Sign Mates Matchmaking App
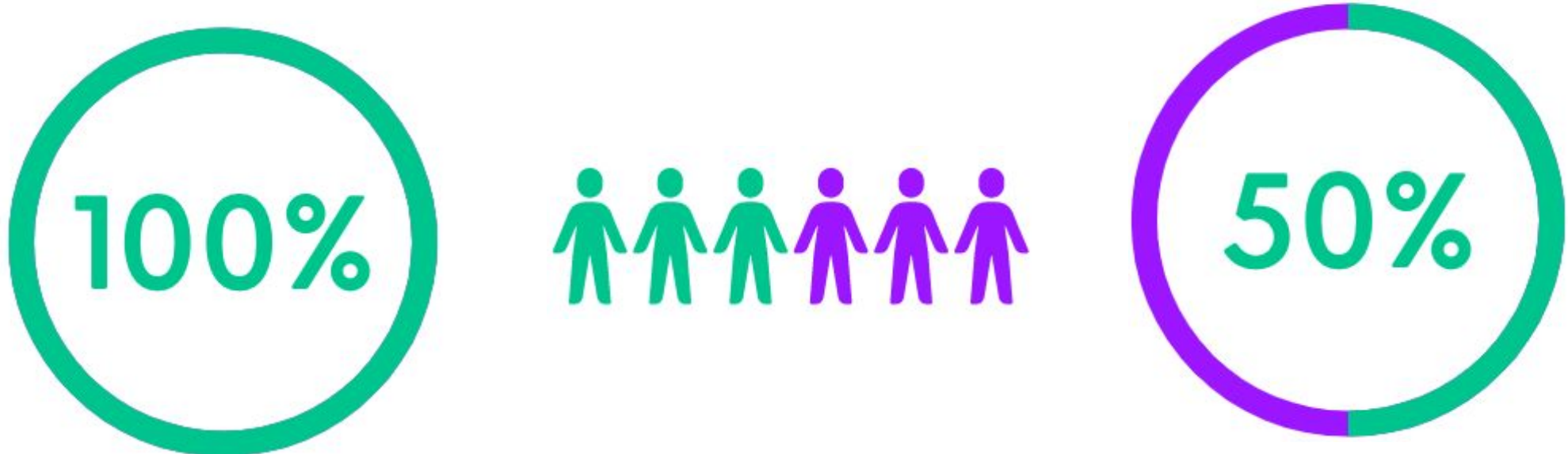
SIGN MATES

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Background

In geo-social networking (GSN) apps, there is a lack of focus on the aspects of communication accessibility. Existing GSN apps do not support American Sign Language (ASL) nor other sign languages such as Tinder, Bumble, or Badoo. Thus, they are not accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing (HOH) users. Many deaf and HOH users do not feel comfortable disclosing their disability in the GSN apps that frames disability as a problem.
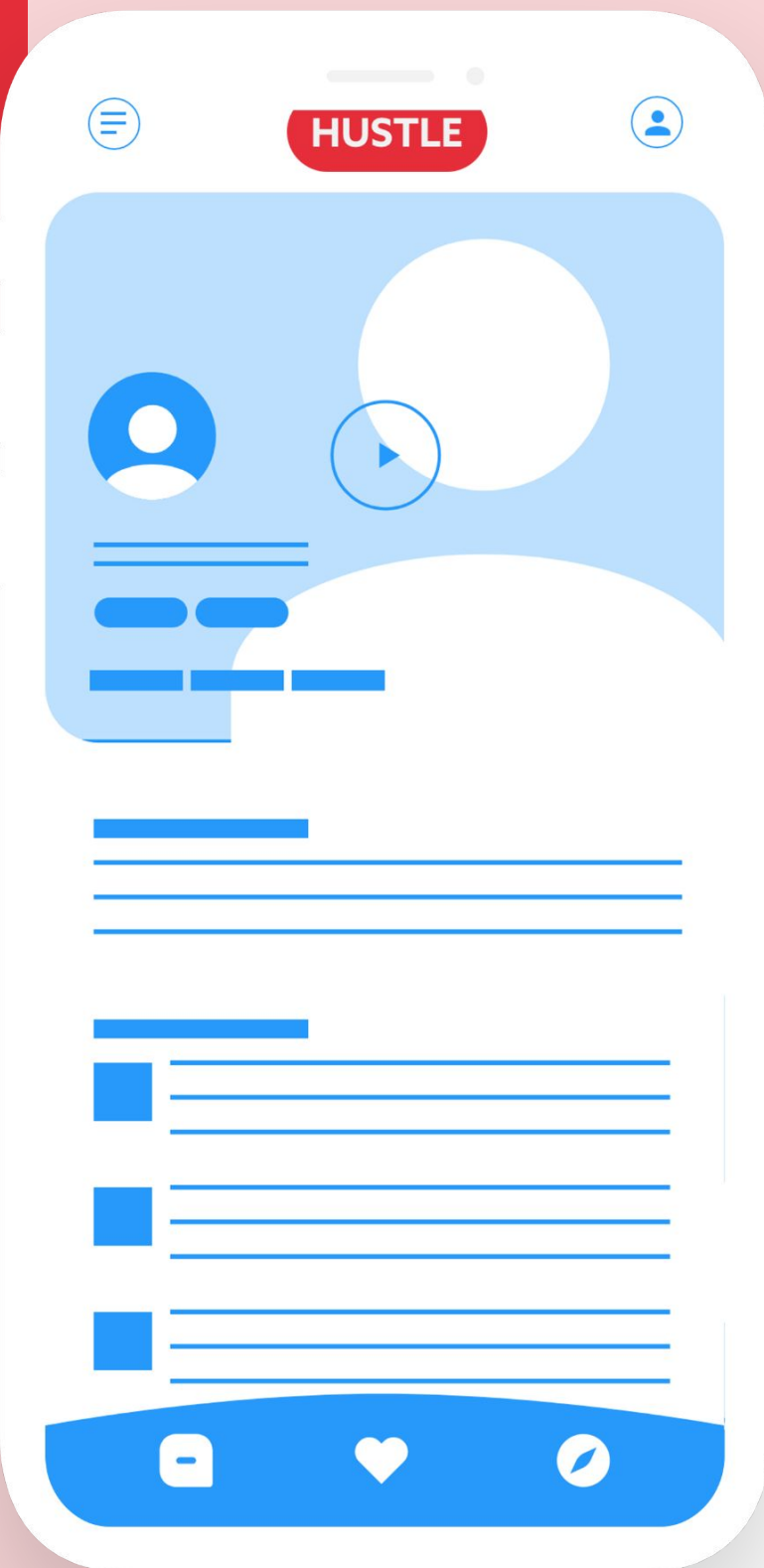
Infographics

100%

Both 6 deaf and hearing participants want to filter by ASL fluency and skills.

One in 2 people are frustrated about lack of sign language options and limited matching.

50%

Half of the participants like Tinder the most because of its popularity and simplicity.

DATE
& find your match

DATE

Jane Done

Features

- Autoplay videos in sign language
- Display users' sign language preferences

HUSTLE
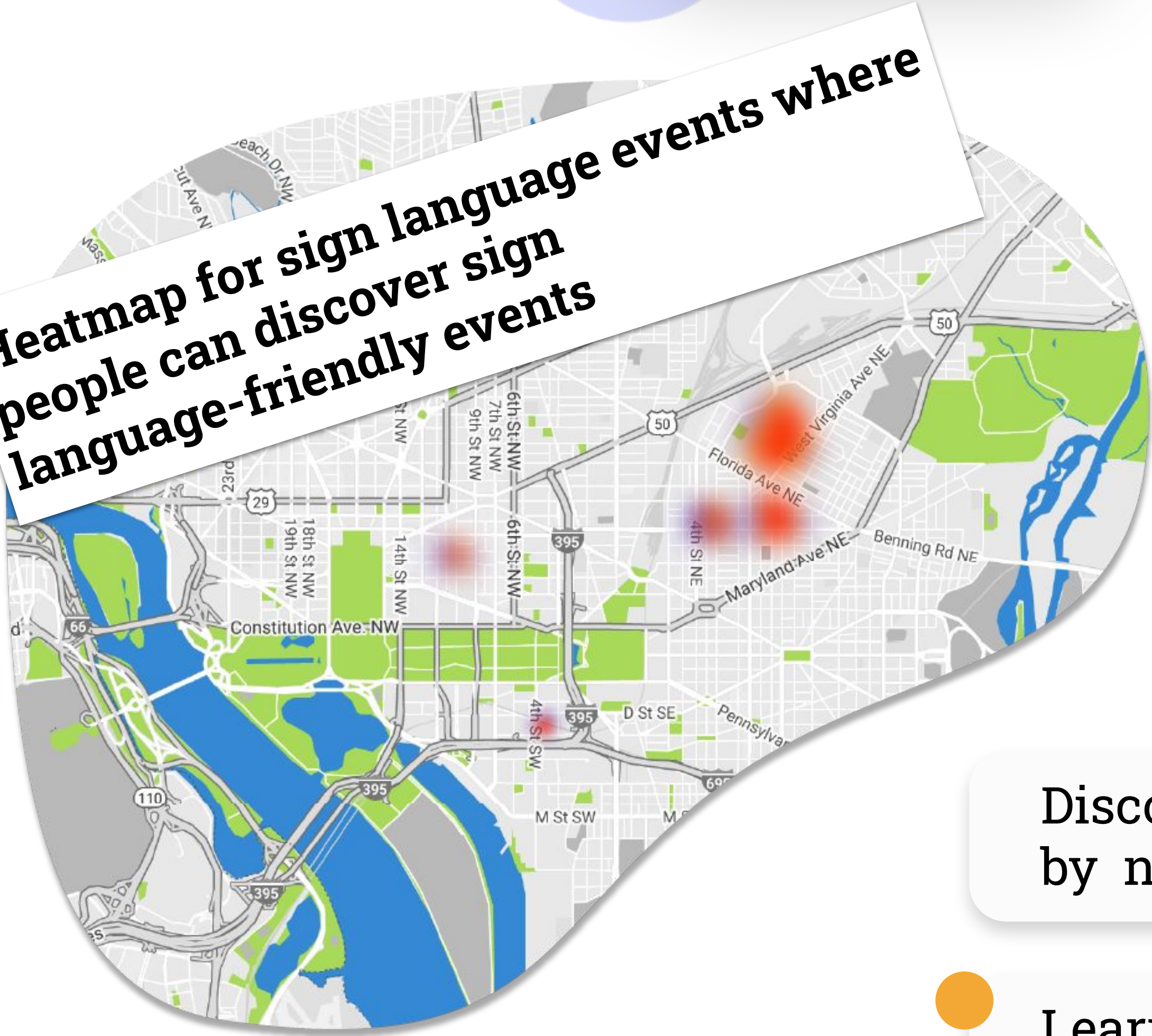### & build your dreams

HUSTLE

Features

- Showcase skills and experience
- Match with others to fill gaps in your teams
- Geolocation networking events

Heatmap for sign language events where people can discover sign language-friendly events

User Scenario

John Doe is 22 years old and deaf. He is a third-year undergraduate IT student at Gallaudet University. He enjoys the college life; However, he wants to do something different. He is interested in interacting with hearing people. He fears rejection because of how hearing people might treat him differently due to the stigma of deafness.

He has experience with dating apps, but those apps do not include sign languages, which he finds very frustrating. He wants to find people who already know or are willing to learn sign language to create deeper connections.

It is important for John to know the hearing person's ASL fluency. He is happy to teach ASL when spending time with them. Additionally, he enjoys the deaf nightlife, but has a hard time finding sign language friendly events and places.

LEARN
& improve your signing

LEARN

Good afternoon, John!

Features

- Discover course topics taught by native signers
- Learn new sign languages from across the world
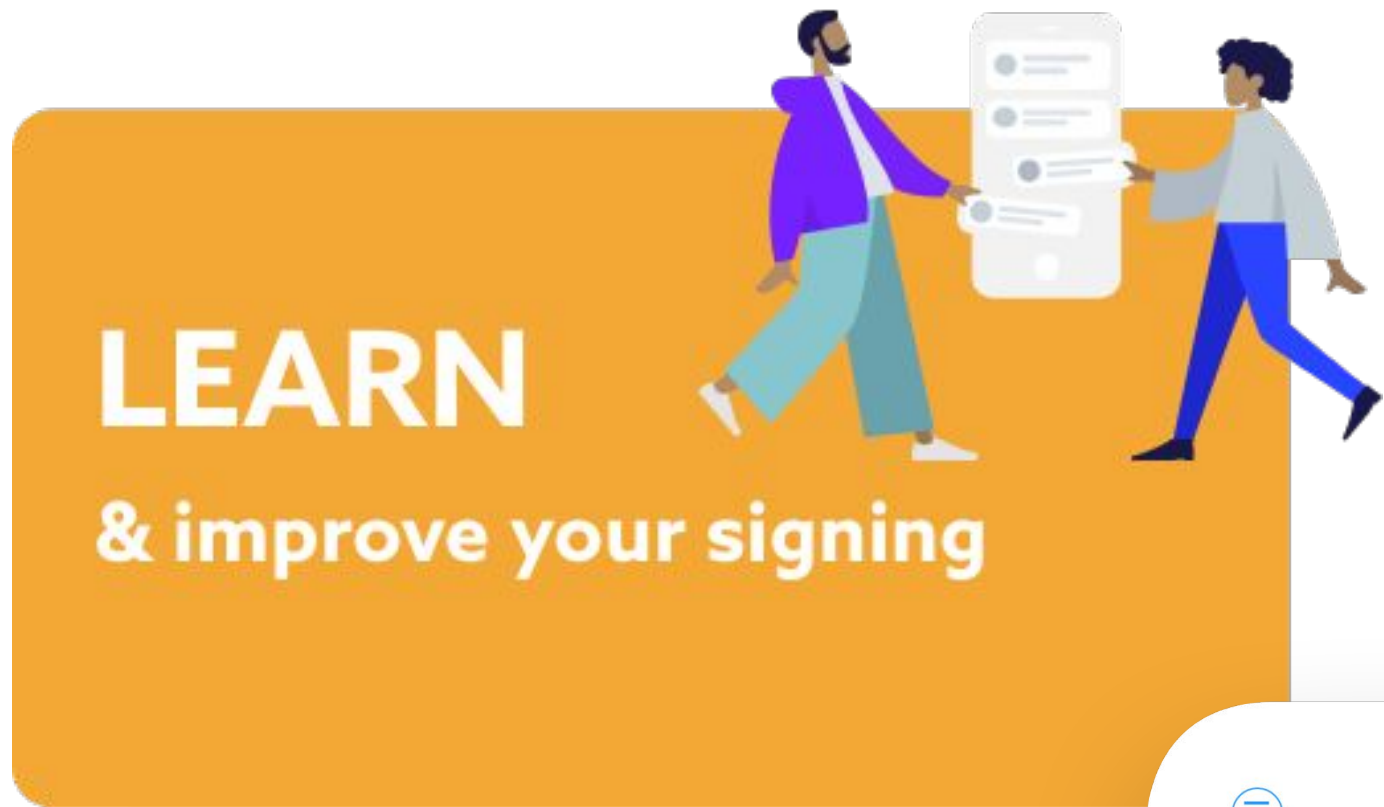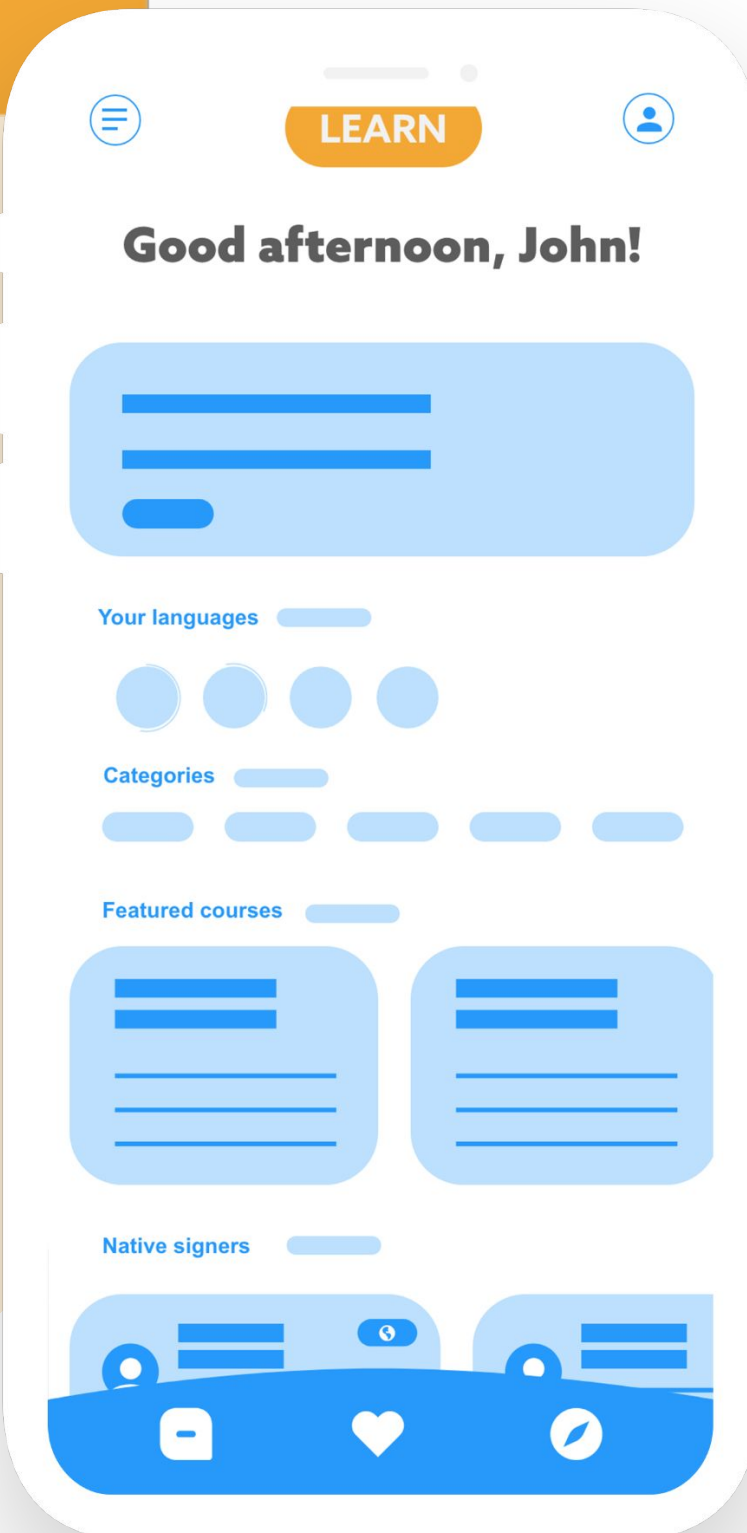- Filter courses by category

Future Work

Sign Mates intends to be designed and built in the next 6-12 months based in Washington, D.C. We will participate in several startup competitions and apply for funding, which allows us to conduct qualitative research and recruit 30-50 paid participants for interviews and user testing to gather more data about ASL filtering. We will gather features the participants want in a sign language-based dating app. We are aiming to launch Sign Mates in the D.C. during Fall 2024.

Why Washington, D.C.? It has one of the largest signing communities in the United States. We will expand our new app to other locations such as San Francisco, New York City, Seattle, Chicago, and Austin. Our company's mission is to include all users with and without disabilities regardless of their sign language fluency. Sign Mates strives to improve communication accessibility and support other sign languages not limited to ASL.