

GROWING LOCAL: { Partnering Libraries with Library Schools to Expand the Profession & Develop Professionals }

problem:

There are over 50 residential, ALA-accredited library and information science programs in the U.S. and Canada - many on campuses with robust library systems. Despite their proximity, however, libraries and SLIS departments tend to operate separately. Rarely do they share their knowledge and expertise in intentional ways, and hardly ever do they collaborate on scholarly projects or research. How can academic librarians and LIS faculty work together to improve LIS education?

solution:

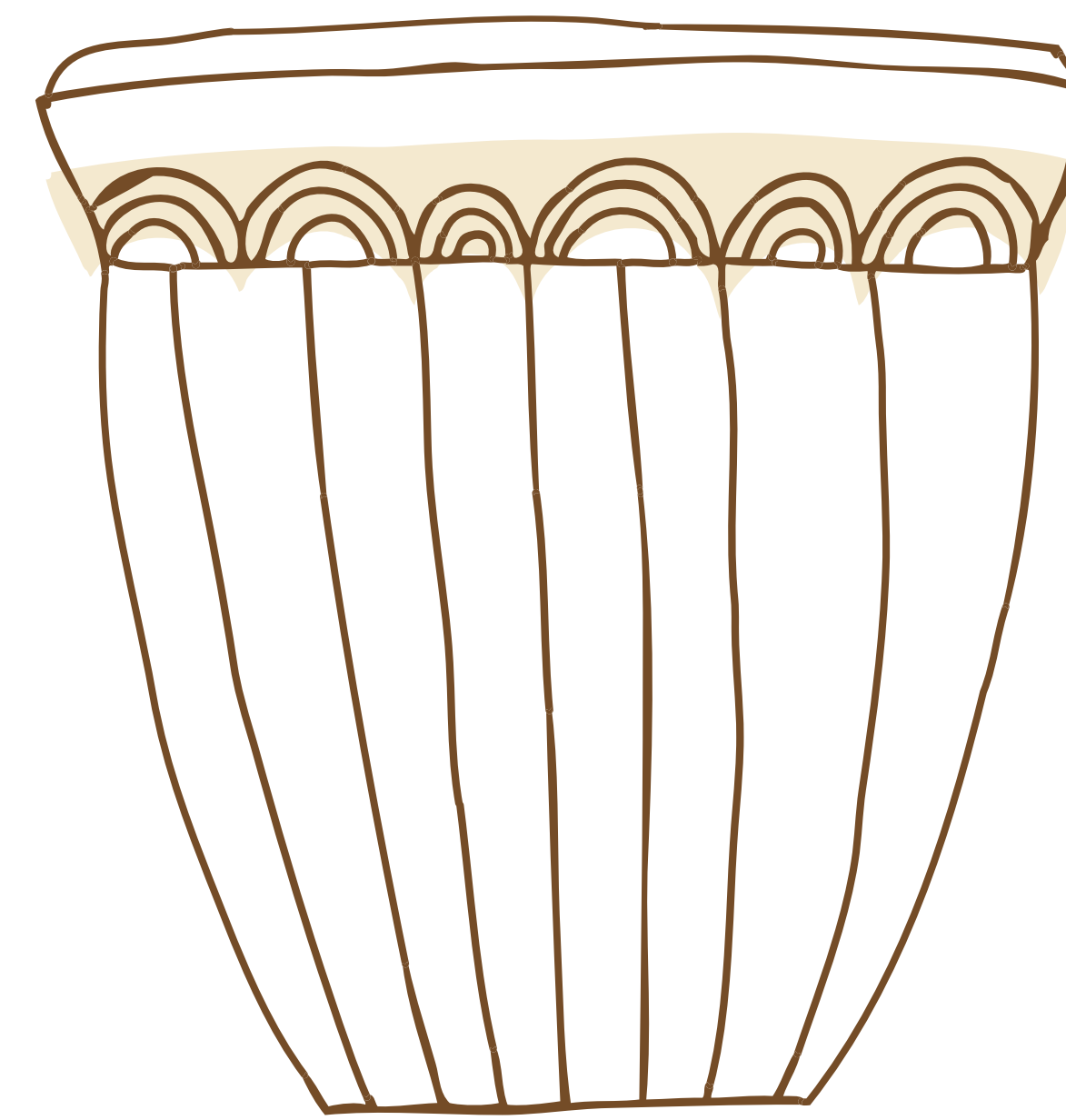
Librarians and SLIS faculty at Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis addressed this problem by establishing the joint research conference on Research, Scholarship, and Practice. Organized by librarians, SLIS faculty, and SLIS students, the conference provides students and librarians with the opportunity to formally present and discuss their research. Most importantly, the conference gives students an occasion - a reason - to combine theory with practice; they can apply their coursework in research methods in a real way. The submissions and peer-review process orients them to both the professional culture and professional expectations. By practicing their presentation skills in a relatively mild, non-threatening environment, students can begin their careers in librarianship with the advantage of having had this experience. Student attendees also benefit from the conference since they are exposed to experts in their field - not only librarians and faculty, but also nationally recognized guest speakers. Finally, the conference gives students, librarians, *and* faculty a chance to network and pursue collaborations. As a result, several mentoring relationships and scholarly collaborations have occurred - between students and librarians and between faculty and librarians.

description:

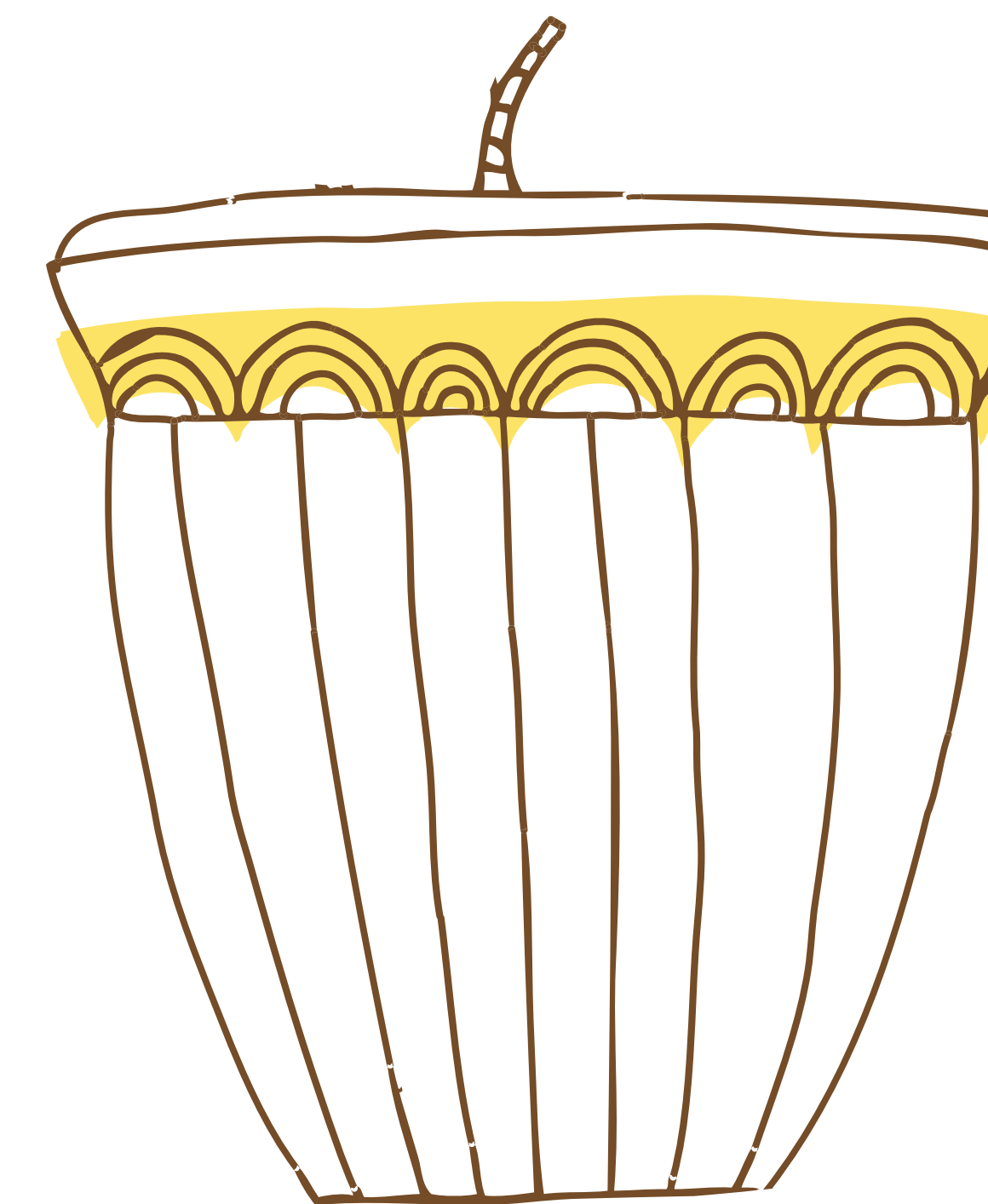
The half-day conference is held in the spring (late March) and includes a keynote speech, two to four presentations, a poster session, a panel discussion, and lunch. Planning begins at least one year prior to the event. Keynote speakers must be selected in April and booked by early summer. The bulk of the organizing, however, takes place at the beginning of the semester - in late August, early September. Students and librarians who want to present must submit a 200-word abstract and 800-word paper including references (initial data is fine). Poster submissions require a 200-word abstract as well. Librarians and LIS faculty select the presenters according to specified criteria by early February.

Presenters: Meagan Lacy, Assistant Librarian, IUPUI & Andrea Copleand, Assistant Professor, IUPUI

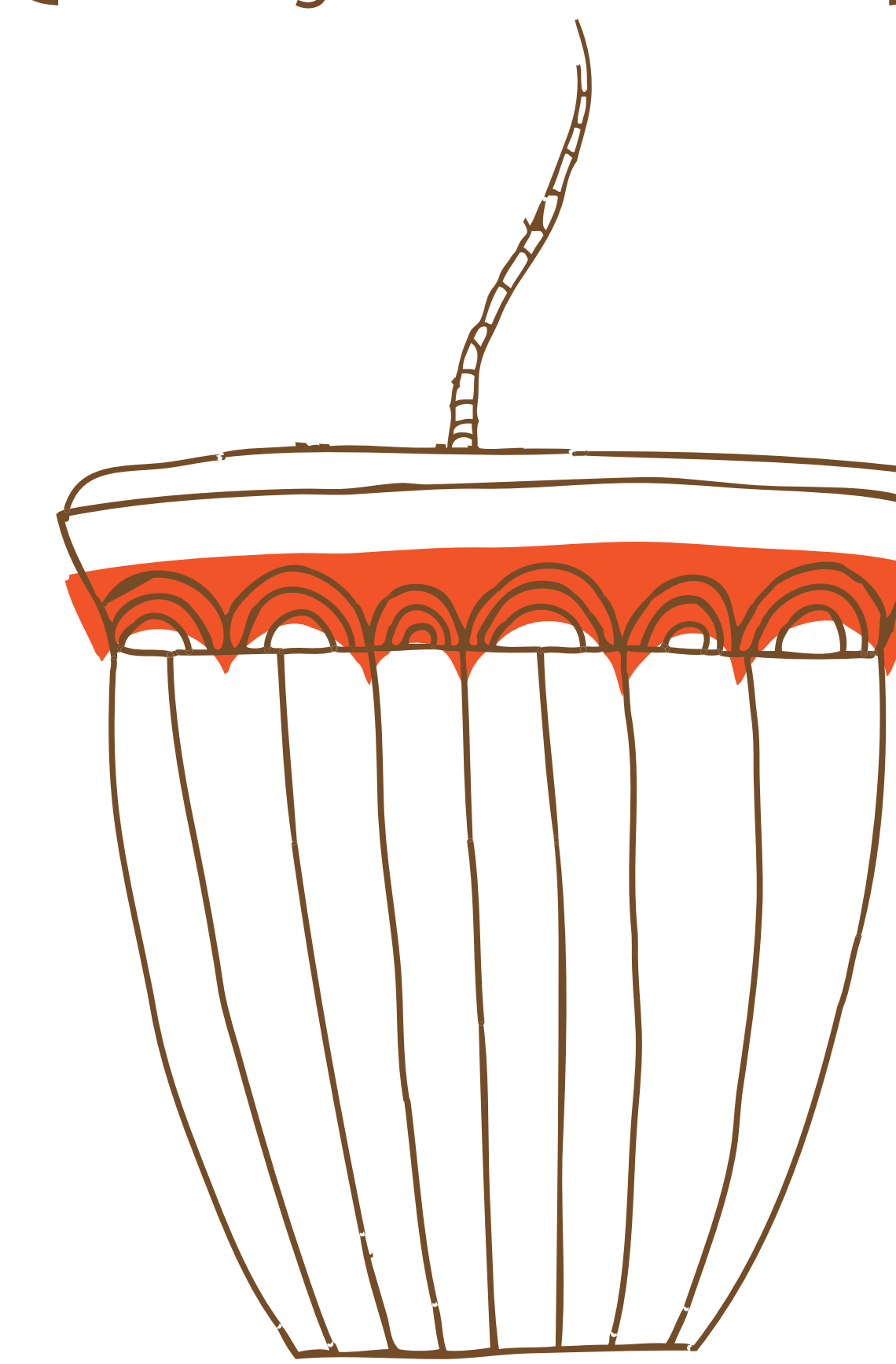
1 { Find partners
to organize & to peer review }



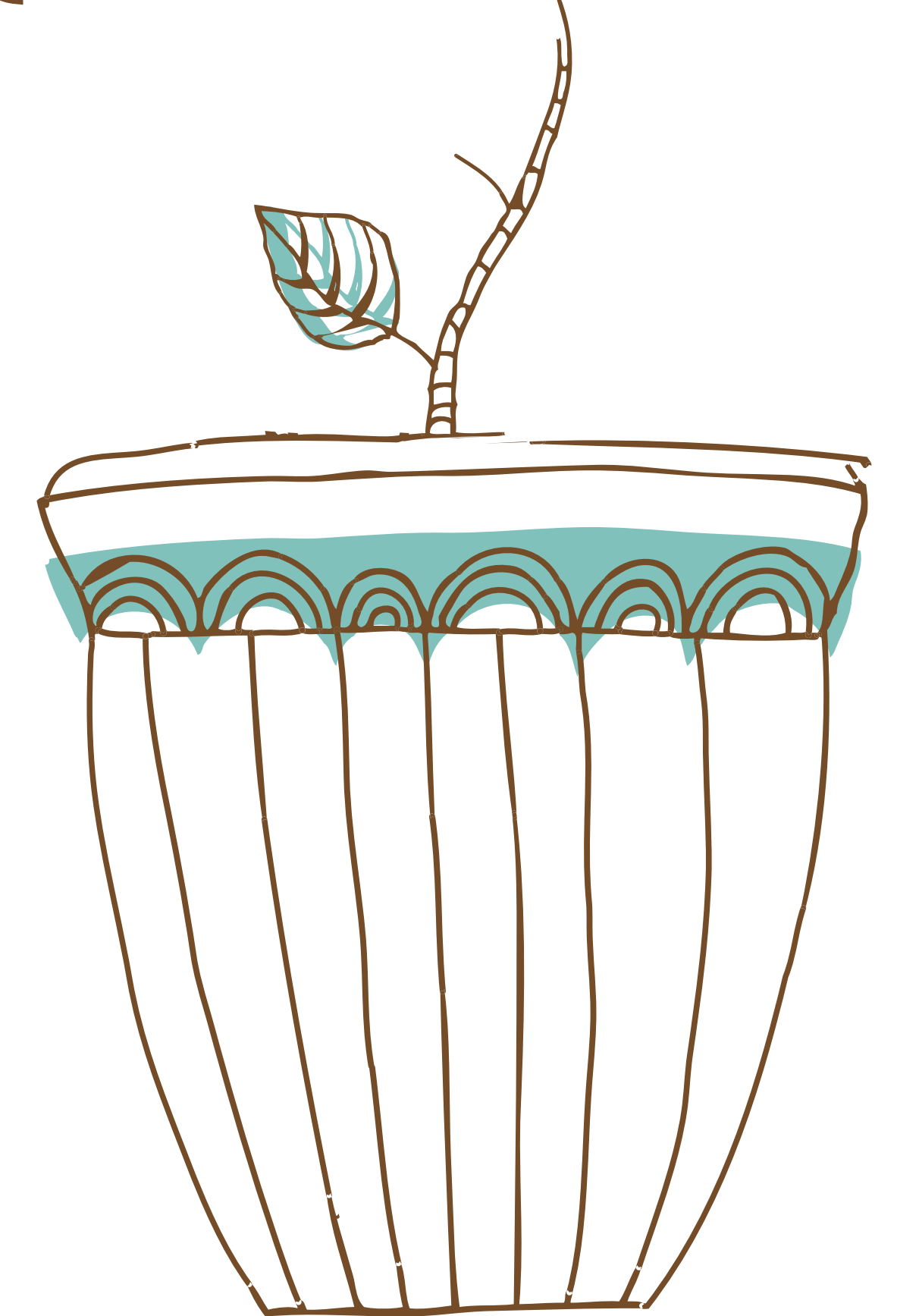
2 { Find money
to fund speaker, food & swag }



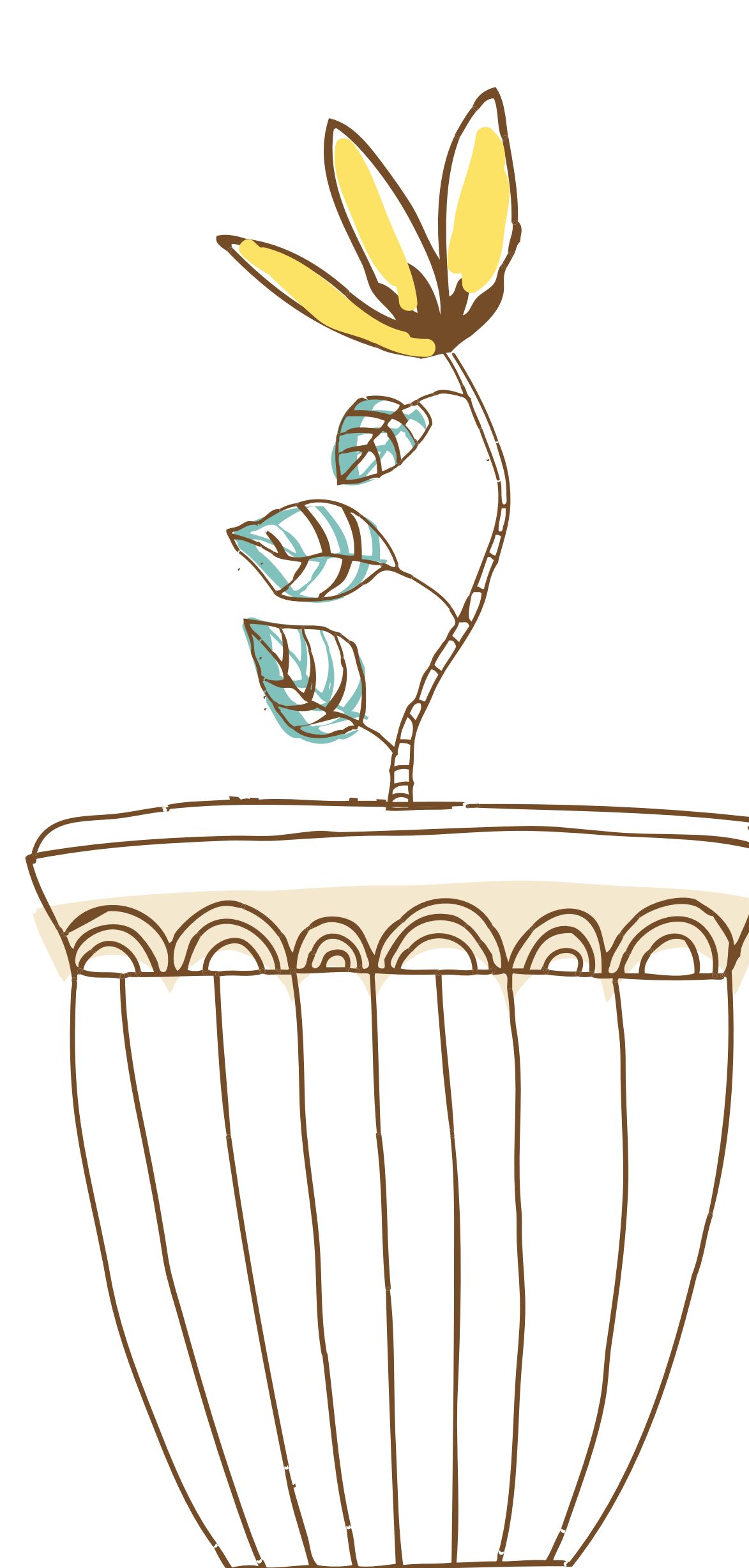
3 { Find spaces
for conference, posters,
mixing & lunch }



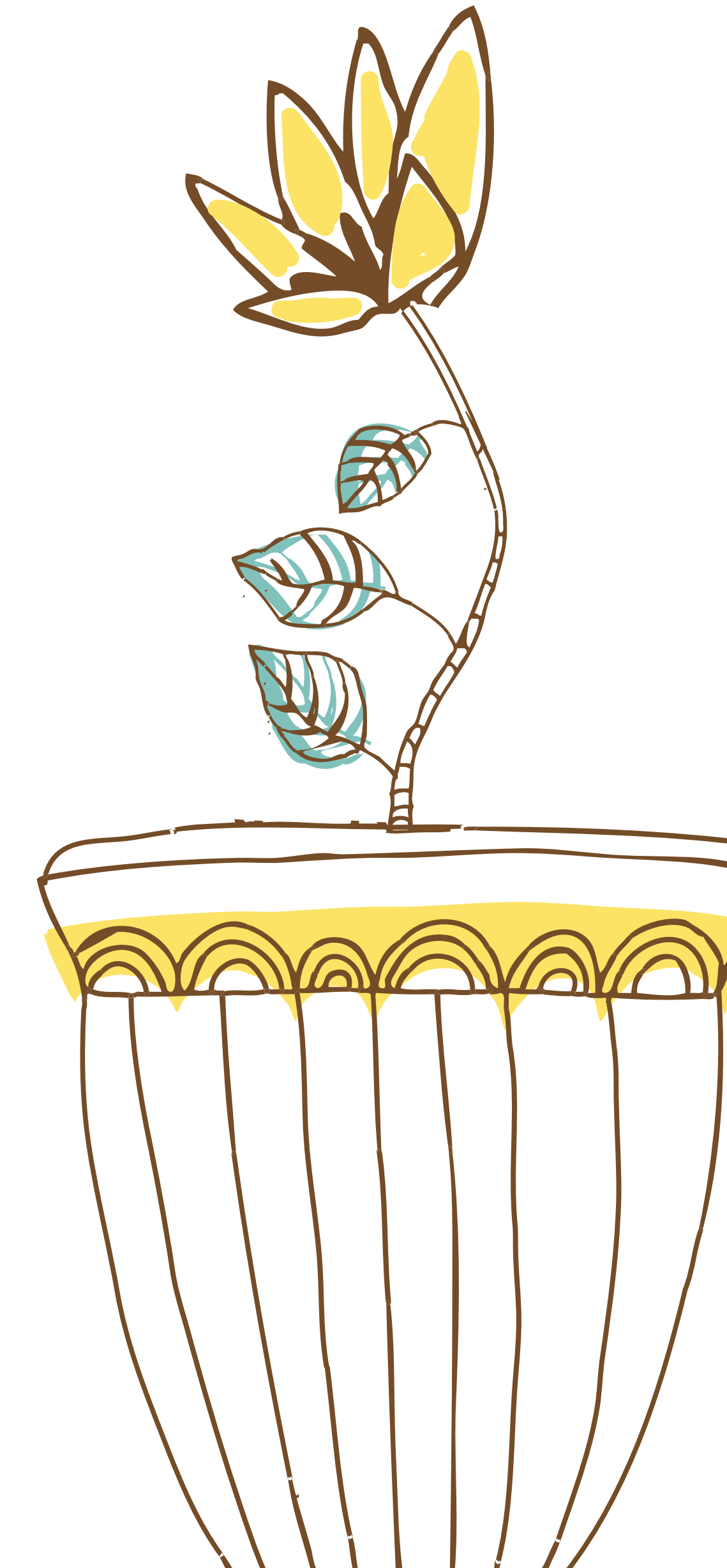
4 { Find & confirm
a keynote speaker }



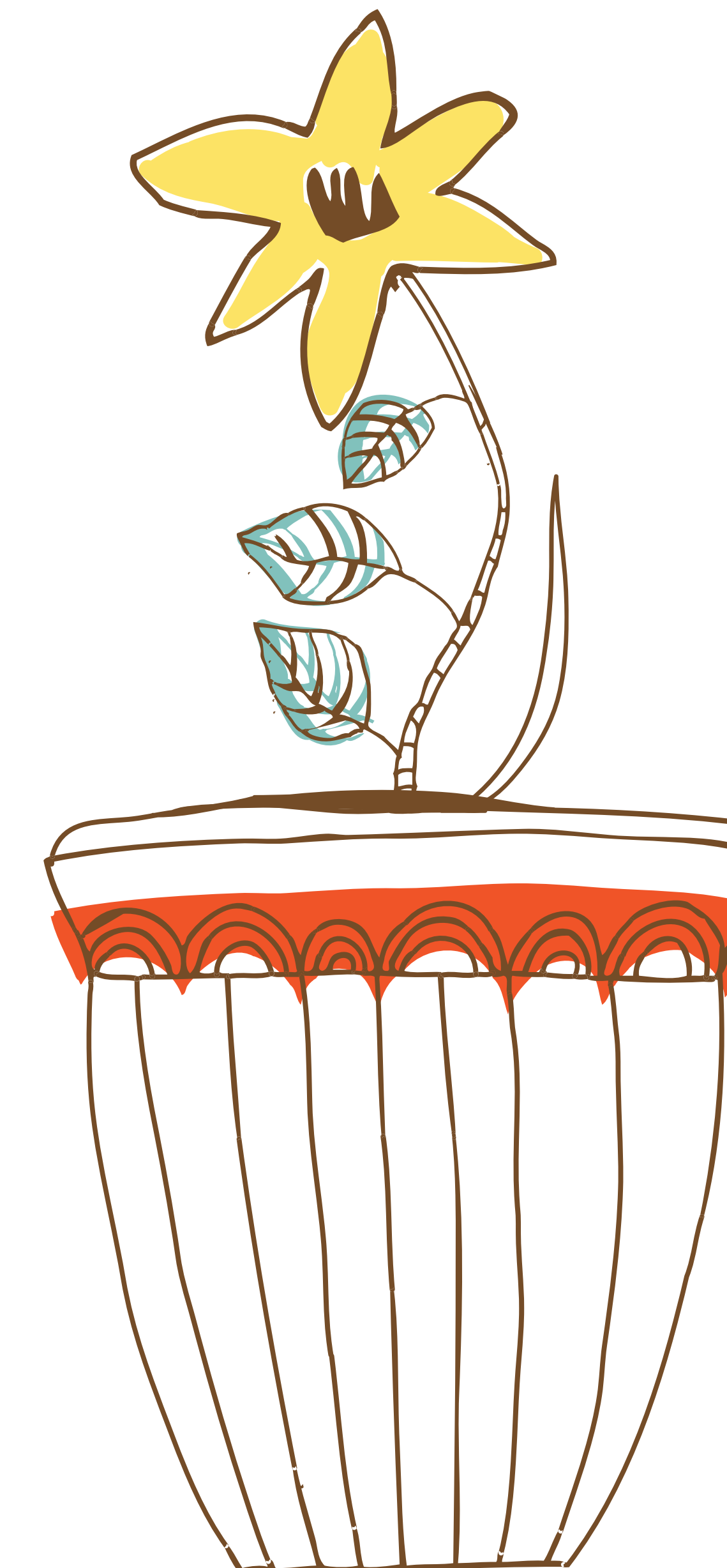
5 { Create website
to solicit submissions
& registrants }



6 { Market & target
for presenters and conference }



7 { Finalize details }



8 { Evaluate
for improvements }

