

A photograph of a brick building with a series of arches and a modern sculpture in the foreground. The building has a prominent entrance with steps and a metal railing. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Refreshing Our Spaces with New Artwork: Mbira Photographs of Paul Berliner

**Jamie Keesecker (Duke University)**

**SEMLA 2022 Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

# History and Background

## Paul F. Berliner

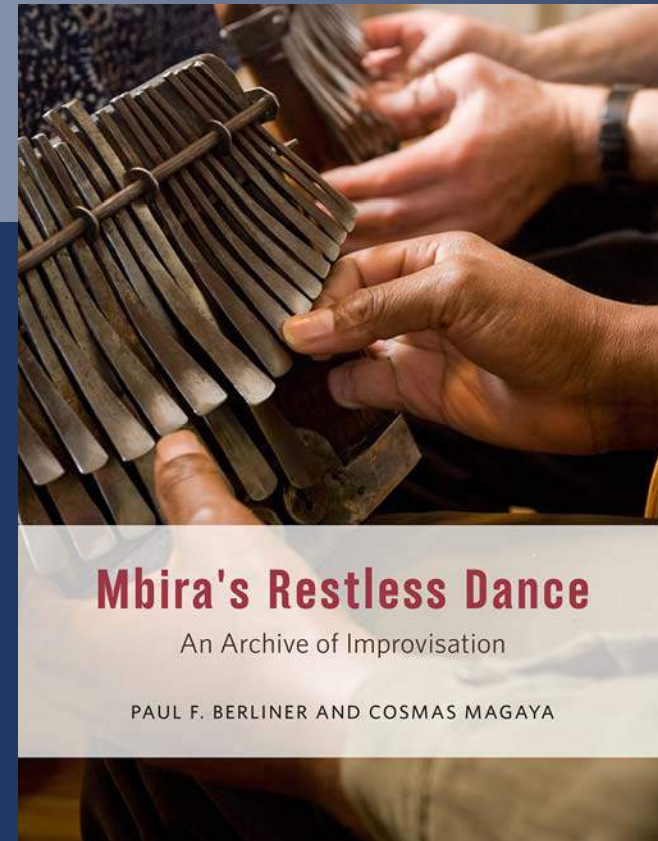
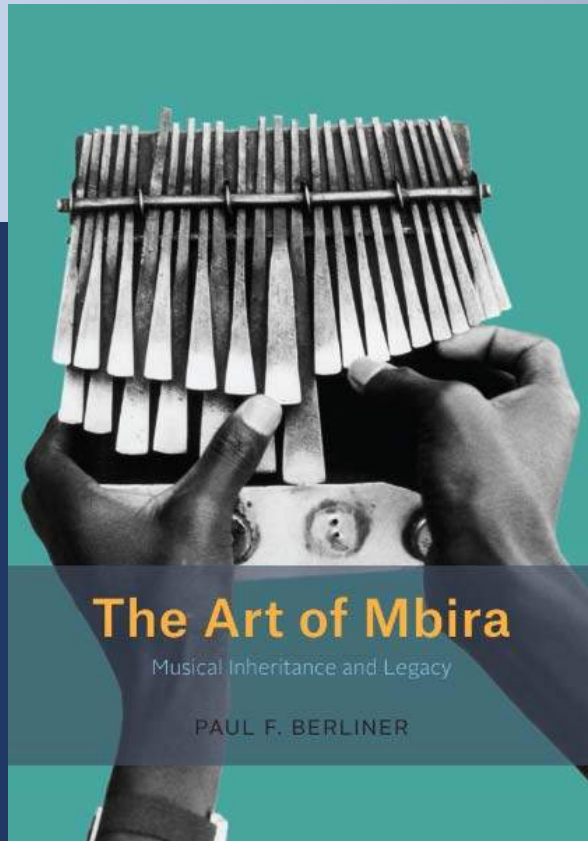
Arts and Sciences  
Distinguished Professor  
Emeritus of Music

Professor of Music in  
Duke Music Department  
2005 - 2016

≈50 years devoted to  
researching traditional  
music of Zimbabwe

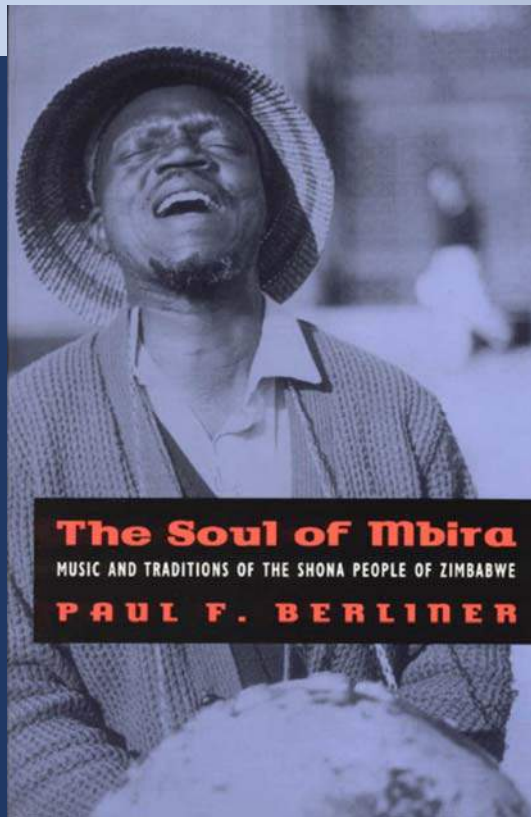


Photo: uncredited, *Playing It Forward*. Duke Magazine. Jan.-Feb. 2007



University of Chicago Press, 2020.

# History and Background



## The Soul of Mbira

First edition: Berkeley : University of California Press, c1978.

Coordinated with two recordings published by Nonesuch Records:

*The Soul of Mbira* (Nonesuch H-72054, 1973)

*Shona Mbira Music* (Nonesuch H-72077, 1977)

(re-released on CD in 2002)

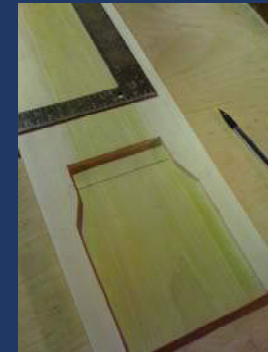
Second edition: Chicago ; London : University of Chicago Press, 1993.

Includes Appendix: *Building and Playing a Shona Karima*

# History and Background

## Paul Berliner's Undergraduate Mbira Class

- Students learn to play Shona Mbira while studying its history
- Mbira-building workshop
- Mbira instruments on course reserve in Music Library



# The Gift

13 Pictures in all

Paul Berliner's photographs

- Taken during field work between 1971 – 1975
- Rhodesia (British colony)
- Zimbabwe independence - 1980



49" x 35"

# The Gift

## 11 Pictures

Glossy photographs mounted on  
 $\frac{1}{2}$ " foam board



20" x 30"



30" x 20"



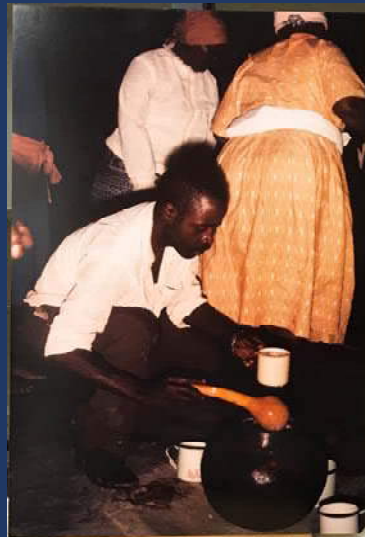
20" x 30"



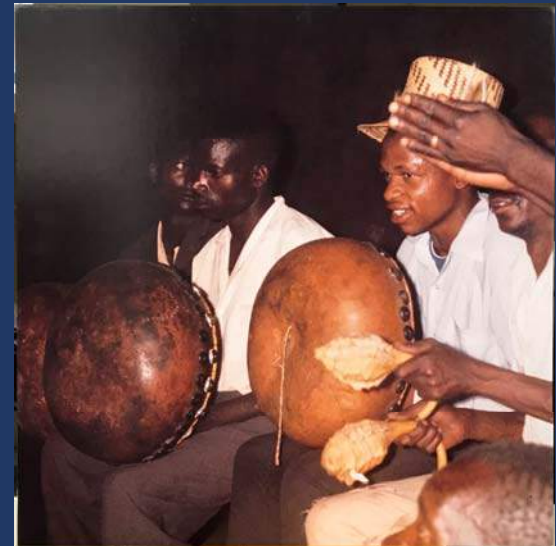
# The Gift



30" x 20"



30" x 20"



30" x 30"



# The Gift



40" x 60"



60" x 30"



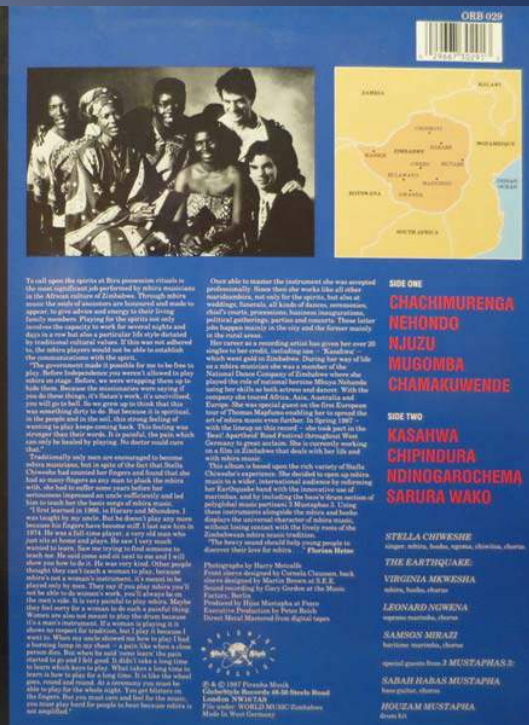
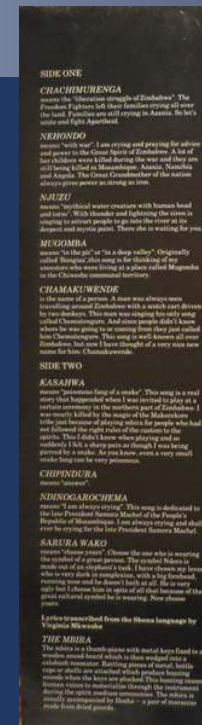
48" x 48"

# The Gift



28" x 20"

Stella Chiweshe



Photographer: Harry Metcalfe

Images from Discogs.com

# The Plan

**Meeting with Head Conservator & Head of Exhibition Services**

## **Considerations:**

- **Officially accession as items in collection?**
- **Preservation vs. Display**
- **Damage or Vandalism**
- **Method of Installation for Display**

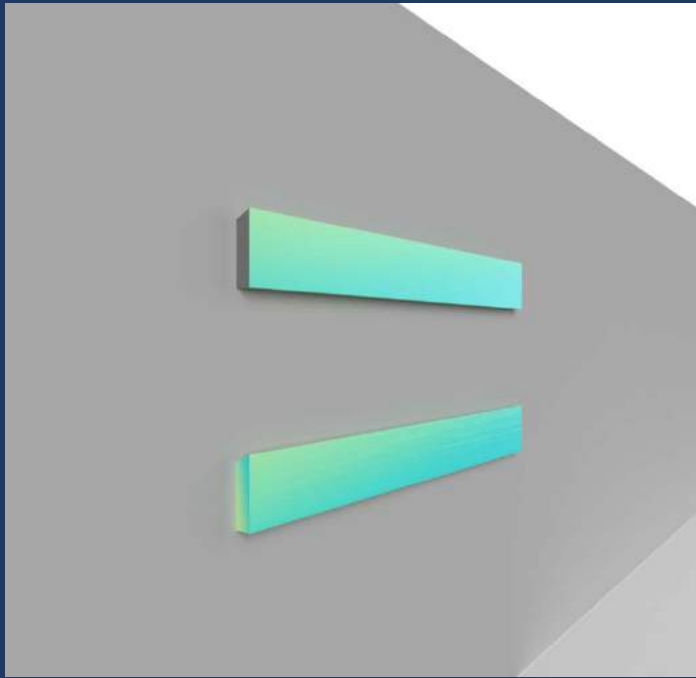
# The Plan

Replace some of our existing artwork

## Hanging Cleats (French Cleats)

- 1/2" Birch Plywood
- Double-cleat system for extra support
  - One pair of cleats attaches to wall
  - One pair of cleats attaches to back of foamboard
- Consistent measurements = pieces of similar size & orientation can be interchanged

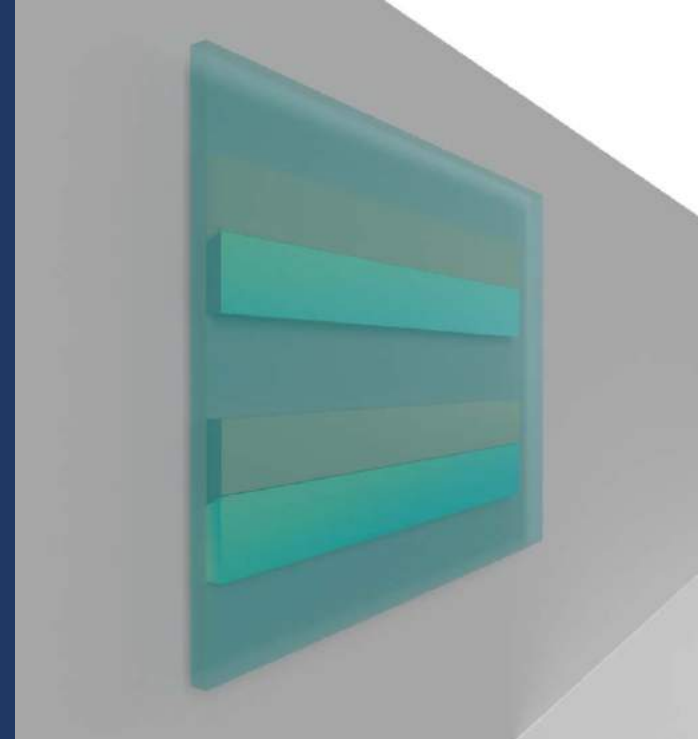
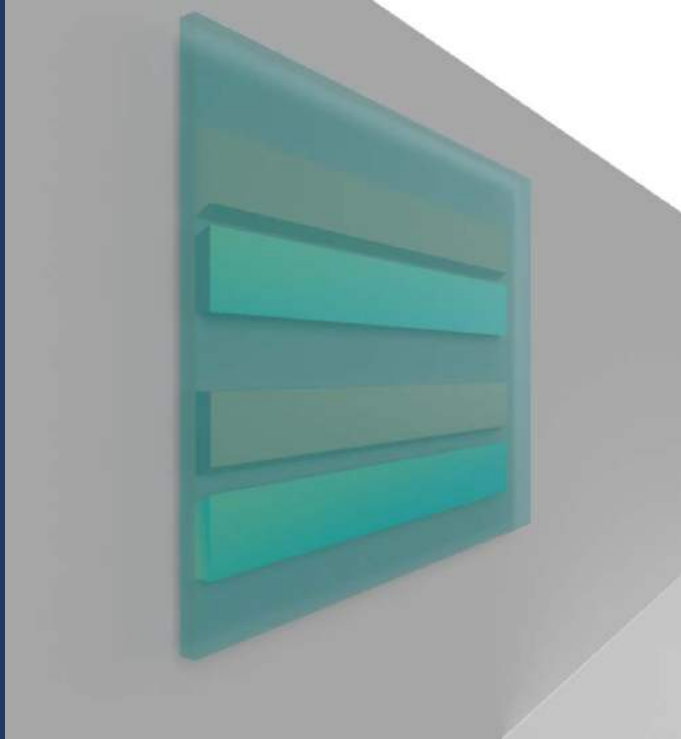
# The Plan – 3D Renderings



← wall  
piece →

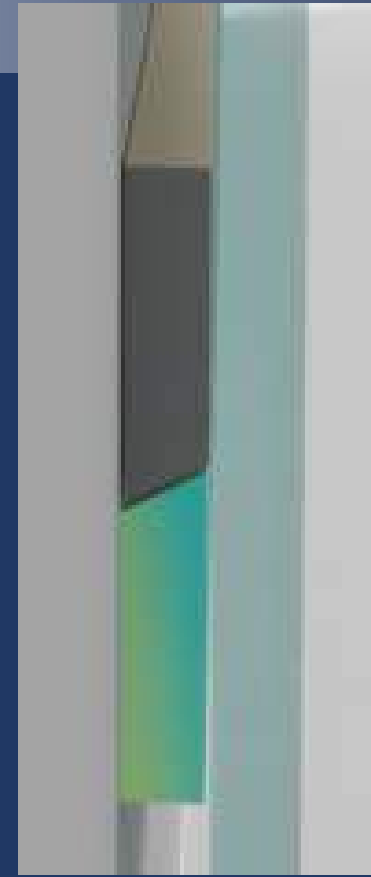
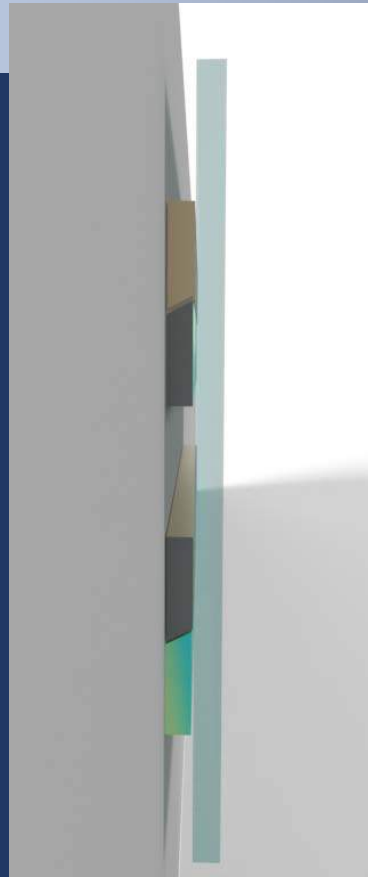


# The Plan – 3D Renderings



# The Plan – 3D Renderings

Side view



Gravity  
↓

Pull  
←

# The Plan - Materials

## Total material requirements:

- **44 Cleats - 1,176" (98 linear feet)**
  - Range 16" to 56"
- Tapcon (masonry) screws for attaching cleats to brick walls
- Drywall anchors and screws
- Glue and brass screws for attaching cleats to foamboard
- Wood screws for attaching cleats to stacks section



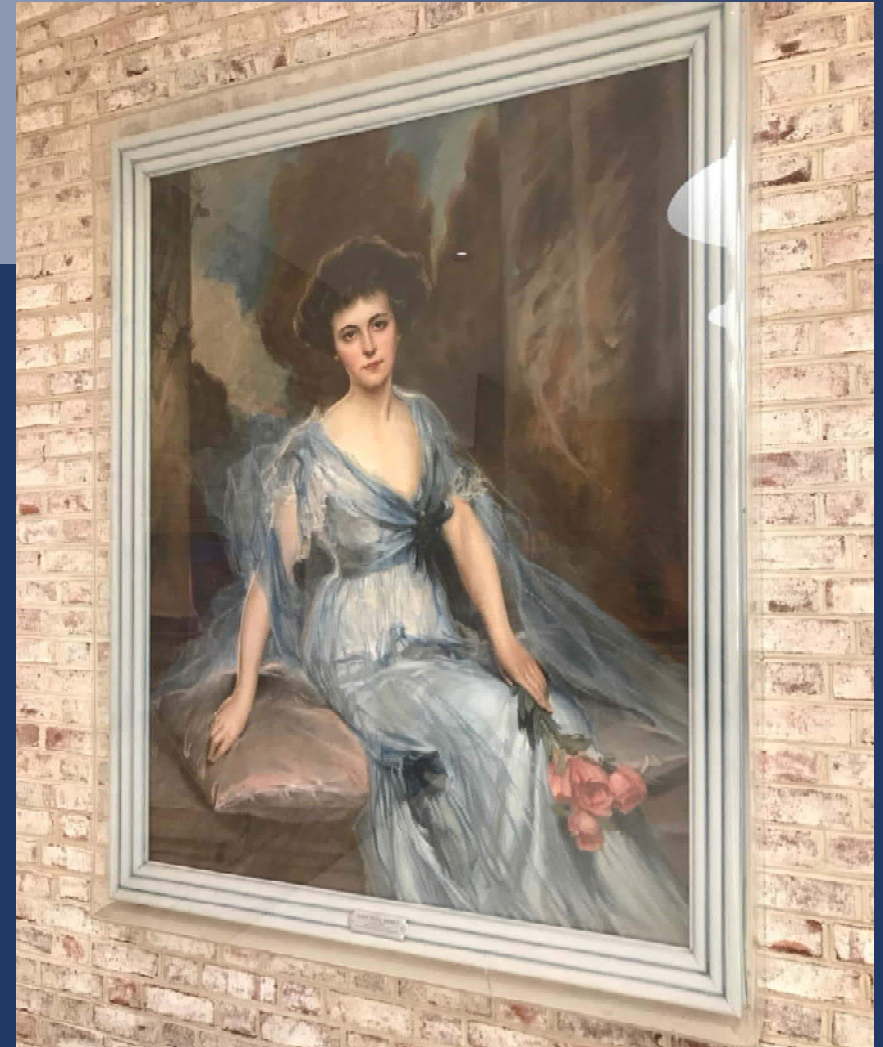
# Impact of Aesthetic Change

**Duke Music Library  
located in the  
Mary Duke Biddle  
Music Building**





# Mary Duke Biddle portrait in building lobby



# Previous Decor

G. Norman Eddy paintings

G. Norman and Ruth G. Eddy  
Collection of Musical Instruments

Flagship collection of the Duke University  
Musical Instruments Collections (DUMIC)



# Previous Decor

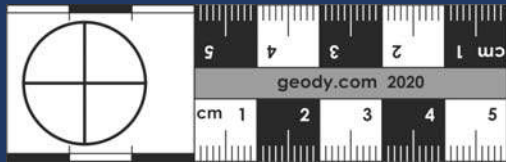


# Previous Decor





# The Plan – Specific Locations



Forensic scaling device

Blown-up and printed  
on 11"x 17" paper





# The Plan – Specific Locations



# The Plan – Specific Locations

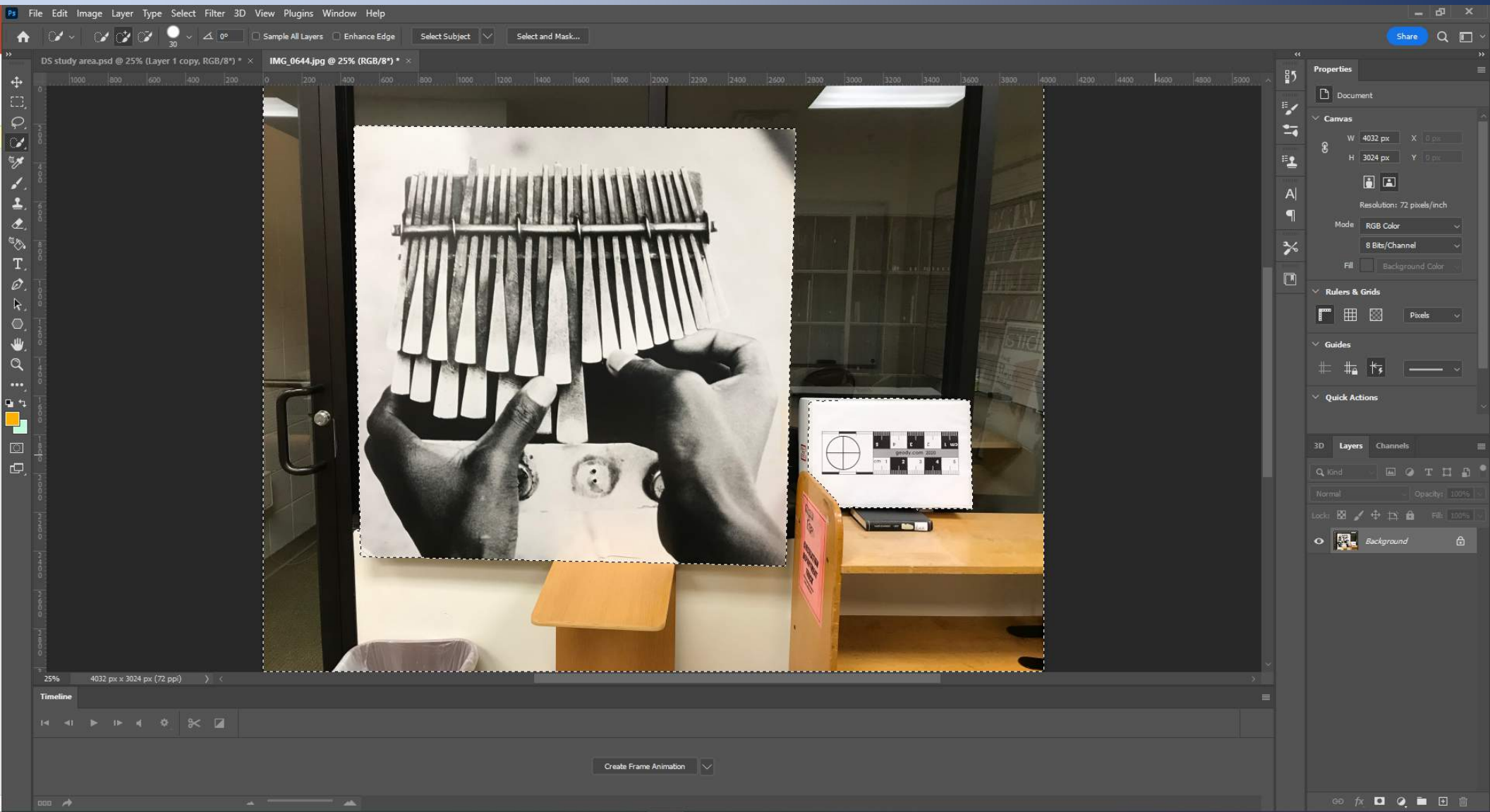


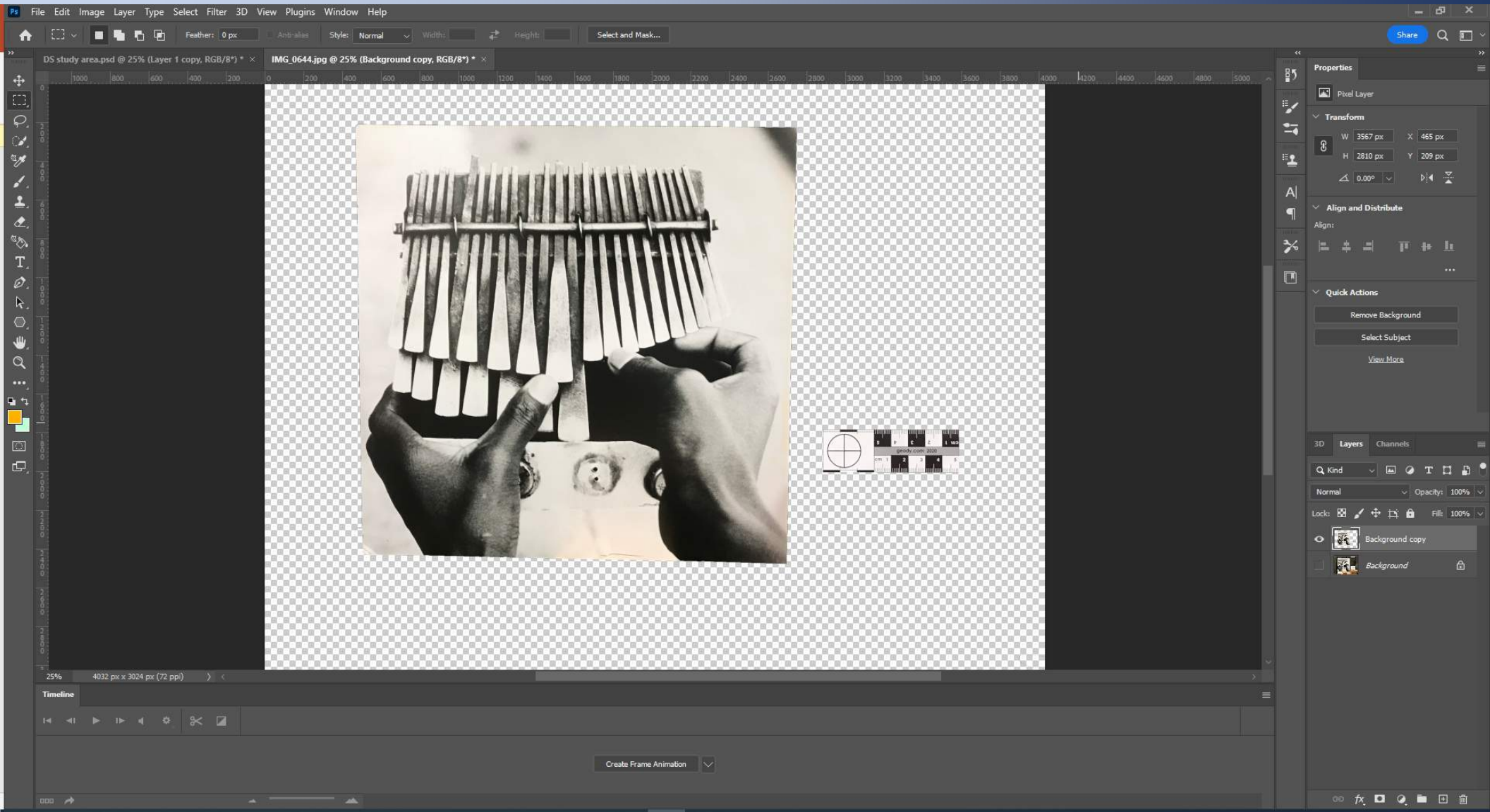
# The Plan – Specific Locations

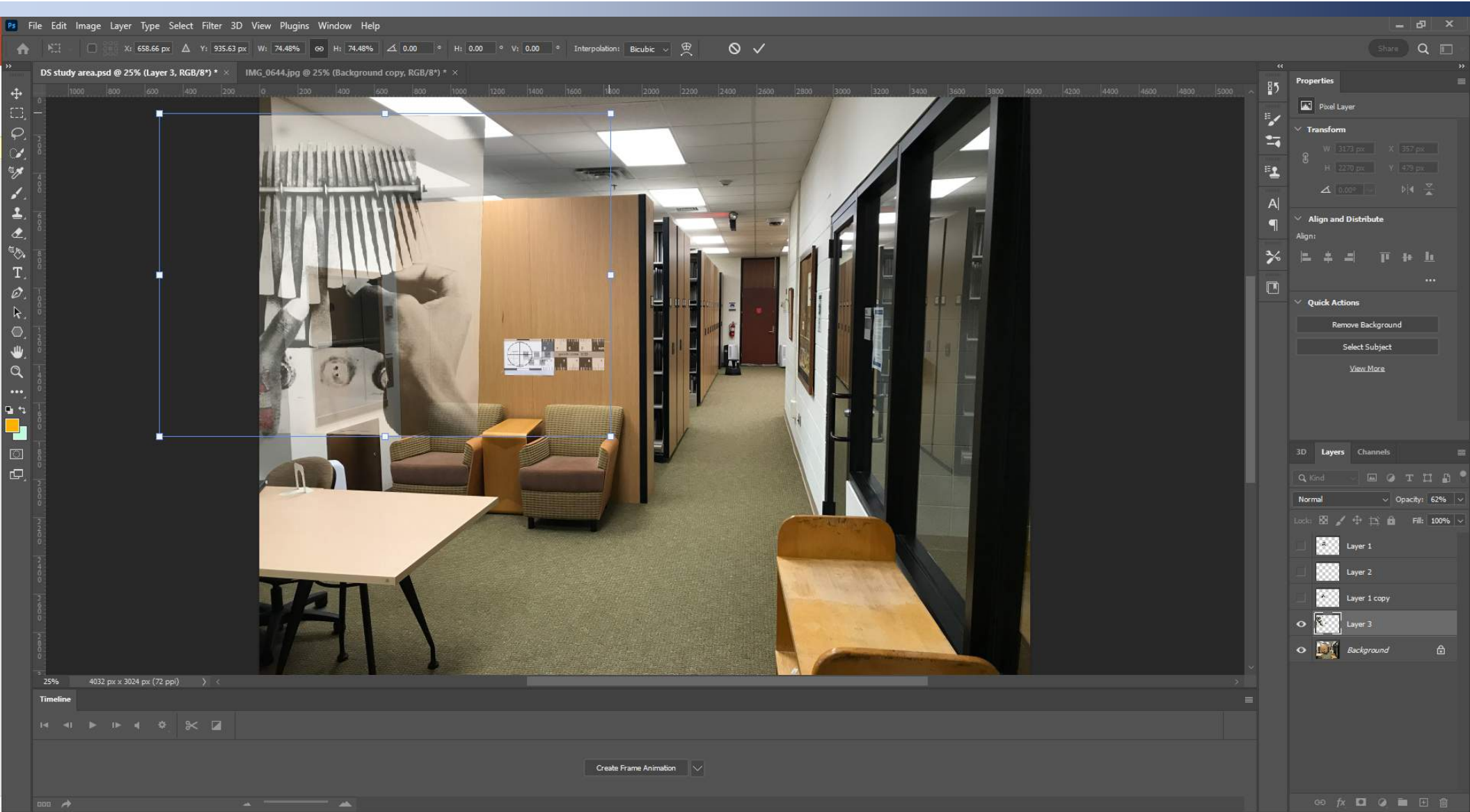


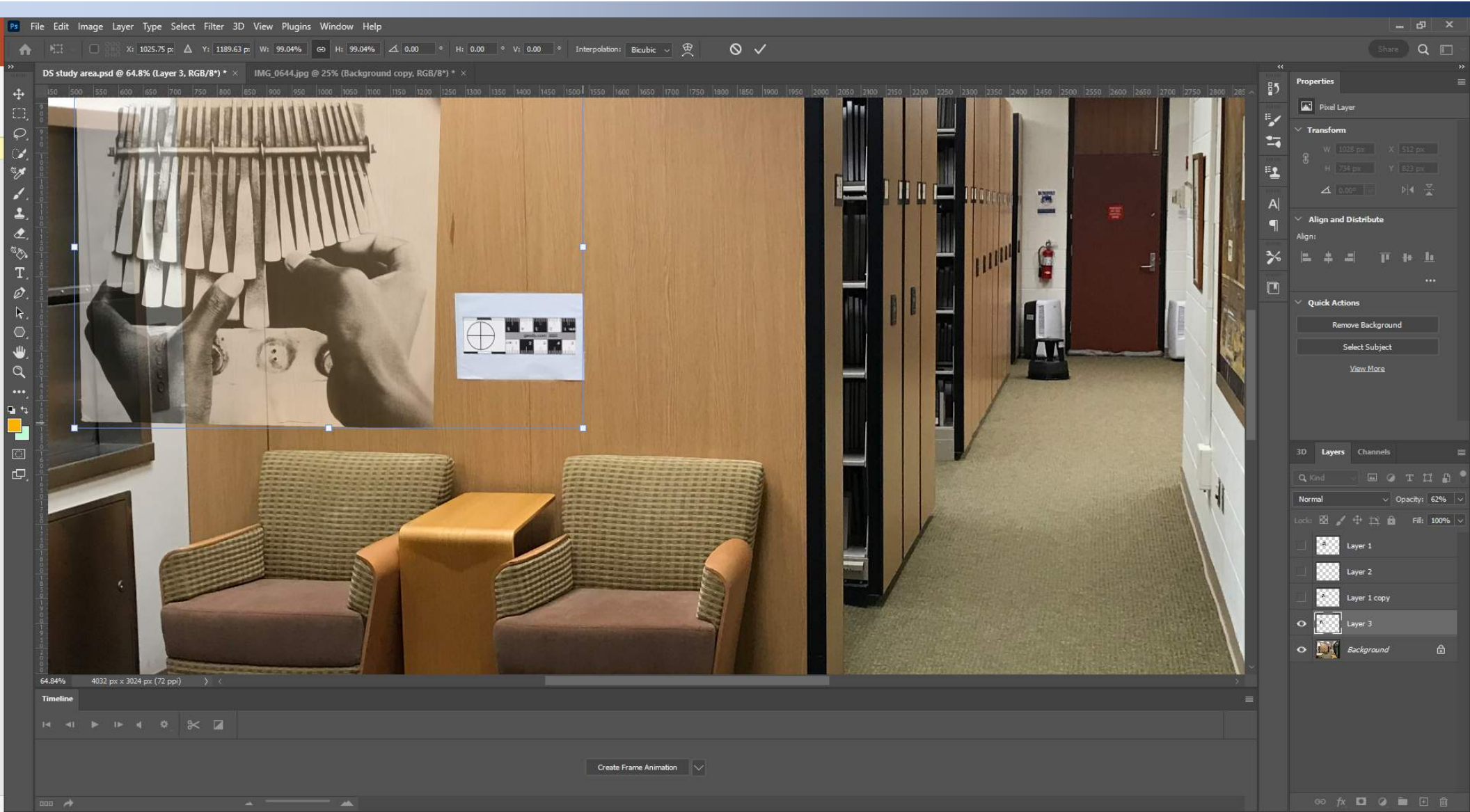
# The Plan – Specific Locations















W: 30 px  
H: 0 px

Pixel Layer

Transform

W: 1028 px X: 941 px  
H: 735 px Y: 777 px  
0.00°

Align and Distribute

Align:

Quick Actions

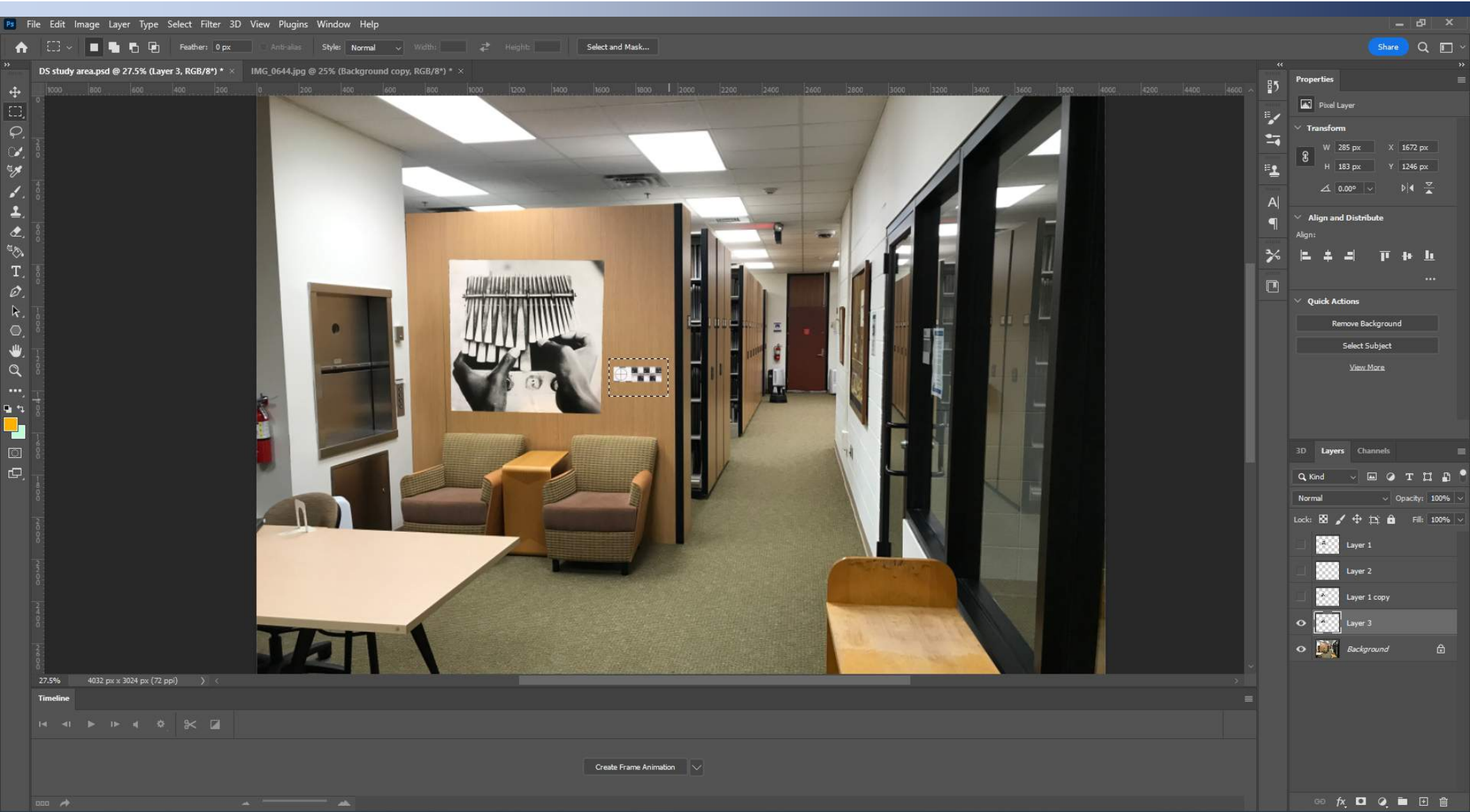
Remove Background  
Select Subject  
View More

Kind

Normal Opacity: 100%

Lock: Fill: 100%

- Layer 1
- Layer 2
- Layer 1 copy
- Layer 3
- Background





# Sample Images



# Sample Images



# Sample Images



# Sample Images



# Execution

Plywood sheets  
2' x 4'

Cut into 2.5"-3"  
strips





# Execution



Clamped for routing





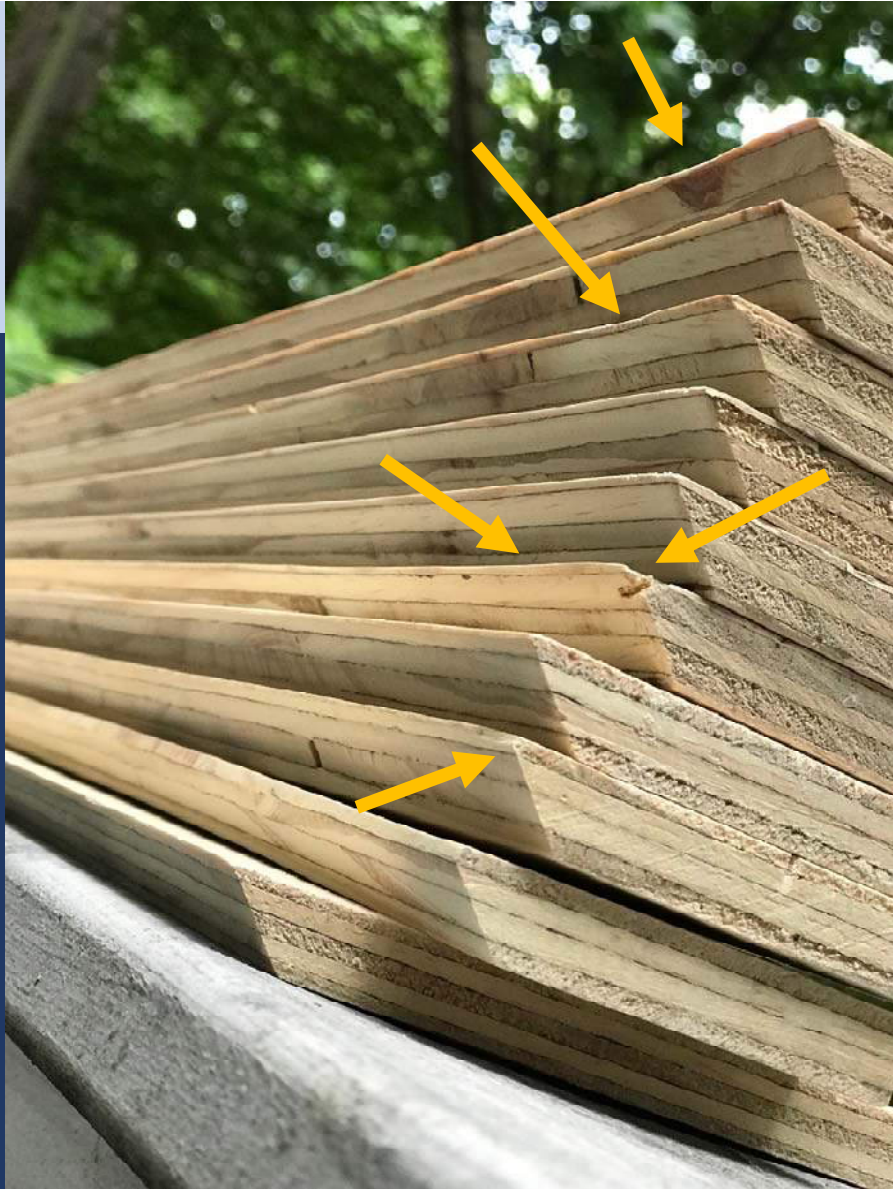




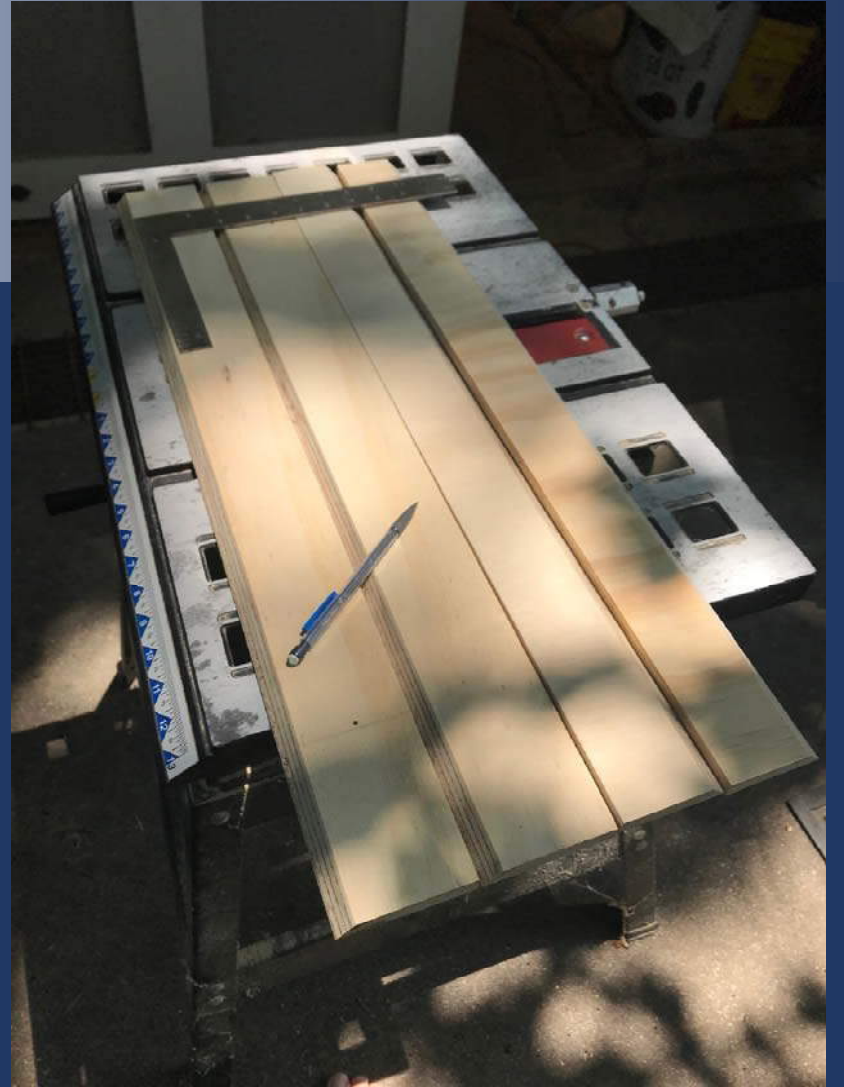


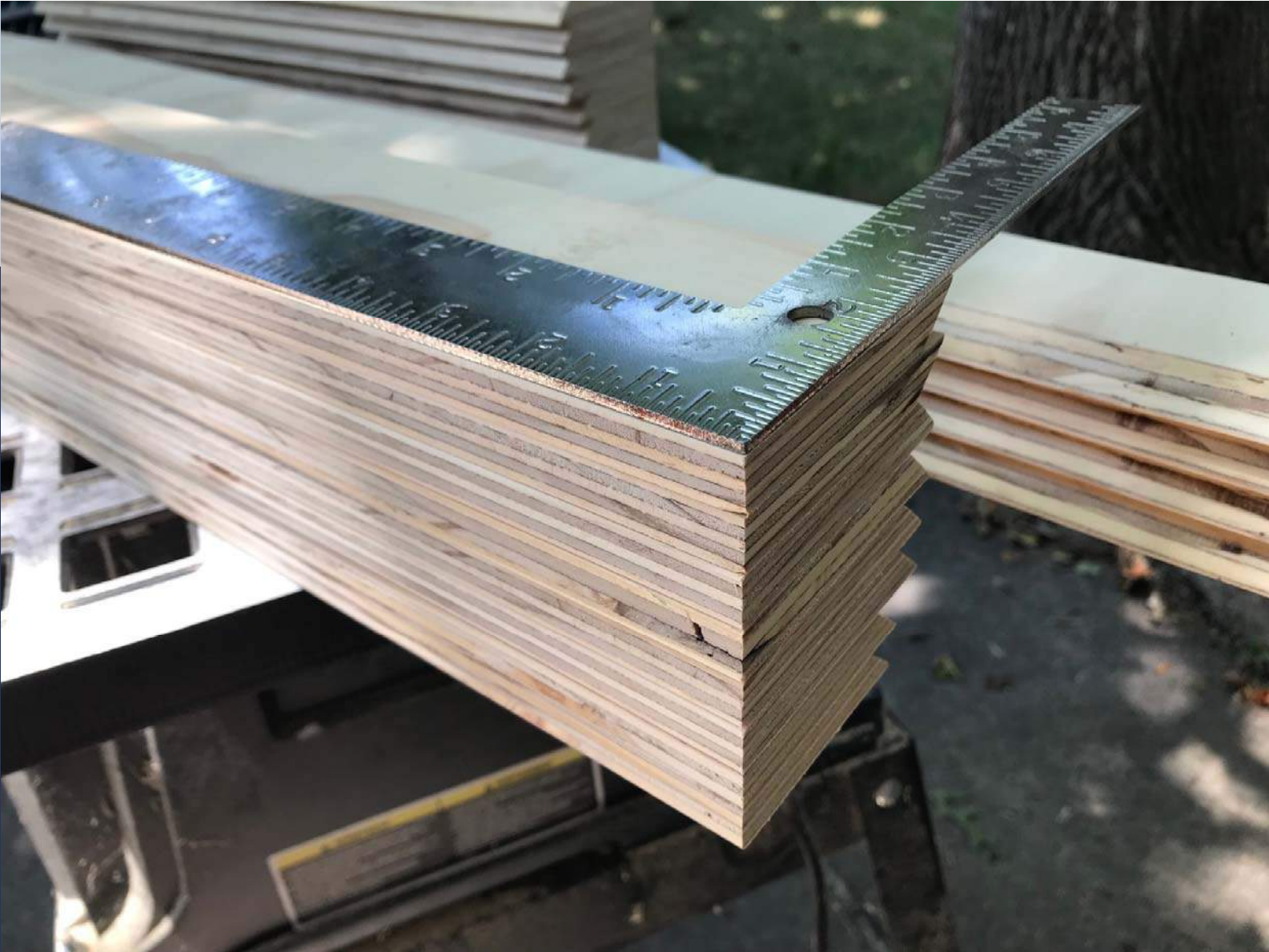






























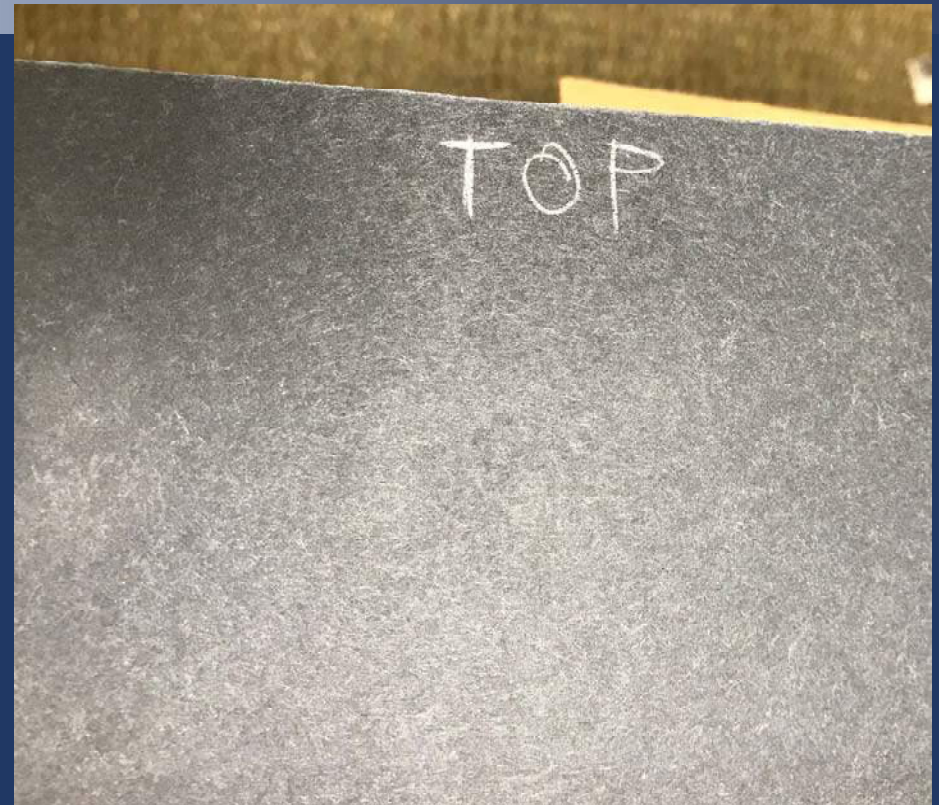
# A Coat of Clear Acrylic Paint



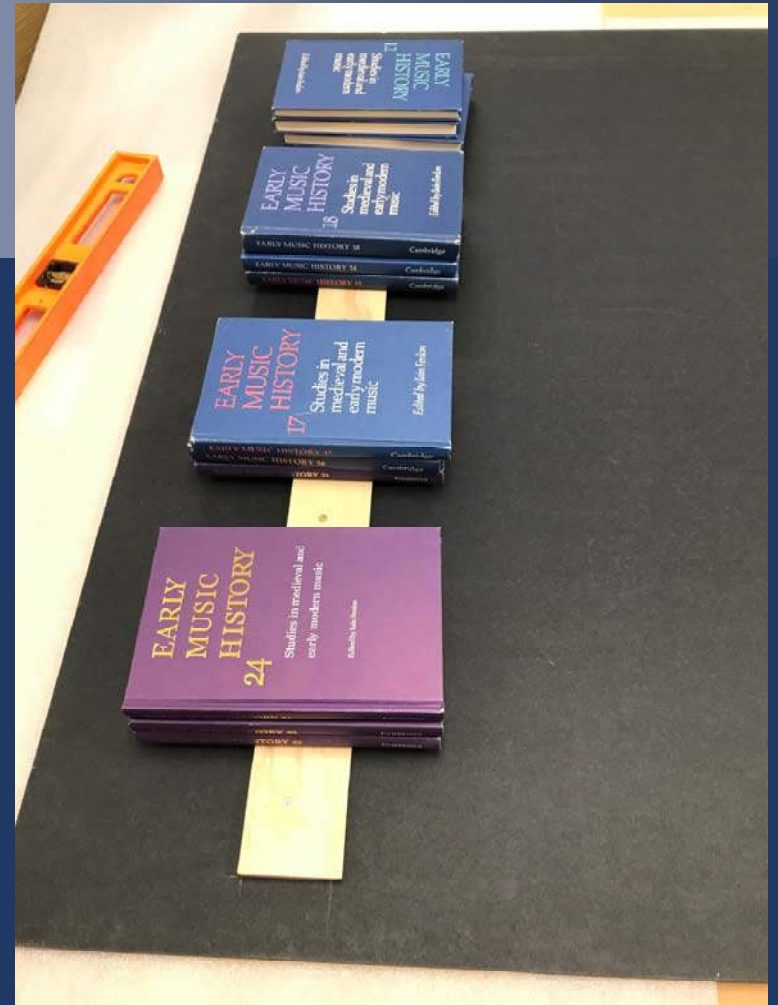
# A Completed Set of Cleats!



# Installation



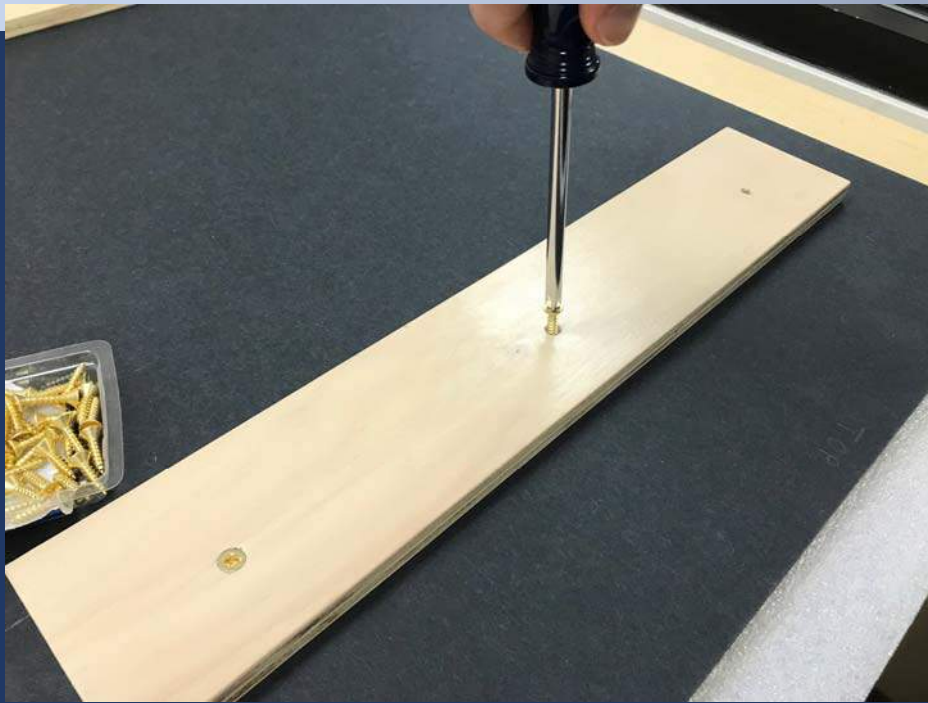
# Installation



# Installation



# Installation





# Installation



# Installation



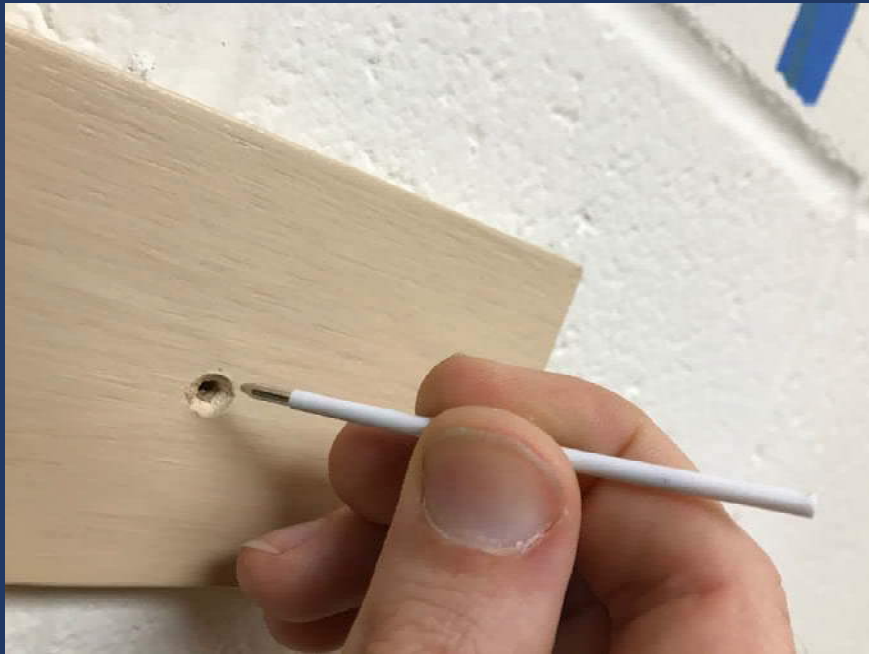




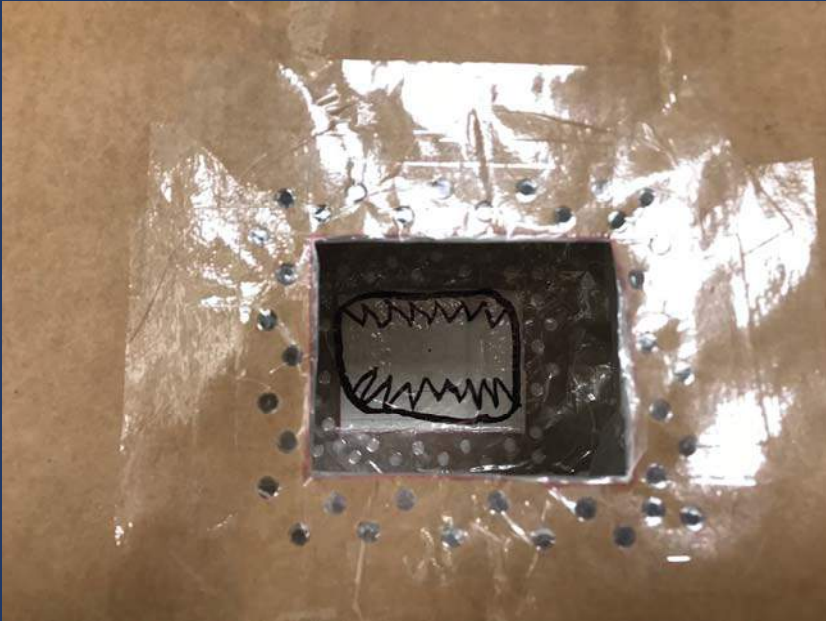
# Drilling into Brick

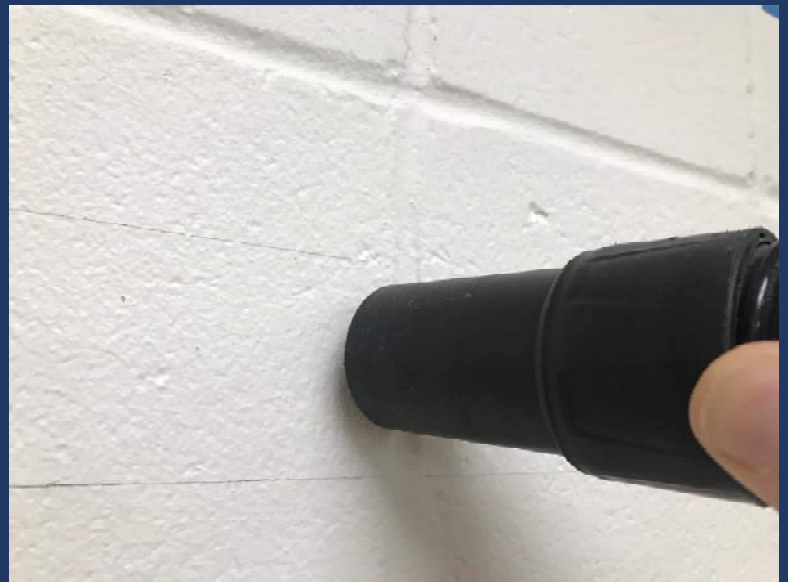


# Drilling into Brick



# Dust-catching Bag

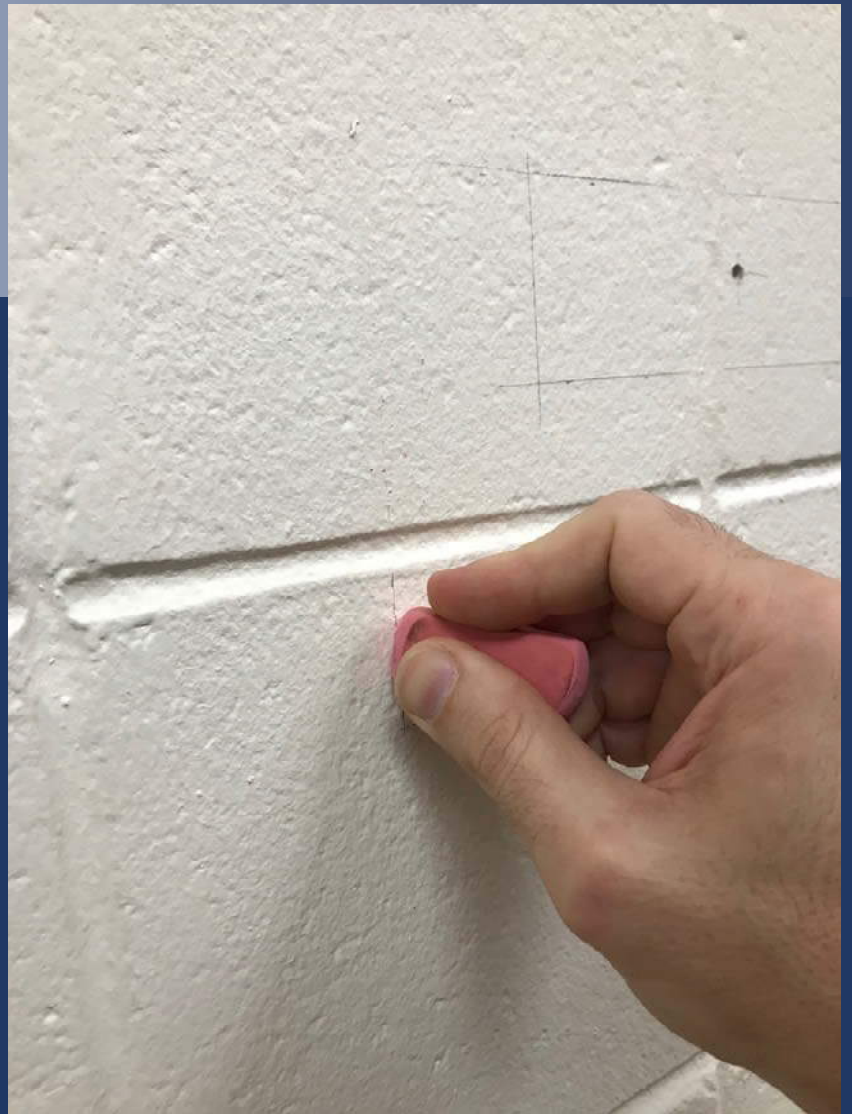


















# Results

























Questions ?

