LIGHT PORTALS

HERM & AARON GREIDER

Proposal for Blink Cincinnati 2026

Contact
937-271-5532 call or text
herm.greider@gmail.com

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CHECK OUT THE VIDEO WITH SOUND
LIGHT.GREIDER.ORG

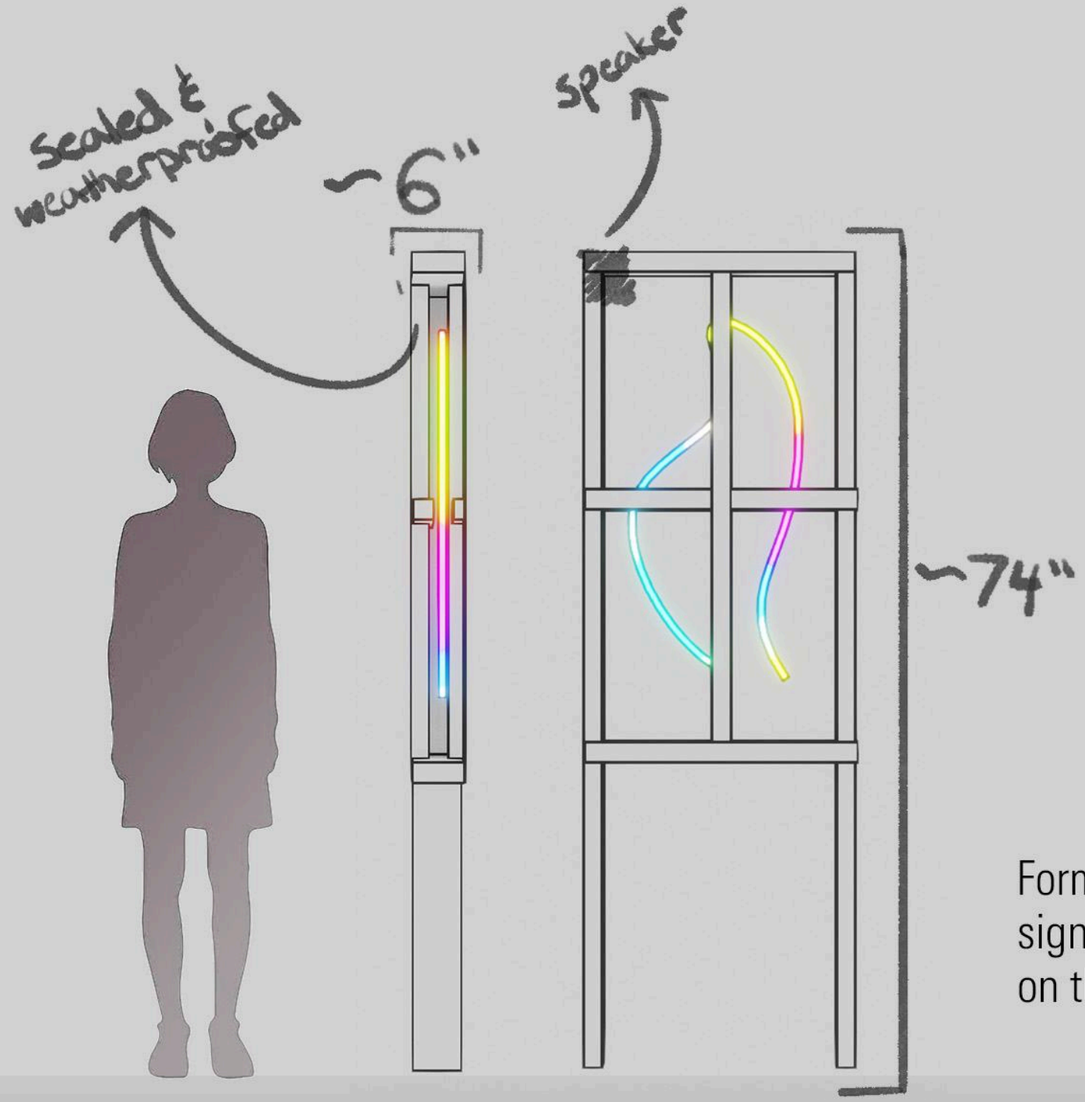
STEP UP TO THE PORTALS.

As you walk around the portals, soft chimes and flickering specters respond to your movements, creating a surreal, immersive experience. The Light Portals use repetition, sound, and subtle interactivity to make visitors feel surrounded by living light, blending the natural and the otherworldly to make the Portals feel malleable and alive.

HOW IT WORKS

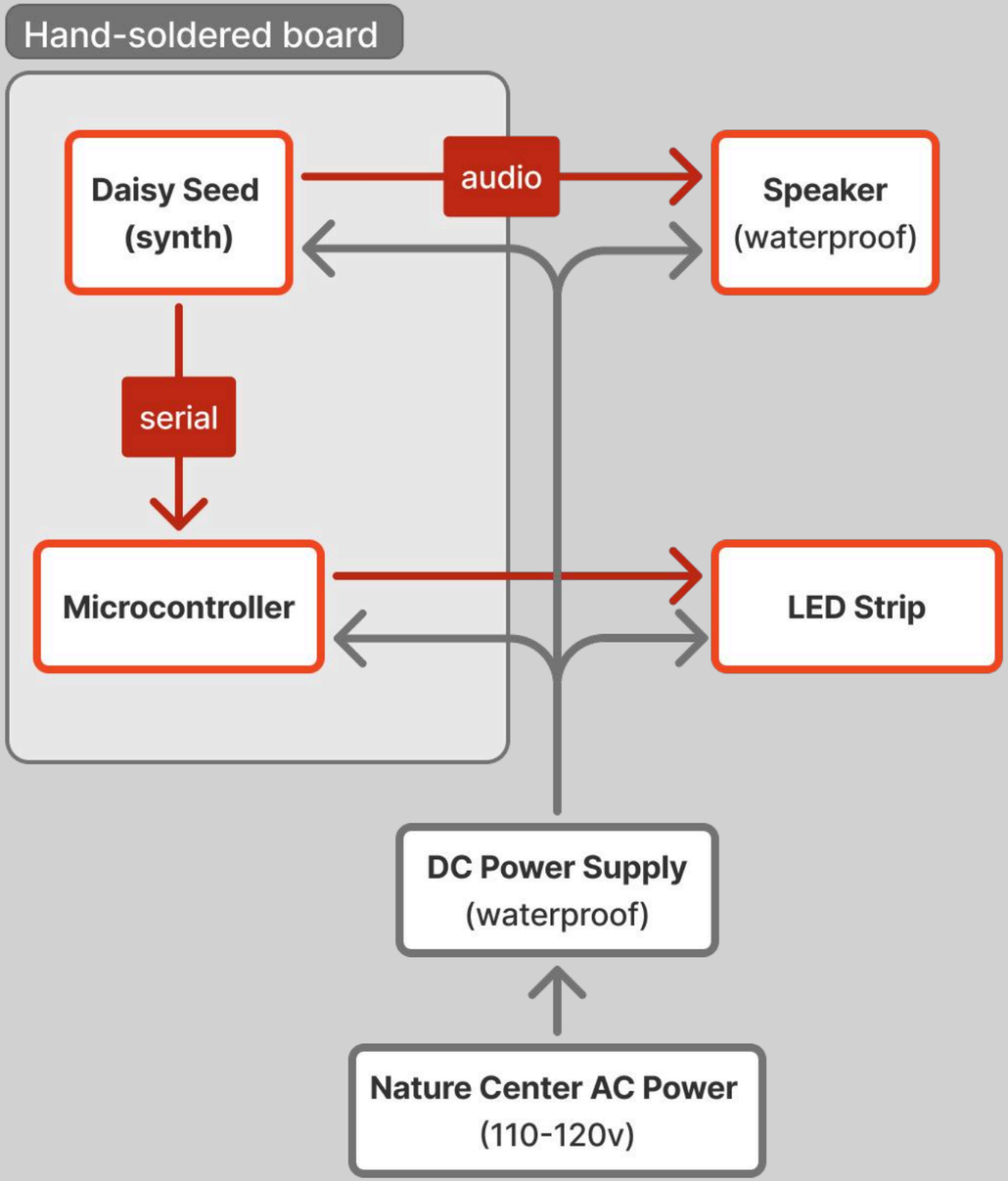
Our Light Portals are built from reclaimed materials, letting the light of the past shine through and inviting visitors to imagine the history of Cincinnati beneath their feet.

The installation will be a construction of eight individual wooden frames from reclaimed windows and doors, with programmable multicolor LED strips sealed between two panes and fully waterproofed. Each LED responds to data from proximity sensors, changing hue, intensity, and pattern to bring the illuminated “forest specters” to life. A programmable synthesizer will adjust notes and timbres based on visitor movement, fading tracks in and out and shaping waveforms for a more immersive experience. Each portal will feature a single speaker on the top, creating a compact surround sound setup.



Forms may vary
significantly depending
on the specific materials sourced.

EXAMPLE CIRCUIT BOARD LAYOUT



BACKGROUND

Light Portals is an installation for Cincinnati Nature Center's *Light in the Forest 2025* (December 2025). We are proposing a simple upgrade to use the same portals for Blink 2026.

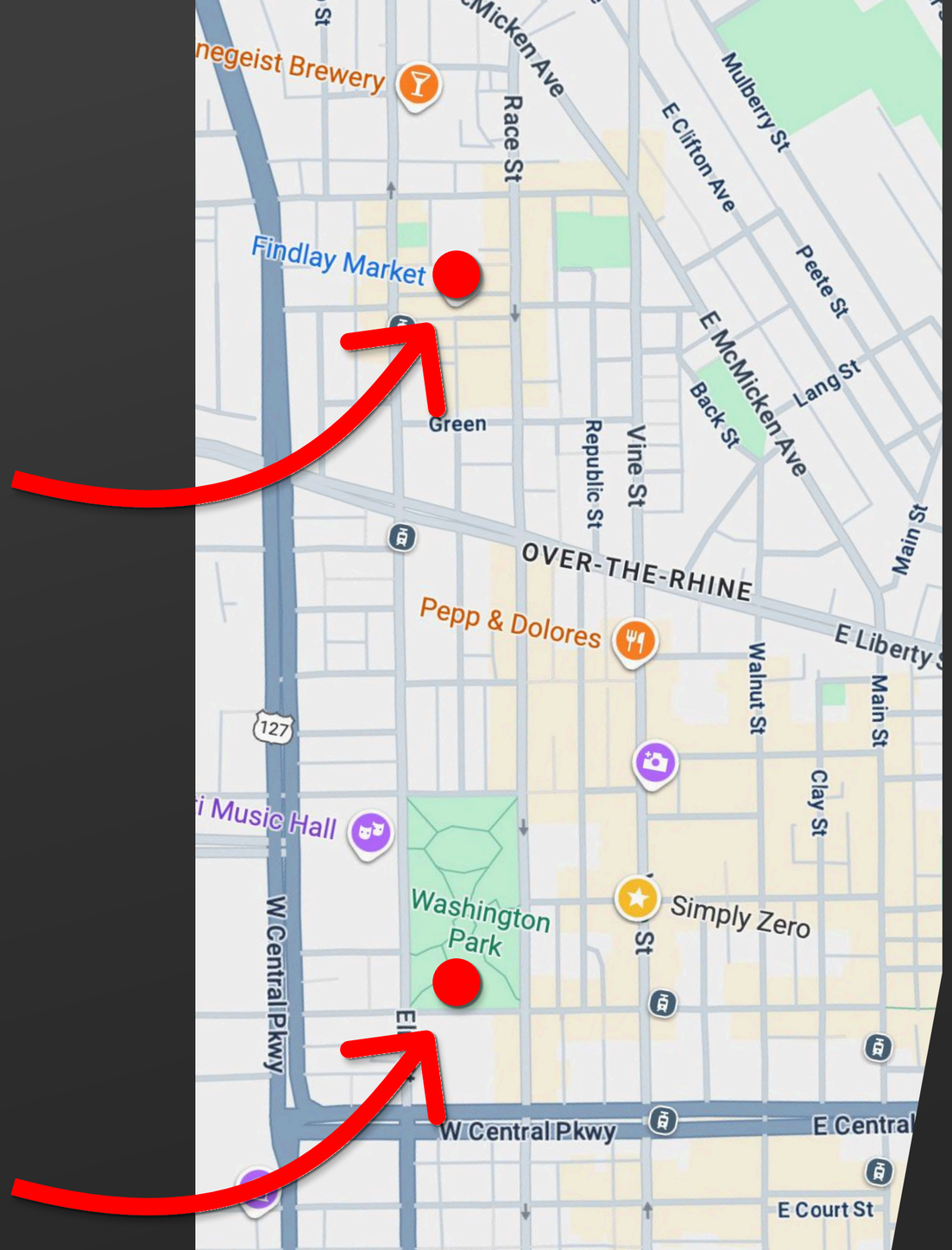
We have a separate proposal submitted for an "Orchestra of Light" that dramatically enhances the concept and technology around these portals. This submission of the existing project is offered both as an alternative or as a second installation for Blink.

To follow the progress on the construction and installation of Light Portals for *Light in the Forest,* follow @hermgreider on Instagram.

APPROXIMATE LOCATION - PARKS AND ALLEYWAYS

Places like Washington Park or Findlay Market, or streets in between.

Somewhere that families will be loitering rather than passing through, and where the interactive sound can be experienced without much distracting background noise.



Herm Greider

Retired Software Developer with 40 years experience leading, designing, and coding all types of software systems for defense and commercial applications. BS Computer Science, UC. MS CS Wright State. Currently building lighting and sound projects.

https://www.linkedin.com/in/hermgreider

Aaron Greider

Graphic Designer/Front-End Web Developer at Jungle Jim's International Market. BS Communication Design from UC DAAP 2022. Avid tinkerer and jack-of-most-trades. Experience in environments from fortune 500 retail design to tech startup brand strategy.

BUDGET

	Total
Repairs	$500
Cables	$104
Connectors	$32
Incidentals (caulk, paint, screws...)	$120
Transportation	$250
Administrative Costs	$500
Artist Fees	$500
total	2,006.00

PORTFOLIO

Portfolio and supplemental video renderings available at:

light.greider.org