

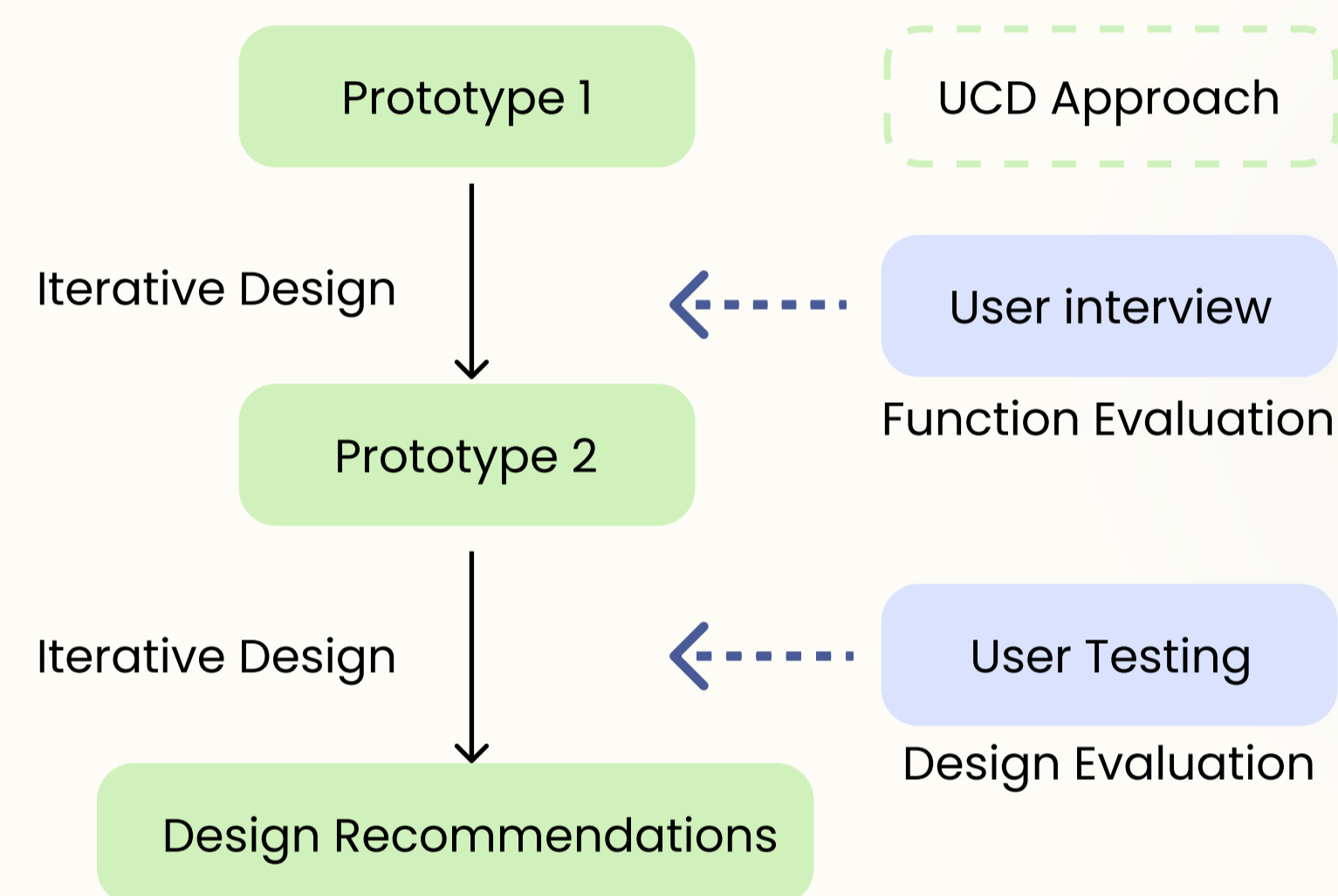
# Enhancing the User Experience in Remote Music Co-listening: Design Exploration to Encourage Curation and Interaction

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## Abstract

This study aims to explore the design of a virtual co-listening platform, taking inspiration from traditional communal music experiences such as fan-organized events. The platform seeks to replicate the collective experience of music online, fostering community building and encouraging collaborative event co-curation. It ensures that users, even when geographically separated, can immerse themselves in a synchronized musical journey. The platform's design was assessed through user interviews and usability testing to continually ensure it fosters user engagement and participation.

## Methodology



## Testing & Evaluation

### Phase 1 User Interview

#### User Engagement and Platform Appeal

"It can help me find friends with similar musical tastes and develop deeper friendships beyond music"

#### Participant

6 participants  
Target User Group

#### Music Co-listening Experience

Participants hope there's more interactive elements such as videos playing and interactive games.

#### Co-curation Challenges

It may increase engagement if the platform offers multiple roles and responsibilities for 'co-curation'.

#### Questions

Past Experience  
Needs & Expectations  
Features Evaluation

#### Community Interactions

Participants prefer to keep the original experience rather than skip or mute when listening together, but real-time messaging is strongly supported.

## Introduction & Background

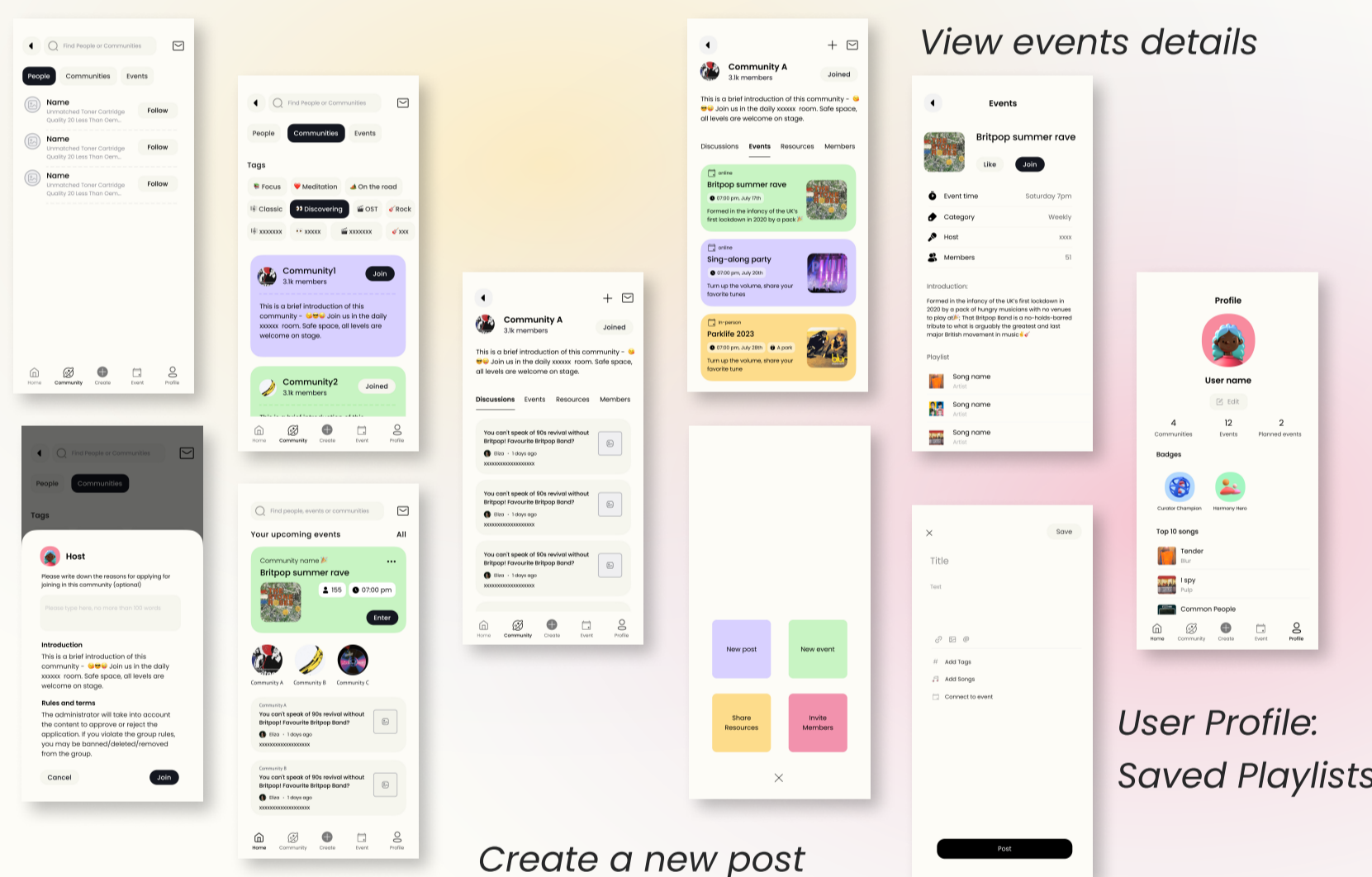
With the rise of digital streaming, the innate desire to enjoy music together remains unchanged. That's where virtual music co-listening comes in, reviving the social aspect of music. It creates a space for people to come together, connect, and have shared music experiences even when they are physically apart. Through music co-listening, we may regain the sense of community and connection that music has fostered in the traditional way.

**Research Question:** How to enhance the user experience of music co-listening by encouraging user participation in curation and interaction?

## Design Prototype

### 1 Community

Discover and join communities



Create a new post

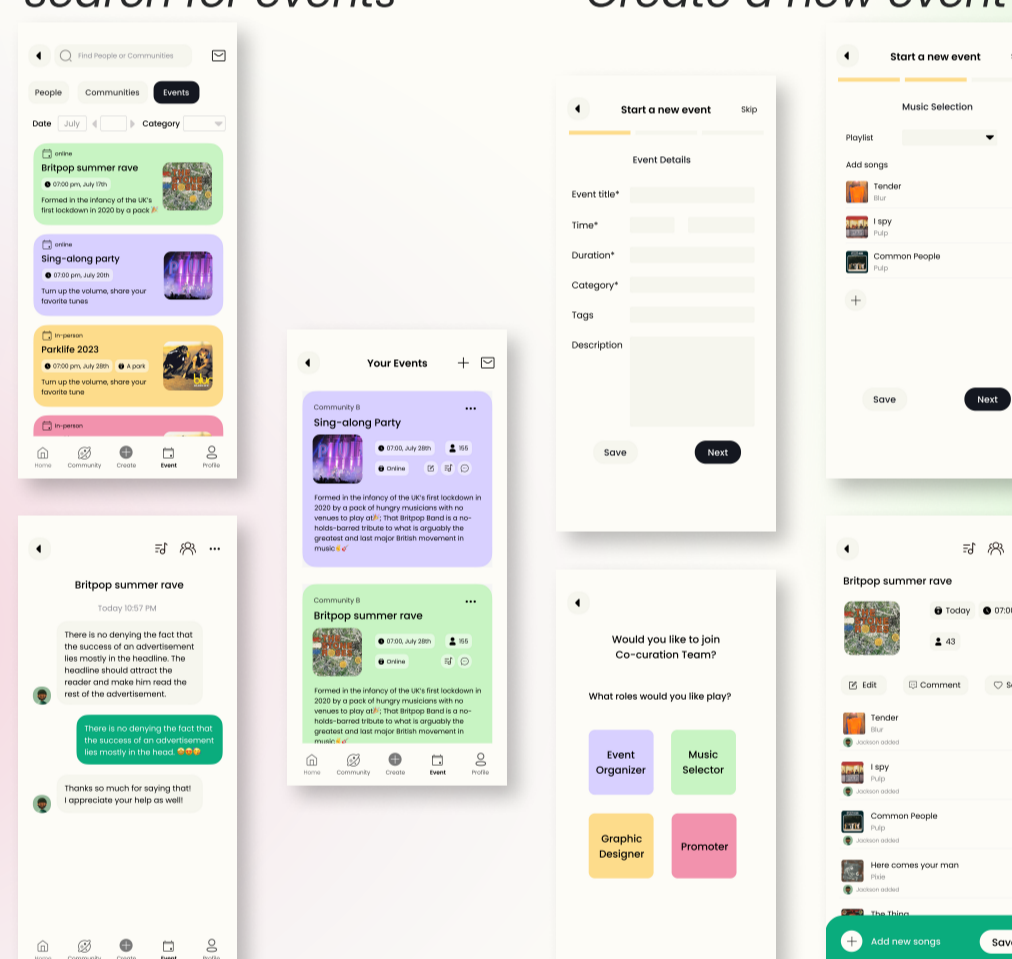
View events details

User Profile:  
Saved Playlists

### 2 Events

Search for events

Create a new event



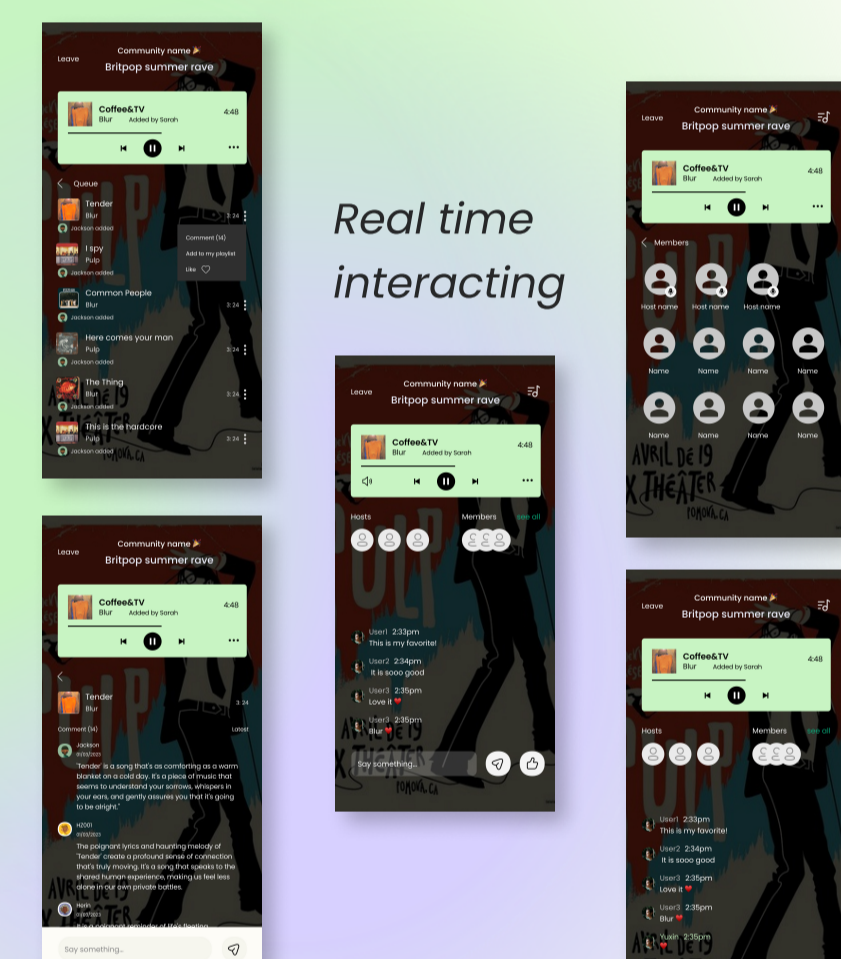
Event chat group

Join Co-curation Team

Co-curation settings

Congratulations

### 3 Co-listening Session



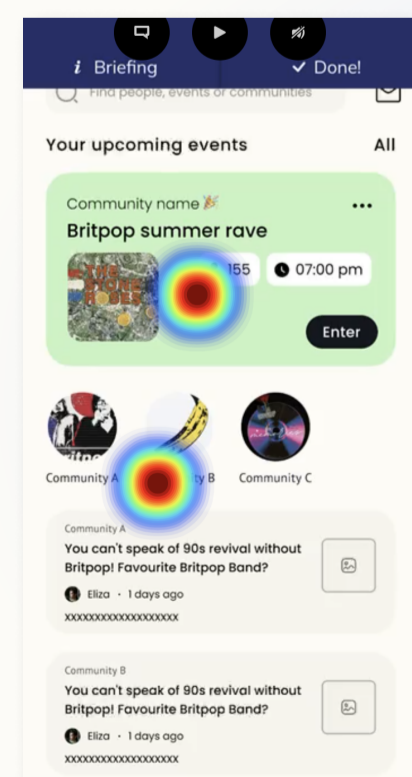
Real time interacting

Comment a song

### Phase 2 User Testing

#### Participant

1 (Pilot study) + 7



Eye gaze movement

#### User Testing Tasks

1. Discover and join a music-related community
2. Plan and co-curate an upcoming music event
3. Join a co-listening live room and interact with other users

#### Think-aloud Approach

Verbal feedback  
Screen Recording  
Taps Recording

#### Eye Tracking on Smartphones

Eye Movement  
Fixations

#### Testing Results

	Task 1	Task 3	Task 3
Completion Rate	100%	87.5%	100%
Mean Fixations	112	72	74

## Findings from Literature Review

### Co-listening: From Personal to Shared Experience

As physical distances grow, music remains a shared experience, evolving in the digital space.

### Dynamics of User Participation in Digital Music Experiences

Many co-listening activities during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting active participation, nostalgia, and community-building

### Gaps and Areas for potential innovation in current platform

Remote music co-listening may require other forms of interaction or engagement to bridge this physical gap.

### In-person Co-listening Activities:

Source of Design Inspiration

- Collective Experience
- Active Participation (curation and interaction)
- Shared Community

## Results & Findings

**UX of Co-listening** Appeal of undisturbed co-listening experience  
Desire for relaxing music experience

**Co-Curation** Hesitancy in event curation  
UI clarity issues in co-listening interactions

**Social Interaction** Recognized and valued social opportunities  
Needs of more attractive interactions

## Conclusion & Future Work

The study shows that active user engagement can enhance the experience of music co-listening. While the social aspect of the platform was favored, event curation and feature accessibility need to be strengthened. Future work should involve deeper user research with music enthusiasts, fan club leaders, and influential music figures to refine the curation functionalities.