Freesoul El Shabazz-Thompson \sim

"My focus is the participatory design of services, experiences, and products. I'm practicing meticulous and holistic design research and development. I care deeply about amending and generating the systems we use to solve problems. My underlying goal is to generate tools that support people (and all sentient beings) in their greatest well-being."

**website: solify.me | email: yes@solify.me

Northwestern University, Evanston Illinois McCormick School of Engineering Segal Design Institute BS Manufacturing and Design Engineering Graduation: September 2019

"ISO Research & Development Roles in Service, Experience, and Product Design"

Experience (3+ years)

Research Associate at Carnegie Mellon University | CoALA Lab February 2021 - Present

Design + HCl Research examining 1) The needs of Home Health Aides (HHAs): How an Interactive Voice Assistant might support HHA work duties, work-life and emotional well-being. 2) Care Labor: How care work platforms (e.g. Care.com) and care work structural frameworks impact the work-life experiences of platform workers.

Social and Economic Justice Panelist for the Opportunity Fund April 2021

Reviewed grant applications and collaboratively evaluated strengths and weaknesses to provide funding recommendations.

Studio Design Guide for Art, Marking & Anti-Racism at Northwestern University, Segal Design Institute

January 2021 - March 2021

I joined my former professor, Pam Daniels, and Prof. Alex Birdwell to guide students in using art and design as a means to draw attention to, and explore current challenges in combating racism.

Community Design Advisor with The Opportunity Fund December 2020 - March 2021

Critiqued The Opportunity Fund's funding and cultural practices to provide recommendations for more liberated and inclusive systems for black applicants. Consulted on a number of creative projects for funding.

Researcher with Oasis Farm and Fishery

October 2020 - February 2021 [Project]

Research and development for automated plant environment data collection and in-house liquid fertilizer production.

Intern: Phipps Conservatory

June 2021 - September 2020, Pittsburgh PA

Horticulture and Botanic Practice; Maintained Center for Sustainable Landscapes, Exhibit Staging Center beds and plants, designed portions of Tropical Forest Patio Display. Proposed Main Landscape changes for water savings, user experience, and aesthetic evolution.

Design Engineer (Hardware Lead): Cattle Tech

Winter 2018 - Summer 2019, Evanston IL & Sisaket Thailand

Research, designed, prototyped and tested software and hardware for virtual cattle containment for client: Raitong Organics Farm.

Admin & Design Aide: Segal Design Institute

Fall 2018 - Summer 2019, Evanston IL

Graphic Design, Administrative tasks, and Design/Build Projects for the Department.

Engineering Intern: LTA Research and Exploration LLC

Summer 2018, Mountain View CA

Research, Design, Rapid Prototyping and Manufacturing for Lighter-than-Air Technology.

Skills

Soft

Conceptual Thinking, Socially Oriented, Growth Mindset, Wholeness Mindset, Adaptable: Self-directed and also well guided, Collaborator, Intercultural upbringing, Somatic Empath

Language

English, Chinese (Mandarin HSK2)

Maker

Rapid Prototyping, 3D Printing, Injection Molding, Shop: Machine; Hand; CNC and Manual Milling; Sewing, Mechatronics, PLAY!

Design/Engineering/Research

CAD + CAM: Solidworks, Siemens NX, + more 2D: Adobe Photoshop, Figma Audio: Ableton Live 9, 10, Audacity Research: Interviewing, Focus groups, usability testing, A/B, coding, qualitative analysis + visualization, survey dev., design of experiments

Processing

HTML, CSS, Matlab*, Python*, Git

*I'll need to refresh these skills!

Awards + Support

- Resnick Family Fund for CattleTECH Field Research in Thailand
- Siemens NX Northwestern Design Competition Winner
- 2016 IDeaL Education Foundation Scholarship