This ethnically and culturally diverse region is ranked among the nation’s highest impoverished cities. San Antonio is also home to one of the original Imperfect Produce distribution centers. By incorporating the real life service of Imperfect Produce into the CIL, it provides clients with the opportunity to gain culinary, gardening, and organizational skills that they can carry into their future lives. It also enables them to land a job opportunity at the Imperfect Produce distribution center in San Antonio once they graduate from the center.

In the Ideation stage of the design process, the Golden Ratio became a framework to base the floor plan within. Not only does it signify balance and exact proportions, but it is also the shape of a volute or cello scroll - making its way into the logo for Crescendo.

The overarching goal of this CIL is to incorporate the concept of “dignity of risk” and how it relates to those with ASD. This idea provides ways to equip individuals during their time at the center through self-determination and the ability to take reasonable risks that are essential for one’s dignity, self-esteem, and independence.
An emphasis is placed on sequencing of events in this CIL. This provides an intuitive form of learning that can be reinforced later in life. The design of the Kitchen and Mock Apartment accentuates the natural flow of tasks and promotes a routine while also accommodating those on the spectrum and assisting the staff and volunteers who might have little or no training. When this spacial sequencing is implemented, it enables individuals to exercise their dignity of risk at higher levels, giving them the opportunities to make independent decisions with their actions reinforced by their environment.

**KITCHEN SEQUENCE**

With some on the spectrum having a heightened sense of symmetry, the linear and symmetrical flow of the kitchen can ease the mind and reduce anxiety. The muted colors and smooth surfaces provide an optimal place to learn and lessen sensory stimuli in the space. If privacy is needed, built-in cupboards provide a sense of grounding and memory recall within the kitchen.

The Kitchen becomes a place where life and work skills can be taught and reinforced and also where the students can obtain a sense of significance in their ability to give back and serve their peers and community.

**Dignity of Risk** is encouraged in the learning kitchen as individuals are able to make decisions to work alone or in groups through a variety of work stations, adjust height of tables to work on, and move freely from the exterior garden to the inside kitchen.

**SPACIAL SEQUENCING**

An emphasis is placed on sequencing of events in this CIL. This provides an intuitive form of learning that can be reinforced later in life. The design of the Kitchen and Mock Apartment accentuates the natural flow of tasks and promotes a routine while also accommodating those on the spectrum and assisting the staff and volunteers who might have little or no training. When this spacial sequencing is implemented, it enables individuals to exercise their dignity of risk at higher levels, giving them the opportunities to make independent decisions with their actions reinforced by their environment.