From: Jesse Michel <lauren@prcapps.com>
Sent: 2/20/2018 5:08:06 PM
To: ejackson@ashevillenc.gov
Cc: fruiz@ashevillenc.gov
Subject: Re: [#100233] Re: Looking for help with CSS/templates for City of Asheville web applications

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Hi Frances,

Thank you, this is very helpful.

So it sounds like the goal is to globalize many of the styles, and reduce redundancy in code. I have a few additional questions:

1. Does your team typically set up a CSS framework like SASS or LESS to assist with your CSS development? It looks like you're using a dependency management/bundling tool like npm or webpack...if so, it should be pretty easy to add SASS to your asset pipeline. I would recommend we start using one if you're we're not already.Â
2. You mentioned that Bootstrap is limiting your flexibility in terms of the styling. I noticed that you're using inline bootstrap classes to format the grid. This would indicate to me that perhaps we're using an older version of Bootstrap. The newer version utilizes variables, mixins, and other SASS constructs to give you greater control over the grid (this includes things like decimal grid designations, in case the default increments aren't quite what you need). I would recommend we give Bootstrap another shot with the updated version and using the updated conventions, however if you'd like to move to another framework, we're also happy to migrate off of Bootstrap as well.
3. I know you have a github repo with Simplicity with documentation on how to run it. Do you have similar documentation for Simplicity2? I'll probably need to work with your team to get everything up and running properly, but that will be a good process to establish some documentation and figure out any edge cases for forking the repo.
4. Are we mainly looking at best practices here? Or do you want me to clean up any problematic styles as I work through? I know you had mentioned some issues on mobile. I'm happy to take care of those as part of this project. If you can compile a specific list I can work that into the scope of what's being done here.

I agree that I don't think I'll need to touch any of the React specific stuff, just the HTML and CSS mainly.

If you can let me know answers to the above, I should have what I need to put together a quote.

Thanks so much! Sounds like a fun project.

Jesse Michel
PRC Application
jesse@prcapps.com

> On Tue, 20 Feb at 2:32 PM , Frances Ruiz <fruiz@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:
> Hi Jesse,
>
> Long-term we are looking to build a set of templates for SimpliCity and for other web apps, and so SimpliCity is the start.
>
> Everything on the SimpliCity site should ideally fall under nice, well-organized styles and layouts... Right now we have HORRIBLE inline css everywhere!
>
> But the priorities to start are:
>
> a) Pages like crimes by address, development by address - "something" by address/neighborhood/street is a common pattern. Example:Â https://simplicity2.ashevillenc.gov/CRIME?entity=address&id=9688&label=70%20COURT%20PLZ,%2028801&within=83&during=183&hideNavbar=&search=70%20court%20plaza&view=map&x=-82.54841807&y=35.59542839
>
> b) A "dashboard" template (that Eric and I need to discuss a little bit more first because our 3 current dashboards for budget / homelessness / CIP are all over the place in that regard).
>
> c) Specific pages: Address page, Property page, the main Search page
>
> In general, we are hoping to move towards more modern approaches, such as CSS grid instead of bootstrap's grid system.
>
> We kind of just defaulted to bootstrap since it is easy to set up, but it is limited in some ways such as the grid system.

And everything of course needs to be responsive and look good on mobile (which right now is hit or miss).

Right now we are working on the "development" branch on the public repo:Â https://github.com/cityofasheville/simplicity2.

The styles that aren't inline monstrosities are in src -> styles. There are also a few places with .css attached to particular sections, like src -> app -> search -> searchByEntities – which we thought arranging like that was a good pattern at one point but then moved away from it.

If you click around SimpliCity you will see we have been trying to keep the overall "look" pretty simple and re-use components as much as possible.

Does the above help with giving you what you need in order to formulate an idea of the scope?

We aren't expecting you to get into the nitty gritty of the react code (unless that works better for you), but we were expecting more for you to provide us with the styles and html example templates which we can then ourselves pick apart / translate down to the react component level.

–Frances

Frances Ruiz
Digital Services Developer
City of Asheville - IT Services
Email: fruiz@ashevillenc.gov
Phone:Â 828-259-5412

> On Tue, Feb 20, 2018 at 1:58 PM, Jesse Michel <lauren@prcapps.com> wrote:
> Hi Eric,
>
> Just to get the ball rolling on this. Does your team have a master list of all of the components you'd like to apply global styling to?
>
> What might be helpful (and we'd be happy to do this), would be to set up a demo template that contains all of the potential components that are commonly used. This would be used as a reference for your team moving forward.
>
> Let me know what you had in mind, if you can send over example pages that contain components you'd like styled, this will help us determine scope.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Jesse Michel
> PRC Application
> jesse@prcapps.com
>
>> On Tue, 20 Feb at 11:28 AM , Lauren Showfety <lauren@prcapps.com> wrote:
>> Hi Eric,
>>
>> Thank you for your follow up!
>>
>> Jesse is back in the office today, and I will discuss with him this afternoon, as this projects seems to mostly need his design aesthetic that will be applied. Patrick would also assist.Â
>>
>> Really, for us it's just a matter of scheduling, but it's definitely something we're interested in and would love to help!
>>
>> We will discuss and get back to you about this asap!
>>
>> Thank you for your time.
>> Have a great afternoon!
>>
>> Lauren Showfety
>> Project Manager
>> PRC Applications
>>
>>> On Tue, 20 Feb at 10:12 AM , Eric Jackson <ejackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

Hey, Lauren,

Just wanted to check in on this. Since we will need to have this done pretty quickly (we'll be building some starter dashboards for the April 12 CfA meeting that need it), want to make sure that if this isn't possible with PRC, we can figure out an alternative quickly.

Thanks,

Eric

On Mon, Feb 12, 2018 at 9:36 AM, Eric Jackson <ejackson@ashevillenc.gov> wrote:

> Hi, Lauren,
>
> I chatted briefly with Jesse the other day about the possibility that PRC Apps might help us develop style templates and components for web applications that we develop. You can find a brief description here, but feel free to ask Frances and me if you have further questions.
>
> While there may be longer-term work on this, our immediate goal is to define some good basic templates by April, when we'll be inviting folks at Code for Asheville to develop their own dashboards using SimpliCity and City data.
>
> Let us know how we should proceed.
>
> Thanks!
>
> Eric
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> –
> **Eric Jackson**
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> City of Asheville: IT Services
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> Â

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