Sensory Currency

At the moment, U.S. currency is a medium for transaction that is entirely based around our visual sense. The color, size, shape and texture of the money is quite uniform no matter the denomination.

Sensory Currency and the Visually Impaired

Stats:

~ 4 million people in the U.S. are visually disabled

~ 100 thousand people in the U.S are blind (Genensky, 1994)

Blind people must trust others to inform them about the denominations of bills received.

Ray Charles only accepted his pay in form of $1 bills, to avoid being cheated.
Sensory Currency and the Visually Impaired

Solutions for making Currency accessible to the visually impaired

  England: obvious bill size distinctions
  Canada: convenient bill reader with audio output
  Holland: denominations are printed in huge numbers taken up all the space on the bill

More Solutions require re-evaluation of:

  Banknote size as key to denomination
  High contrast numerals
  Different predominant colors
  Obvious tactile and sensory distinctions between banknotes
Sensory Currency. Money you don’t need to look at.

Currency with various forms of indentments, depressions or raised surfaces

$20  $50

Currency that speaks to you and tells you its value

bend the currency and it will claim:

“I am a five” or otherwise

Other senses could potentially be explored...