Connect the top of the dowel to the cable car from the apartment.
- Cable cars (and elevators) can just be little decorated boxes, connected to paracord that loops around bobbins or spools affixed to the end points.
- **However, the cable cars and poles can be reserved for when the exhibit is in a more permanent installation. For the small traveling installation, just a couple of small planters for decoration will suffice.**

Make sure they total less than 20 pounds. (100 - 20 = 80)



Gift Shop Shelving

- The gift shop can be a **table or set of shelving, also built from PVC.**
- I can keep its weight to about 15 lbs.
- This leaves 65 pounds in the 300-lb capacity. ($80 - 15 = 65$)



Stopwatch and Starlight

- The **Stopwatch Time Machine clock** and the **Starlight creature** will each weigh under 15 pounds, and will total under \$500 to make.
- Both will be made of modular parts that can disassemble for easy transportation and then easily be assembled on site.

The clock will be approximately the same size as Starlight.

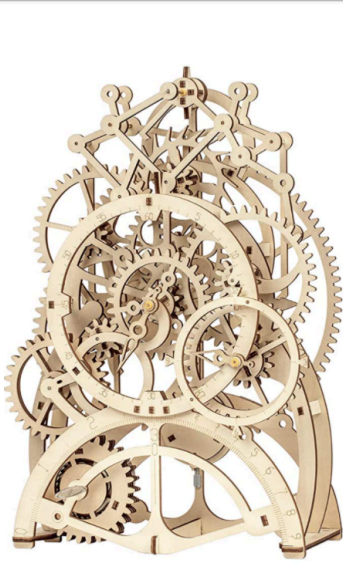
- Compared to Starlight, there is more leeway regarding its design.
- The only requirements:
- It must be eye-catching and interesting, and tall enough for guests to see it near eye level.
- There must be two dials on it, labeled VISITOR TIME and STARBASE TIME, which will look as if they could be turned to different settings.
- The settings will include REGULAR, FAST, SLOW, and PAUSE.
- There must be room on the front of the clock, to put the sign explaining what it's for.

The decorative part of the clock can have all sorts of fancy decorations.

I'm imagining parts from a wooden clock kit, like this.

(It doesn't have to work. Could buy or scavenge an old broken one.)

<https://smile.amazon.com/ROKR-Mechanical-Building-Supplies-Best-Birthday/dp/B07HSZ9LYJ>



ROKR 3D Wooden Mechanical Pendulum Clock Puzzle, Mechanical Gears Toy Building Set, Family Wooden Craft KIT Supplies-Best Birthday Gifts for Kids Adults to Build

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Amazon's Choice for "wooden clock puzzle"

Price: \$49.99 ✓prime & FREE Returns

Get \$70 off instantly: Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card.

Roll over image to zoom in

- As with Starlight, the bottom of the clock should fit inside a bin during transit, which can then be turned upside down to form a pedestal when setting it up.
- This base can be draped with satin or velvet for decoration.



Starlight will consist of: two 11" fabric shelving bins, four 36" dowels,
<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/product/B0776MFRKZ>
<https://smile.amazon.com/Wooden-Dowel-Rods-Unfinished-Craftparts/dp/B00XQI2UW4>



Storage Bins Cubes
 6pk, Foldable Baskets
 11x11 Fabric Closet Boxes
 Containers with Plastic
 Handles and Label
 Window, Shelf Organizer
 Nursery Drawer for Clothes
 , Home , Office, Bedroom-
 Grey

Visit the homyfort Store
 ★★★★★ 402 ratings

Price: **\$26.99** ✓ Prime & FREE Returns

Roll over image to zoom in



Wooden Dowel Rods - 1/2" x 36"
 Unfinished Hardwood Sticks - for
 Crafts and DIY'ers - Craftparts Direct
 - Bag of 10

Visit the Craftparts Direct Store
 ★★★★★ 324 ratings

Amazon's Choice for "1/2 inch dowel rods"

Price: **\$18.49** Prime FREE Delivery & FREE Returns


Eligible for **amazon smile** donation.

Size: **Bag of 10**

Bag of 10 \$18.49	Bag of 100 \$84.60	Bag of 500 \$268.10
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to zoom in

sixteen 2.8" wide square metal tins, a yard of clear vinyl,
<https://smile.amazon.com/Clear-Marine-Vinyl-Double-Polished/dp/B08N1KLDHF>
<https://smile.amazon.com/Silver-Square-Stainless-Labels-Container/dp/B07BZ3VMLG/>



**Silver Square Tea Tin with
 Slip Cover Lid (4 PACK) and
 Stainless Steel Metal Scoop
 Spoon + Labels, Coffee and
 Tea Container, For Herbs,
 Spices, Tea 16 oz - holds
 approx 1.5 cups loose leaf
 tea each**

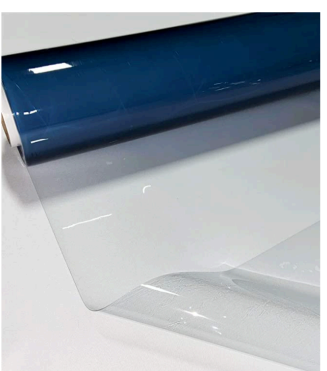
Visit the JUVITUS Store
 ★★★★★ 6 ratings

Price: **\$24.99** Prime FREE Delivery
 & FREE Returns

Thank you for being a Prime member. Get \$70 off instantly. Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

4.385"
 2.805"
 2.805"

Roll over image to zoom in



**Clear Marine Vinyl 20
 Gauge Double Polished**
 54"W 5 Yards

Brand: USA Fabric Store
 ★★★★★ 11 ratings

Price: **\$59.00** & FREE Shipping


Eligible for **amazon smile** donation.

Material Vinyl
 Color Clear
 Brand USA Fabric Store

About this item

- Double Polished 20 Gauge Clear Vinyl Fabric 5 Yards Long x 54" Inches Wide

a large oval plastic tray, a 13-to-16" wide square plastic bin,
<https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B009NVCQJU>
<https://smile.amazon.com/Plastic-Storage-Modular-Stackable-Latching/dp/B071CWD2T5>



**New Star Foodservice 25453 Non-Slip Tray,
 Plastic, Rubber Lined, Oval, 20.5 x 25.25-Inch,
 Black...**

Visit the New Star Foodservice Store
 ★★★★★ 55 ratings

Price: **\$24.97** (\$14.97 / Count) Prime FREE Delivery & FREE Returns

Get \$70 off instantly. Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card.


Eligible for **amazon smile** donation.

Size: **20.5" x 25.25" Inch** | 22" x 27" Inch | 24" x 29" Inch

Color: **Black**

Color: Black
 Material: Plastic
 Brand: New Star Foodservice
 Item Dimensions: 25.25 x 20.5 x 0.7 inches

Roll over image to zoom in



**HOMZ 3430CLRDC.04 Plastic Storage, Modular
 Stackable Storage Bins with Blue Latching
 Handles, 31 Quart, Clear, 4-Pack**

Visit the HOMZ Store
 ★★★★★ 6,811 ratings

Amazon's Choice for "31 qt storage container with lid"

Price: **\$57.49** (\$14.37 / Count) ✓ Prime & FREE Returns

Get \$70 off instantly. Pay \$0.00 upon approval for the Amazon Prime Rewards Visa Card. No annual fee.

Eligible for **amazon smile** donation.

Size: **31 Quart**

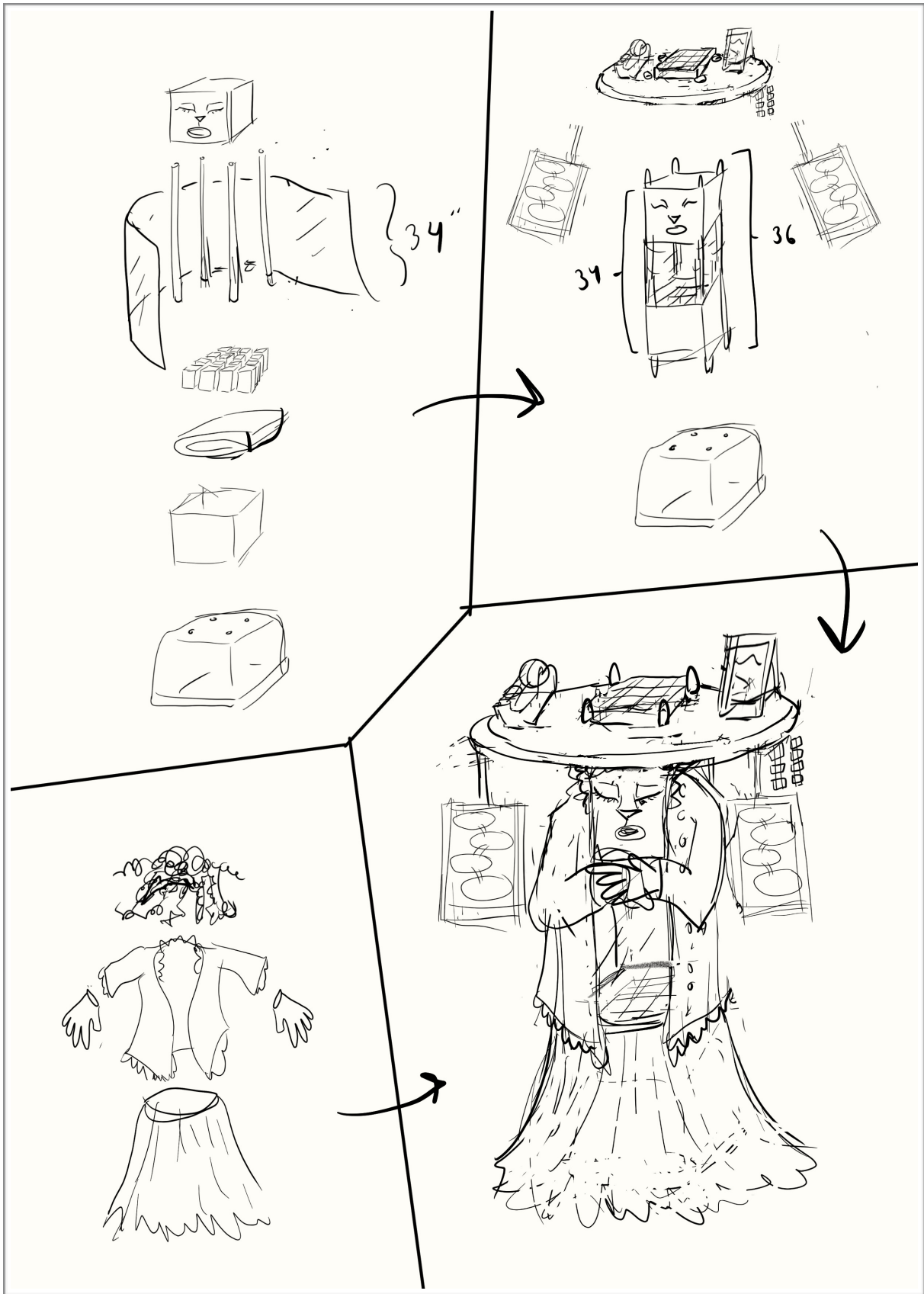
7.5 Quart	7.5 Quart (5 Packs)	15.5 Quart	15.5 Quart (4 Packs)
31 Quart	64 Quart (2 Packs)	66 Quart	112 Quart (2 Pack)

Color: **Blue**

Material: Resin, Plastic
 Color: Blue
 Item Dimensions: 16.25 x 12.13 x 13 Inches
 Shape: Square
 Item Weight: 2.3 Pounds

Roll over image to zoom in

**a 16-section square tackle box, a folded towel,
 and assorted used clothing, fabric and paper (for labeling and decorating).**



- Together, Starlight and the Stopwatch Time Machine may add another 30 lbs. ($65 - 30 = 35$)
- This leaves about **35 pounds** for merchandise to sell, on a 300-lb capacity trailer.
- These are all high estimates, and it is likely the weight will end up much lower than planned.

Financial feasibility

- I don't plan to start this project until I have plenty of spare money set aside.
- Enough to buy all the supplies and resources outright.

- If I had any chance of affording outright ownership of the land where I set up the exhibit, I'd want to plan for that as well.

- But in my current situation, that seems too far beyond realistic planning.
- So I am focusing on the idea of a moveable exhibit that rents whatever space it can.

- I do, however, intend to buy all parts of this exhibit from my own pocket.
- Then there will be no recurring rent or loan repayment costs for the materials, at least.

- It may be a long time before the business pays off the one-time costs.
- But, if the supplies are owned outright, there will be no danger of losing them due to this.

- **In addition, I plan to save enough money to pay all recurring costs of the business for a few months, so that it has time to become profitable without too much stress about affording it.**

- The following pages explore how I'm budgeting for this.

- **I am rounding everything up as much as possible, to be extra cautious.**

One-time starting expenses:

- Canopy (\$200)
- Trailer (\$1500)
- Ample supply of PVC pipe and connectors (\$500)
- Budget another \$500 for display supplies and decorations, like Starlight and the Clock
- Budget \$500 for purchasing some starting inventory from local artists, in addition to the inventory I've already made or can make with supplies I have
- Carpet and fabric to make shelf coverings and furniture covers (Budget \$300)
- Materials to make the elevators, decorations, and walkways along the edges of the shelves (Budget \$200)
- Potted plants and planters (Budget \$100 for this)
- Furnishings— chairs and tables (\$200), and materials for carpet and covers (\$200)
- Printing costs for coffee-table books and for signs throughout the business (\$500)

To make the apartment cubes:

- I can make at least 8 of them myself. I have some of the materials already. (Budget \$200)
- Others will be commissioned from other artists. Offer \$500 per cube. (Budget \$5000)

Add it all up:

Commissioned cubes	\$5000
Trailer	\$1500
PVC pipe:	\$500
Printing costs:	\$500
Display supplies:	\$500
Starting inventory:	\$500
Fabric and carpet:	\$300
Canopy	\$200
Chairs and tables:	\$200
Carpet and covers:	\$200
Materials for walkways:	\$200
Homemade cubes:	\$200
Potted plants:	\$100

Total: \$9900

Budget \$10,000 to be safe. Then double it, for a safety net to to give me some time to become profitable, and to plan for unforeseen expenses like maintenance issues....

I plan to budget for a total of \$20,000 to start this project.

Recurring costs:

- Square Point of Sale account for taking payments (budget \$100/month)
- Cost of materials to make my own new crafts (budget \$200/month)
- Cost of buying new crafts from other artists to sell (budget \$500/month to start; adapt as I figure out what sells well)

If using a car:

- cost of fuel whenever transporting it: budget \$100 a month
- cost of paying someone to drive it whenever needed: at least a fair payment of \$20 an hour, for maybe a few hours every week (budget \$300 a month)

Venues:

- Cost of space to set up for events: Depends heavily on where I go, what events I participate in, and where I set it up.
- A 10 x 10 space, like what most craft fairs offer, would be plenty. I may be able to attend craft fairs often enough to make a living from those.
- Or I may get a chance to share a rented retail space with others.
- (Budget \$2000/month)

Insurance:

(Budget \$500/month for property insurance and liability insurance)

Cost of paying any full-time employees I have

- (Too much, especially with health insurance. I'll try running the place by myself for a while before hiring anyone. See if it's profitable enough to afford an employee.)

Taxes

- From my last time paying taxes on small-business income, I learned there can be expenses even if I made barely any profit at all. Budget 1200/year (**100/month**) for unexpected taxes.
- (Sales tax will be taken into account at the time of sale, and I will keep close track of it.)
- (Income tax will be a portion of my profits, and I will keep close track of that as well.)

My living costs:

- Cost of food, clothing, bike repair, healthcare and other necessities: \$1000/month
- Cost of rent while sharing house with housemates: \$1000/month

Total Monthly Costs

at current scale

100 (Square Point of Sale)
+ 200 (Craft materials)
+ 500 (Buying crafts)
+ 100 (Gasoline)
+ 300 (Paying a driver)
+ 2000 (Space to set up)
+ 500 (Insurance)
+ 100 (Taxes)
+ 1000 (Living expenses)
+ 1000 (Apartment rent)

= 5800

Round up to \$6000.

- I could stay afloat if this business made **\$6000 a month**.
- About \$300 in sales a day, on at least 20 days a month.
- Round up to \$400/day, to be safe and account for income tax.
- **Equates to an average of ten customers in a day who each spend about \$40.**
- **Or 40 customers a day who each spend \$10.**
- **Or 2 customers a day who each spend \$100 and then 20 more who each spend \$10.**
- This is high, but may be feasible.
- **Especially if I'm able to stay open more than 20 days a month.**
- **Or frequently attend festivals where I make more than \$300 a day.**
- **Or (ideally) get into a shared retail space where I pay less than \$2000 a month.**
- My initial estimates are high, after all.
- And I'd do other work on the side— such as drawing commissions, writing books, and making a comic on Patreon.
- These kinds of activities are fun for me. They are my passions in life, and make up most of what I do in my free time when I'm not at work.
- If they were my main income... I'd be glad to work *many* more hours than a full-time job.

Beyond

I've written this plan for the version of my idea that I consider most achievable.

But what if someday it gains some hope of expanding?

*If I can someday afford a permanent space, on land that I own...
Then the Starlingship can grow into something many times bigger.*

*What would it become if I had all the resources I want?
Here's an attempt at exploring my ultimate dream for the Starlingship.*

Building

If the Starlingship is going to be a permanent building, and I get to decide what kind...

It has to be a concrete dome. Nothing else is that durable, energy-efficient, AND cool-looking.

And I would want to live in that same dome, right beside my business.

Or at least in a house nearby, with the dome as an adjacent building on the same land.

<https://monolithicdome.com/> is a website that provides resources for building these.



A Whole City

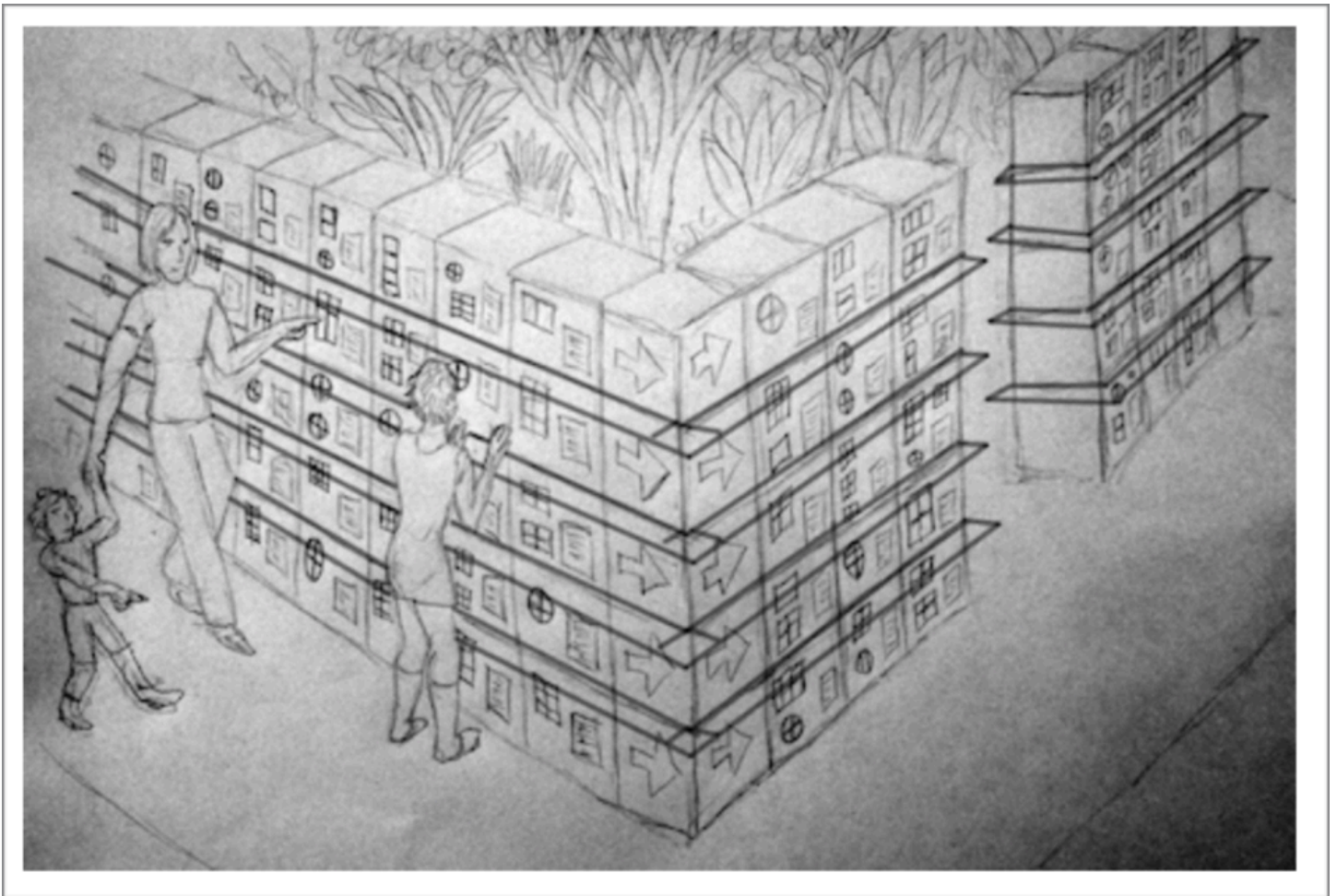
In the most basic version of this scenario, it's just one shelf of apartments.

But if it weren't constrained by travel...

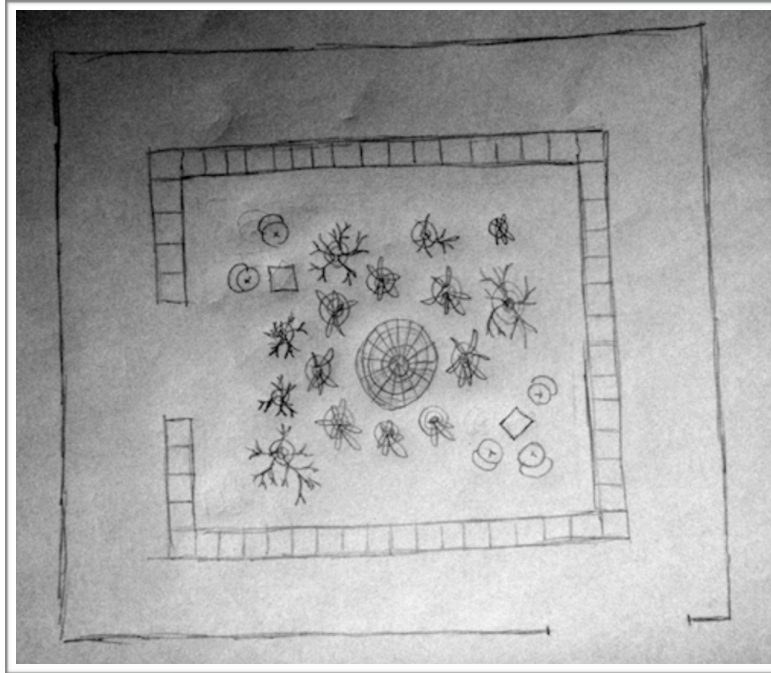
If the Starlingship had a whole building, or even just a whole permanent room to be in...

If I had the funds to commission cubes from not just a few artists, but *hundreds*...

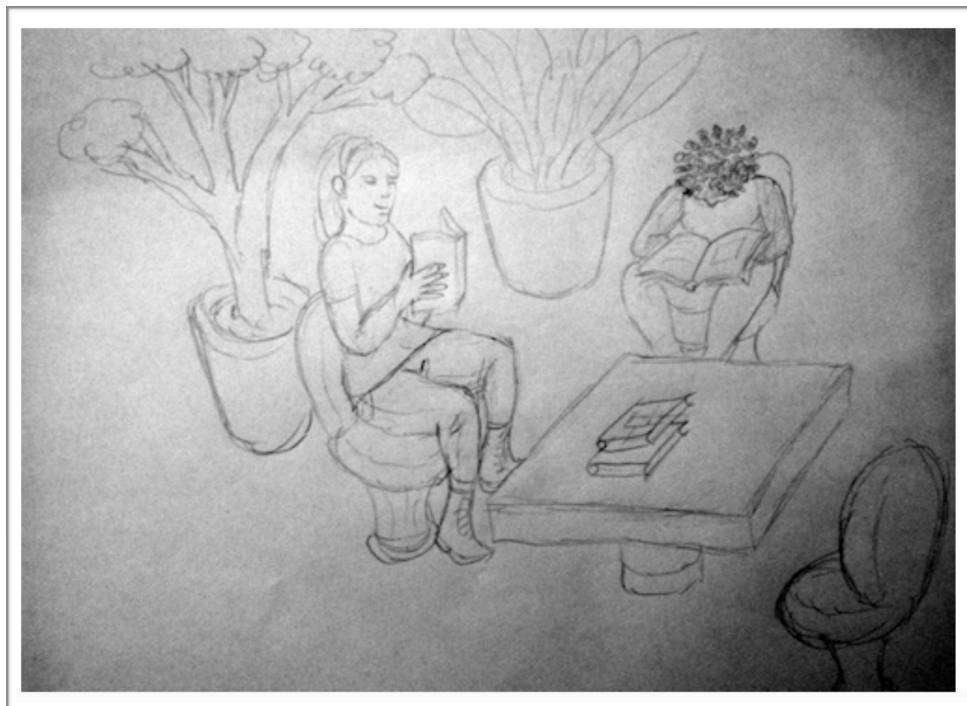
How much more could we accomplish together?



I picture a room ringed by walls of apartments, the center full of potted trees and comfy chairs. You could walk around the outside of the whole complex — then go in to see the open sides of the apartments, looking out on their beautiful garden courtyard.



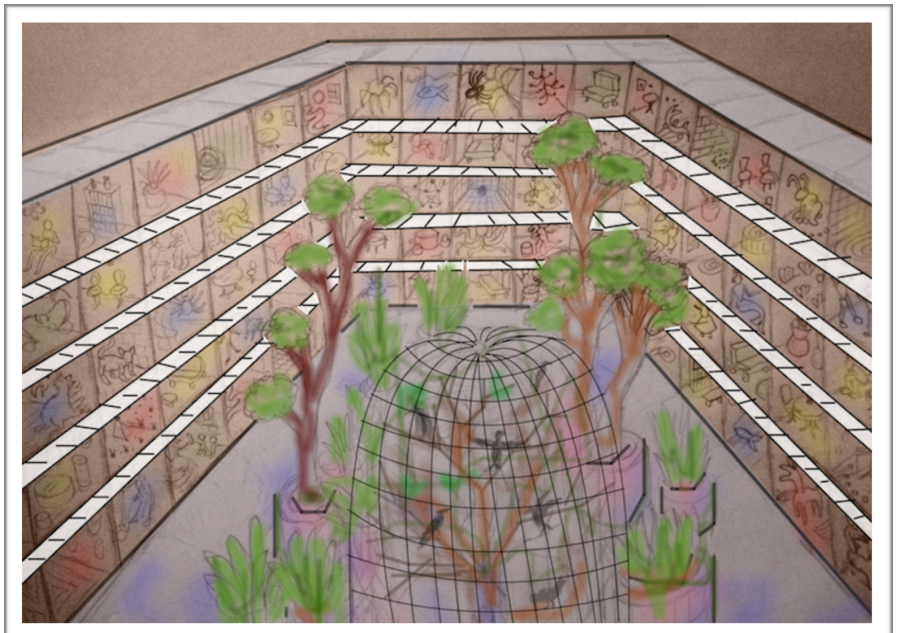
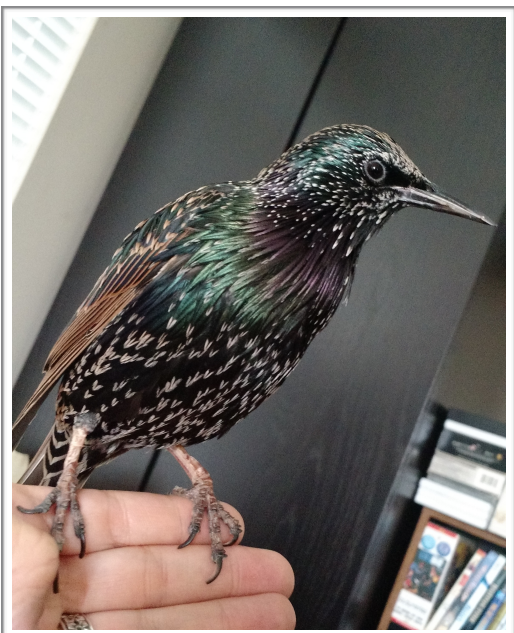
You could spend a day in the courtyard. Whole families and groups of friends could hang out there. Reserve it for parties. Invite local musicians in to play. Or just relax and read.



Starlings in the Starlingship

In the center of the room, there could be a large aviary containing tame birds.

- This is far more likely to happen if this exhibit gets a permanent building to stay in.
- **I envision the birds as European starlings, which I have experience caring for.**
- They're invasive pests in the USA, easy to get, and legal to keep in most states without many restrictions. (Adopting a fallen nestling is a harmless act... it's basically just removing a pest from the ecosystem!)
- They have beautiful iridescent colors, complex songs, language mimicry, high intelligence, and fascinating behavior. They're incredibly fun to watch (which is part of why humans made the mistake of bringing them here in the first place)!
- They don't reproduce in captivity. They become bonded to humans, and are affectionate pets. They have long lifespans, but I couldn't (and shouldn't) breed them, and would have to adopt new ones any time I lost one.
- So I could treat it kind of like a wildlife rescue for starlings that local people find.
- **Starlings are also my favorite birds, and the reason I gave the Starlingship that name.**
- **I'd love to have a life that permitted me the time and resources to keep starlings again.**
- I still like the name "Starlingship" even if there aren't birds. It's "starship" with a diminutive "-ling" in it, which fits perfectly for the miniature scale.
- But an actual starling aviary would give it another whole level of meaning.



Accessibility

When I first shared this whole idea at WisCon, one person who showed interest was a blind woman. She couldn't see the dioramas, but it delighted her just to hear them described.

She encouraged me, and said she'd love to know if I ever manage to get this off the ground. That experience touched me deeply, and made me think about how inclusive I want to be.

If I get the resources to do this on a large scale, I want to make it as accessible to disabled people as I can... and this will include accommodations for the blind.

In fact, this could start now. It shouldn't take much more work than my base concept:

- Headphones can be available for guests to hear spoken descriptions of the exhibit. The apartment numbers and resident names can be printed in Braille near each apartment, and blind guests can be given an MP3 player where they can choose a number to play a sound file describing that apartment.
- Or it could be a website accessible on the visitors' smartphones— they can use whatever interface they're accustomed to using, and access descriptions on the site that they can listen to with their own headphones.
- (Must consult my computer-savvy partners to figure out exactly how that would work.)
- May also include Braille booklets with the same info.
- I'd even like to add some large, durable dioramas that are designed to be explored by touch.

Visiting from Home

- COVID-19 has taught all of us that businesses need to be prepared for the sort of disasters that prevent people from stopping by in person.
- It's one more thing I'll be consulting my more computer-savvy partners on.
- This isn't going to be the last pandemic. There may be worse ones in the future.
- And even if that's not in my lifetime, I've become more aware of how many people benefit from being able to do things from home... even at the best of times.
- Never mind pandemics— if I'm serious about disability accommodations, this is the direction I'll have to go anyway.
- Is there a way I can give people the option of visiting in virtual reality? Perusing the exhibit from home with a webcam? Shopping the gift shop online?
- The world is changing, and this change is something I'll need to embrace as soon as I can.



Where? When? How?

When will this be built?

We don't know. Right now we're not anywhere near having the resources for it. But if you'd like to help us reach that dream... please donate!

And buy our art! And our books! And hire us as speakers!
We do all sorts of things! We just need people to know about us!

And even more important, share! Spread the www.starlingship.com website around, make it go viral, share it with everyone you know.

We also welcome any advice you have about how to get this thing started!

Where will this be built?

Most likely somewhere in Los Angeles, where I live.

But again, I'm very welcoming of input, especially if you know of someplace where we could get a good deal on the space we'd need to build this.

Do you own a building you're trying to sell? Do your friends own a shop with extra space they want to rent out? Let us know!

Can I make part of it?

If you have an idea for an alien apartment, feel free to make it, or at least plan it out. If this ever gets off the ground, I'll probably be delighted to include your creation.

But don't send it to me yet— right now I don't even have anyplace to put it!
For now, focus on sharing and getting the word out!

Who are you?

I'm Erika Hammerschmidt, an autistic artist, author, and speaker in Los Angeles.

I have:

a memoir titled Born on the Wrong Planet

<https://www.erikahammerschmidt.com/author/born-on-the-wrong-planet/>

a jewelry website called The Heathersmith

<https://www.theheathersmith.com/>

a webcomic called Abby and Norma

<https://www.abbyandnorma.com>

a speaking business with my partner Elle

<https://www.elleanderikaspeak.com>

a science fiction novel called Kea's Flight

<https://www.erikahammerschmidt.com/author/keas-flight>

and a series of short story collections beginning with the book Lonely and Precocious

<https://www.erikahammerschmidt.com/author/lonely-and-precocious/>

www.erikahammerschmidt.com

humanalien@gmail.com

I obsessively love animals, plants, art, miniatures, sparkly things, science fiction, and language.

I live in a polycule of five people, of varying genders and sexualities and levels of romantic involvement with each other (and varying levels of interest in this silly project of mine!)

But all of us have an overwhelming variety of art, writing and engineering projects of our own.

I have lots of experience with pet birds, including a difficult Amazon parrot named Rain Man, and an exuberant starling named Sirius who could talk, sing like four birds at once, and play a piano.

Sadly, I'm without pets at the moment, but I hope to make them a part of my life again someday.

I have so many creations that I'm exploding, and I need to share them! Please help!

<https://www.starlingship.com>