Last Resort

"...a food desert census tract is defined as a low-income tract where a substantial number or substantial share of residents does not have easy access to a supermarket or large grocery store." - United States Department of Agriculture - 2012. Last Resort is an interactive installation project, stationed mainly in UIC's CAVE2 environment, and also as a standalone Unity project. Last Resort is designed as a full-immersion experience for one to experience first-hand the corrosive effects of living within a food desert. The experience is a simple one: travel to the grocery store for a list of items necessary for your next meal, and travel back. Simple. Or at least it should be.
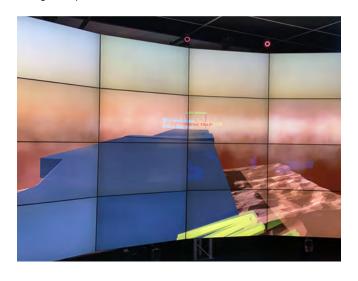
Artists

Tori Pawlyk

Lance Cole

Safwan Rahman

Interaction

One might assume a trip to the grocery store would not even be worthy of a mention; however, for many in the world, this concept could not be further from the truth. For them, living in a food desert can be a hell in and of itself. Today, then, you experience just that. The installation consists mainly of a huge stretch of road, and various texts and objects interacting with - and against - the user. Reading the text elements of the piece leads to it becoming increasingly critical, irate even, over your choice of diet - or lack thereof. Progression leads to the text elements around you forming blockades to your progress, perhaps even going out of their way to do so. One must slog through the process.

Collaborative

We each all contributed to the general ideas of the project. Tori worked on the design for the texts and items displayed throughout the virtual field. She implemented the road and the effects of the road such as the desert storm effects. Lance worked on the scripts for the road and items. He worked on getting the scripts for typography to follow the user as they progress. Safwan worked on the scenery for the virtual field. He also helped with implementing the scripts. This was all accomplished throughout consistent group meetings in which we all dedicated ourselves to.