

We talked to potential customers and this is what we learnt

People are excited about having conversations and learning from other students (both grad & undergrad)

The food is still an important element of the experience Students were open to the idea of meeting people from other schools

Students would use the platform again depending on their first experience

Students would like the idea of a membership/ club if they like their first experience in the platform

There is an opportunity to partner with someone to provide hosts with ingredients

Users would use the platform monthly and pay between a range of \$10-30 People want to be guests before offering themselves as hosts. Hosts are not motivated only by the money



MVP

Dinner party tests with students



TESTING OUR MVP

Hypothesis:

We believe students will attend dinner parties hosted by students and alumni in order to socialize, network, meet new people and learn about different topics.

To verify:

Students are interested in these types of dinners and conversations between "strangers" can flow

Metrics:

- How many people are interested in attending the dinner party?
- Do people enjoy the company and the conversation?
- Does the friction between strangers effect the atmosphere?
- Will they come back?
- How do they value a diner like this?
- Their expectations vs reality

Animated wireframes simulating the platform





MVP

6 students from New School & NYU

Perspectives from diverse cultures:
Caribbean American,
Colombian, Chinese,
Senegalese, Chilean
and Indian

More than <u>10</u> languages



How the conversation flowed

from **private dog parks** in New York to **colonialism**

from **holographic theory** to **God formula**

from **self identification** to **neural activities** in the brain



Menu:

Green Salad Bread Guacamole & Chips

Shelled pasta with home made tomato cream sauce

Chicken with zucchini & red peppers

Icecream & brownie

MVP KEY LEARNINGS

The host

Potential hosts may feel the need to attend the dinner once before they host their own dinner, so that they understand what is expected of them

Curating host quality: Ratings, reviews and repeated visits as metrics

The Platform needs a guideline to be followed by hosts - Coordinating guests ETA with cooking

Guests

Some guests may feel more comfortable if they come with a friend

Guests value meeting new friends and deep conversation more than food.

Guests would use the platform at least once a month regularly

Food & drink

Hosts need the cost of the meal to be covered but are not necessarily motivated by earning money from it

Wine helped the conversation to flow

The food is easily covered but the price raises substantially if you offer drinks.
Suggestion: each guest brings a bottle of wine.

Conversation

Casual introduction at the beginning is necessary

Unofficial moderator for conversation is helpful

A guideline of recommendations for the group getting to know each other might be necessary

The Business Model Canvas





Student hosts Student quests University partners Building Payment processors network

Motivations: Sharing interests and connect with people. Dining with company,

Key enjoying good Resources home-cooked meals

Key Activities

Platform maintenance Building host network university/community

Building relationships Guests:

Website - App

with partners

Value

Proposition Hosts: Company + new

friends Networking Space to share and learn interests

Good company + new friends Networking Space to share and learn interests Enjoy home-cooked meals Community building



Customer ratings Brand ambassadors Identity check Security for guests and hosts Users profiles and interests

Channels



Customer Segments

> Undergraduate, graduate students and Alumni

Students who want to make new friends and connections within a specific community

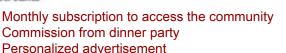
Students who enjoy food experiences and keen to try new cuisines

Cost Structure

Platform creation and maintenance Marketing (influencers and advertisement) Office + Staff + food inspectors



Revenue Streams





VALUE PROPOSITION CANVAS



Gain Creators



Bringing together students to connect and bond with each other, in person, over authentic home-cooked food Provide a platform for students to network

A platform for students to meet and share their interests and hobbies with other students (also alumni).



Pain Relievers



Finding people that share your same interests. Or finding people to learn from them

Access to authentic home-cooked food

Affordable and inaccessible means of socializing and networking





New friends & network **New Experiences** Informal setting for interesting conversations Learning new cultures through food For hosts, cooking for friends & earning extra

Pains



food

Difficulty in scheduling a common activity between friends

No time to cook homemade food Meeting up in restaurants turns out to be expensive

Inaccessible conversations about certain topics

Surrounded by same people, bored of same conversations

Customers Jobs

A platform to make new friends & network Access to people with

specific interests

Access to authentic and affordable home-cooked

LEAN CANVAS

PROBLEM

Students find it difficult to connect with students from other universities
Students find it difficult to share their interests offline through social events
People enjoy eating home cooked meals but don't have time to cook

Conferences, hang out in cafes, book clubs, eating in restaurants

SOLUTION

Themed dinners Home-cooked meals Feeling part of a community

UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

Able to connect by interests with peers across different campuses throughout food

UNFAIR ADVANTAGE

Community and history

CUSTOMERS

University Students in USA (grad and undergrad)

KEY METRICS

How many students subscribe monthly Percentage of subscription renewal Universities using platform

High Level Concept:

Meeting new people and networking effortlessly.

CHANNELS

Mobile applications University social media Facebook Instagram

Early Adopters:

NYC Graduate Students

COST STRUCTURE

Customer acquisition costs Platform infrastructure and maintenance. Staff

REVENUE STREAMS

Monthly subscription to access the community Commission from dinner party Personalized advertisement

MARKET SIZE



All university students in America

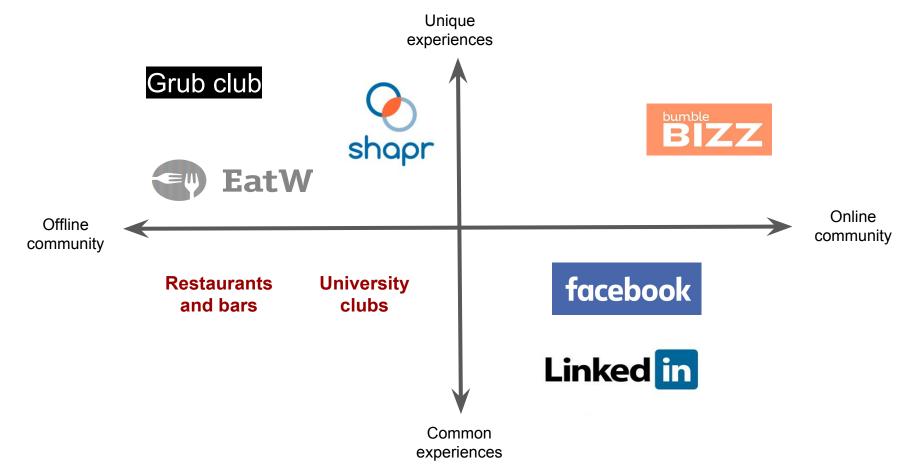


SAM 18.4 mn

80% of TAM

Year 1: 15% of SAM

COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS



HERE IS WHERE WE ARE NOW

Hypothesis validated

Viable Business model (new business model)

Continuing with potential customer insights and dinner tests

Community building with students and alumni

Brand awareness and word of mouth amongst students

Partnered with universities in NYC

Building of platform. UX/UI

HERE IS WHERE WE HOPE TO BE IN 6 MONTHS AND IN 12 MONTHS

Platform launched Consolidated in NYC Talking to investors and sponsors.

Profitable in 12 months Stable loyal customers (hosts & guests)

New cities added in platform: Boston

Chicago

Philadelphia