A recent experience that has influenced my creative work was being a Peer Mentor at my school. Peer Mentors help new students adjust to the transition of going through the first term at Art Center. The first term can be a bit overwhelming, so it is nice to be able to hear from people that have already experienced what you’re going through. This helped me realize how much of a community design really is. There are always people that you need to learn from and your responsibility is to share that knowledge with others. Being a Peer Mentor also made me realize that I need to collaborate more with others in my work. Collaborating not only with graphic designers, but illustrators, photographers, product designers, environmental designers, and transportation designers would be fun to do. It would be interesting to see what people from different disciplines could come up with.
In the future, I see myself contributing to the community by using my skills to help in any way that I can. As designers in the 21st century, there are a variety of challenges ahead that we must face. Problems like sustainability, access to health care and an ever-changing economy are just the tip of issues facing the U.S. and the world as a whole. I would like for my work to be able to educate and play a part in being a solution to some of these problems. Solving these problems will take a new approach and way of thinking. I would like for my design to open minds and be more than just aesthetically pleasing. I plan to donate some of my time to take on work for non-profit groups that can’t afford high quality design. Design that communicates to the masses should be accessible to everyone.