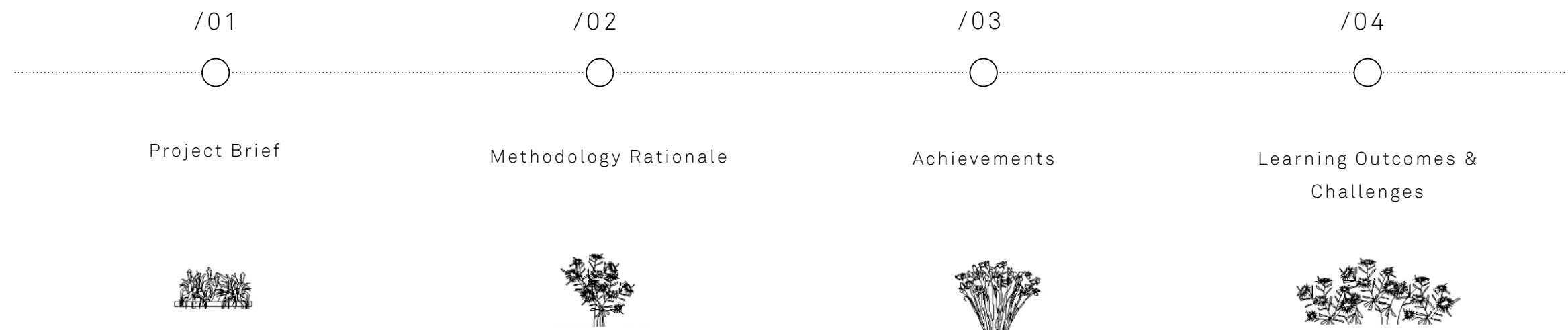


**CLIMATE ADVOCATE PROGRAMME:
Rooftop Garden Project**

Mitalie Tripathi & Selen Sarayli





- ▣ The CSM Rooftop Garden project facilitated by the Climate Advocates aims to design and develop wayfinding, signage and communications for the CSM Rooftop and Permaculture Garden.

This project acknowledges and builds upon a legacy of work, **that spans from the ‘Beehive Design Project’ and the ‘Imagining and scoping an outdoor learning space at CSM’ Project** led by Margot Bannerman in May 2025.

- ▣ The scope of the project is based on one specific issue articulated in the project report: the scarcity of signage, access and communications with regards to the rooftop. Therefore, keeping this immediate need in mind, the Climate Advocate Team made Rooftop signage its priority. Further, the project seeks to communicate the permaculture principles of the rooftop garden through design.

Credits
Bee Project:

Carlotta Novella
Ashna Chakraborty
Charlotte Rumble
Selen Sarayli
Miriam Iuga
Odira Morewabone



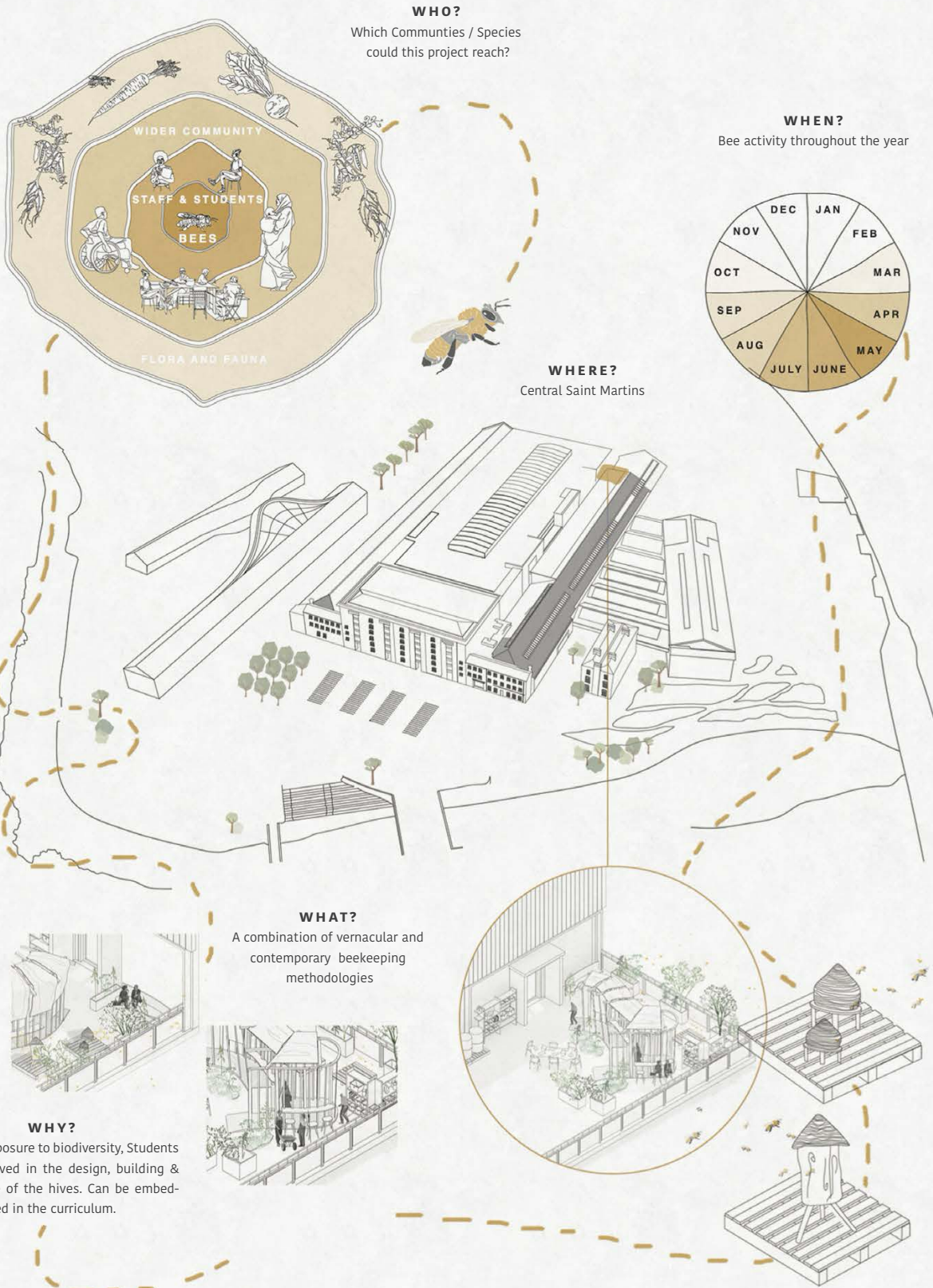
Beehive Designs by Charlotte Rumble, Miriam Iuga, Selen Sarayli



First Design Iterations



Honey Tasting Workshop led by Odira Morewabone



Methodology

· Materials Research

· Site Mapping

· Stakeholder Survey

· Signage Planning & Design in accordance to Permaculture Principles

Methodology Rationale

·Attunement to Ecological Becomings at the Site

·Collaborative Making

·Facilitating Effective Design and Communication

·Understanding Stakeholder Uses, Needs and Specifications



Tool Board for Outdoor Cart

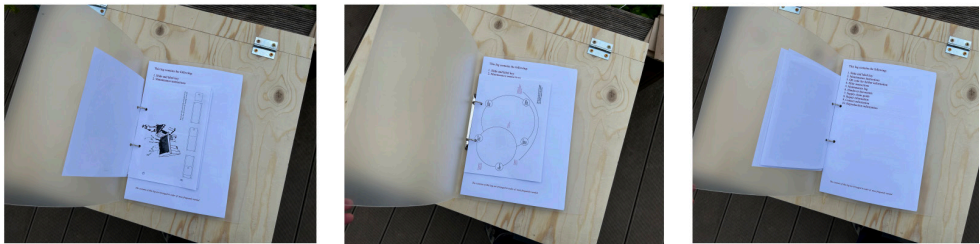
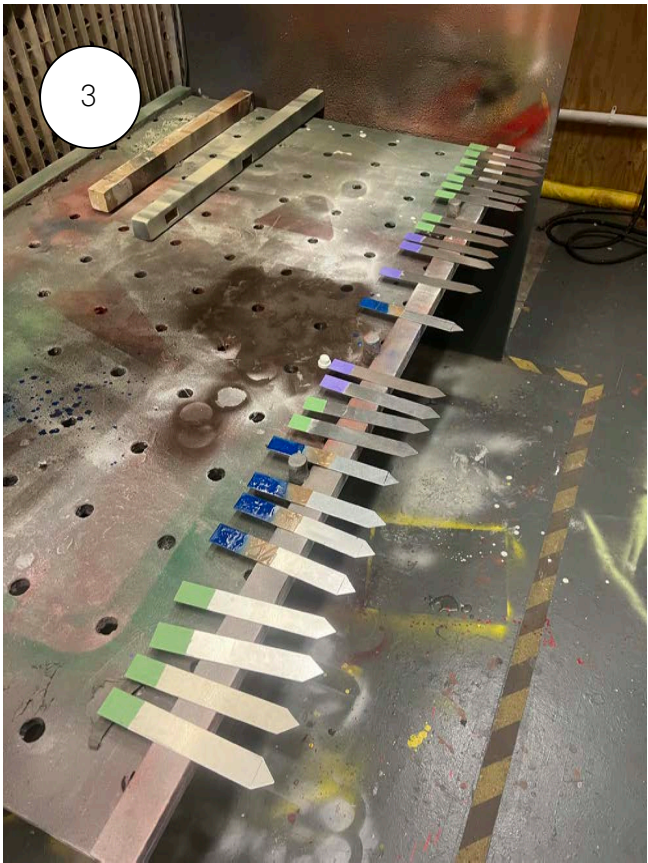


Compost Area Sign Mounted on Salvaged broken Bench - Can be moved for workshops



Existing Signage





- Edible Plants
- Toxic Plants
- Dye Plants

x25 Made, can be re-labelled

Incorporated and Labelled into Logan Davies' toolkit, from Garden Society



New Trolley for additional tools



A-board Containing Permaculture Principles, other side can be used as notice board



Salvaged Materials for A-board



ROOFTOP
TERRACE
GARDEN



- WORKSHOPS & LEARNING
- GROW & GARDEN
- COMPOST & SUSTAIN
- SHARE & CONNECT
- RELAX & ENJOY

- LOITER
- SMOKE
- GRAFFITI
- LITTER
- DISRESPECT PLANTS & SPACE



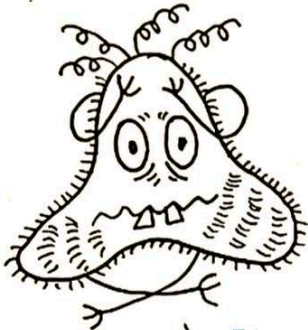
(As this information can change his will be written on laminated paper found on the entrances)



HER STORY IS OUR STORY

ABOUT THE CSM ROOFTOP PERMACULTURE GARDEN

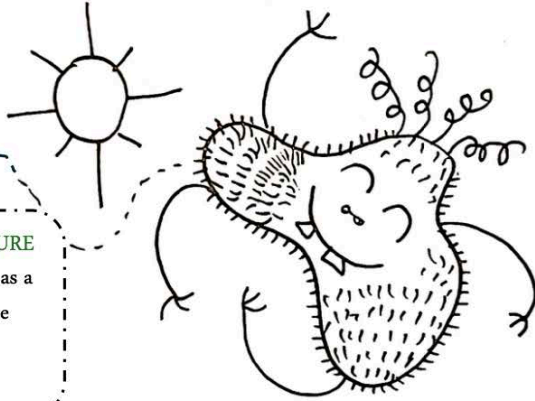
BEFORE 2015...



MEET PRICKLY AND AGITATED PORKY-BEAN... She worked indoors under the harsh white light all day. She felt overwhelmed, tired, isolated and a little lonely.

If only there were a space, a community at CSM that would get her out of her head and into the outdoors... where with others she could channel her energy into mutual aid and care...

AFTER 2015...



THE CSM ROOFTOP PERMACULTURE GARDEN WAS FOUNDED! It began as a student-staff collaboration that has since evolved into a commons for kinship, wellbeing and ecological becomings!

PORKY-BEAN FINALLY FOUND HER PLACE! Amidst our valuable human and more-than-human community members – student and staff volunteers, stewards, bees and berries, she has since become the rooftop permaculture garden's **GUARDIAN!** She now supports the vibrant community activities and projects (including the dye garden, composting area, hydroponics system etc.) with her warmth and joy!

WARM AND FUZZY
PORKY-BEAN
(out'n' about on the CSM Terrace Garden)

AFTER 2015 →

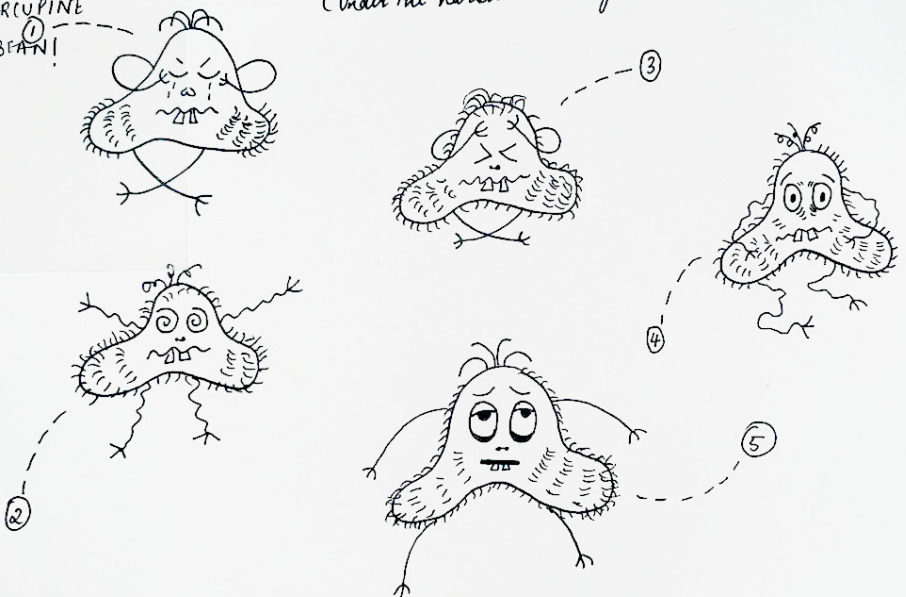


OUR GUARDIAN!

MEET PORKY-BEAN!
A RARE COMBINATION
OF PORCUPINE
AND BEAN!

PRICKLY AND AGITATED
PORKY-BEAN
(Under the harsh white light)

BEFORE 2015 →



Achievements

11

Proposal:

Updating the CSM Rooftop Terrace Webpage to Improve Accessibility and Engagement

To: Digital Communications Team

From: Central Saint Martins Climate Advocates Team

Date: June 22, 2026

Collaborators: Margot Bannerman, Pearl James, Florence Hawkins, and the CSM Rooftop Stewards

Proposal Overview

This proposal, submitted by the CSM Climate Advocates Team, outlines a project to improve accessibility and student engagement at the CSM Rooftop Terrace. By updating the existing digital infrastructure, we aim to create a more transparent and informative resource for the student body.

Current Challenges

Currently, the official CSM Rooftop Terrace Webpage (<https://www.arts.ac.uk/colleges/central-saint-martins/student-life-at-csm/facilities/rooftop-terrace>) contains incomplete information and several broken and outdated links. These technical issues hinder students' ability to utilize the space effectively and discourage participation in rooftop-based initiatives.

Proposed Updates

To resolve these issues, the Climate Advocates Team proposes a comprehensive update to the webpage. **The following are the details of the proposed content that we would like to have added:**

1. CSM Rooftop Storyboard

We propose that the webpage include a hyperlink that opens the Rooftop Garden's Storyboard (draft: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xMLhrZaF0arkl-47Y7mJQwWWEAwPOLOS/view?usp=sharing>)

2. Rooftop Stewardship

The CSM Rooftop Terrace is maintained through the contributions of staff, students, and rooftop stewards who support the management and development of the space. The rooftop is intended as a shared resource that promotes learning and community engagement.

3. CSM Rooftop Garden Society

The CSM Rooftop Garden Society is a student-led group that encourages engagement with the rooftop through seasonal and environmentally conscious activities. Activities vary throughout the academic year and are shaped by the interests of participating students. For updates on current projects and events, please visit [@ual_rooftopgardensociety](#) on Instagram.

4. Dye Garden

The dye garden was added in Spring 2021. Its journey from seeds to dye plants and colours is documented [here](https://printdyeworkshopblog.myblog.arts.ac.uk/) (<https://printdyeworkshopblog.myblog.arts.ac.uk/>) Dye Plants growing include: woad, weld, madder roots, marigold, dyers' chamomile, coreopsis, goldenrod, black knight scabiosa, tansy and eucalyptus. It is part of the Print & Dye workshops as a learning resources for our students in Fashion and Textiles. It supports varied projects and collaborations. For information about the dye garden please contact Florence Hawkins f.hawkins@csm.arts.ac.uk

5. Do's and Don'ts Axonometric Illustrations

We would also like to embed these axonometric drawings of the rooftop on the webpage that illustrate the 'do's and don'ts': [Axonometric Do's Don'ts](#)

6. Updated Rooftop Opening Hours (Term Time & Summer):

Weekdays: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Weekends: Closed

Timeline and Next Steps

The Team aims to complete these updates by the end of June 2026.

Upon approval of this proposal, the Climate Advocates Team will provide a finalized document containing the specific content required for the webpage update. We look forward to collaborating with the Digital Communications Team and all stakeholders on this project.

/01



/02



/03



/04



Project Management:

- Evidence-Based Project Scoping
- Timeline & Resource Management
- Navigating Institutional Governance and following up with Stakeholder

Design & Communication:

- Multimodal Visual Storytelling through the Axo Drawings & Storyboards.
- Developing Site-Specific Wayfinding Strategies for Effective and Accessible Communication
- Working with Salvaged Materials and Resources

Making-with Permaculture Principles



Project Management Challenges:

- **Balancing Materials Research and Design with Tight Timelines:** Managing the transition from digital design to physical production (e.g., metal plant markers, A-board, general signage etc.). Hands-on making required strict scheduling to ensure the design phase did not bottleneck the installation phase.

- **Weather Dependency and Site Access:** Because the project centered on an outdoor rooftop space, site mapping, material testing, and installation were highly dependent on weather conditions. This required the team to design dynamically in accordance with real-time environmental factors (rain, bird poop etc.)

- **Scoping Immediate vs. Long-Term Needs:** Reconciling the immediate, urgent need for basic way-finding (as identified in the May 2025 report) with the broader, more complex goal of communicating long-term permaculture principles and other communication requirements required careful scope

Stakeholder Management Challenges:

- **Navigating Institutional and Estates Regulations:** Implementing physical signage in a university environment requires navigating strict safety and campus estates regulations. Securing approvals for permanent or semi-permanent fixtures on a rooftop presented bureaucratic challenges that impacted the momentum of the installation.

- **Managing Conflicting User Needs:** The stakeholder survey revealed diverse and sometimes conflicting expectations for the rooftop space.

- **Maintaining Continuity:** Building upon the foundational work laid out by Margot Bannerman's May 2025 project report meant honoring past insights while adapting to the shifting priorities and fresh perspectives of the current Climate Advocate team.

- **Navigating a Complex Stakeholder Landscape:** A significant portion of the project involved identifying key stakeholders and building relationships based on trust and collaboration. This process required substantial time and highlighted the complexity of delivering interventions within a shared and collectively managed space.

Interdisciplinary Design Challenges:

- **Sourcing materials that were durable** enough to withstand harsh, exposed rooftop weather conditions while strictly adhering to permaculture principles (low-impact, circular, non-toxic, or salvaged materials) proved difficult. The team had to constantly compromise between longevity and ecological principles.

- **Translating these dense permaculture principles** into quick, accessible, and legible visual shorthand (such as through the site storyboard and mascot) without oversimplifying.

- With the aim of maintaining aesthetic cohesion across diverse media, the team had to constantly iterate and bridge the gap between digital and analogue mediums.

What we learned:

- Sustainability initiatives often already exist within CSM, but information can become fragmented across different platforms and teams.
- Clear communication channels and defined points of contact are essential for maintaining student-led projects over time.
- Small interventions, such as updating webpages and signage, can significantly improve awareness and accessibility.
- At the same time, not all information needs to be formalised. Many of the initiatives thrive because they remain flexible and responsive to changing interests from year to year.

Opportunities Identified

- Increasing visibility of the Roof Terrace as a shared learning and community space.
- Strengthening connections between students, staff, and existing rooftop initiatives.
- Creating a more accessible record of projects, resources, and opportunities for involvement.
- Supporting continuity by making knowledge and contacts easier for future students to access.
- Creating design opportunities for students & staff alike.

Looking Forward

We hope this project helps present the Roof Terrace as an active, vibrant part of the CSM community rather than a space that feels separate from the rest of the university. Through improving signage we hope students and staff gain a better understanding of the activities and people that contribute to the rooftop throughout the year.

We also hope that the updated webpage will provide a more accurate and welcoming introduction to the space, replacing outdated information and broken links with content that better reflects the dynamic community involved in its stewardship. .