

# HELEN G HIGHWATER

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## TECHNOLOGIES / SKILLS

Python, Javascript, Ruby on Rails, React, Redux, Node.js, Express.js, jQuery, AJAX, JSON APIs, Flask, HTML, CSS, SASS, SQL, SQLAlchemy, PostgreSQL, Git / GitHub, Heroku, LangChain, LangGraph, CrewAI, RAG pipelines

## EXPERIENCE

### Upskilling & Retooling

Jan 2025 - Present

- Working on personal projects to keep my skills sharp
- Taking classes to learn new skills
- Purdue - Applied Generative AI Specialization Certification (16 week course)

### Junior Developer

Next Glass Inc

Aug 2022 - Jan 2023

- Full stack development using **Ruby on Rails, Javascript, HTML, CSS**
- Added features to large, established SaaS codebase on a small team with two other devs
- Reviewed pull requests, participated in planning process, paired with senior devs, worked with designer for UX updates

### Ceramic Artist

Sep 2017 - Dec 2020

- Specialized in alternative firing techniques and kintsugi; was featured in pop-up shops, galleries, and sold commissions.

### Licensing Coordinator

Williams Sonoma Inc

Sep 2016 - Sep 2017

- Helped create the WS Licensing department to manage relationships with licensors, create new relationships, and ensure licensing agreements were being met, effectively growing licensed relationships by over 30%.
- Created new processes and worked cross-functionally with most departments, ultimately saving the company hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential fines.

### Buying & Buying Operations

URBN Inc

Oct 2013 - Jul 2016

- Issued purchase orders; enter new merchandise into production & merch systems; update existing data upon changes

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Hackbright Academy - *Software Engineering Fellowship, 2024*

AppAcademy - *Full Stack Development Certificate, 2022*

Seattle University - *BS Business Management, 2006-2010*

## PROJECTS

### PourFolio | Python, Flask, Javascript, React, AJAX

[github](#)

- Wine cellar tracking web app that allows users to create aging schedules for wine/beer, and create tasting notes

### What if Machine | Javascript, CSS, HTML

[github](#)

- Used OpenAI's API to create an AI response generator that answers any "what if" scenario you supply

### UNTAPPDVintage | Javascript, Ruby, React/Redux, Rails, Postgres, AWS

[github](#)

- Utilized React and ES6 to create a single page web app for a rich user experience.
- Incorporated Amazon's S3 for media storage into the Rails back-end and with Active Storage, and maintained security of the content with AWS IAM.

### Flip Up | Mongodb, Express, React, Node.js

[github](#)

- Set up API functionality through Redux and Axios to build a shared API access layer for the frontend.
- Focused on front-end user functionality that accessed information across all other divisions of the site, allowing for seamless and interactive user interface.

### Olaf's Escape | Javascript, Canvas, Webpack, HTML5, CSS

[github](#)

- Built game engine with Javascript events to manage movement of the user's character, implemented collision detection

## ACTIVITIES / INTERESTS:

Dog Mom, Home Brewer, Ceramic Artist, Kintsugi Specialist, Baker, Rock & Mineral Collector, World Traveler, PADI Certified Shark Conservation Specialist, Skydiver, Scubadiver