

# Winston Zhao

Grade 12 student at Unionville High School,

UI/UX Designer & Web Developer.

📍 Markham Ontario

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## Education

September 2020 – Present

- **Unionville High School – STEM Program – Grade 12**

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## Experiences

June 2023 – Present

- **UHS Interface – Club Lead**

With a passion for design but no design club at Unionville High School, I decided to take it upon myself to start a new club, focusing on user interface design. With my years of experience designing various user experiences for apps and websites, this club is where I will teach the basics of UI design and hopefully inspire other students. I am running this club with my classmate Evelyn Lee, and together we will develop a fun and educational curriculum to use in the club through the school year.

November 2022 – Present

- **UHS Robotics – Media Lead & Previously Programming Lead**

On UHS Robotics, I'm one of the two leads of the media team, where we create graphics, social media posts, promotional videos, and more. As someone who enjoys graphic design, I'm able to practice my design skills and put them to good use. I also designed the rebranded UHS Robotics, with new colours and fonts, and put them together as a brand kit. Previously on UHS Robotics, I was the Programming Lead where I used my previous experience to teach students robotics programming. Concepts such as PID, movement correction, and gyro based turns were taught in C++.

July 2022 – August 2023

- **Student Scout Lead – 1<sup>st</sup> Unionville Pack Scouts**

As a student scout lead at the 1<sup>st</sup> Unionville Pack Scouts, I helped run educational and fun activities for kids ages 8 to 10. This experience helped me gain valuable experience working with younger children and allowed me to take the lead in certain activities and educational presentations. I was also able to inspire the young scouters through art and crafts sessions with creative works they could make.

May 2022 – May 2023

- **VRC Team 25K – Founder & Captain**

I founded Vex Robotics Competition Team 25K and as a team of 8 we competed in the 2022-2023 Vex Robotics Competition season, Spin Up. As team captain, I manage the team, and work on robot design, and program the robot. Together we managed to win three awards, Build, Design, and Excellence. After placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in skills at the 2023 Ontario Provincial Championships, we qualified for the 2023 Vex World Championships. As a completely student run team, some added responsibilities included managing the team budget, logistics, and sponsorship acquisition. Overall, this experience was extremely fun and eye opening, and I gained valuable leadership experiences.

August 2022 – December 2022

- **City of Markham – Program Leader Volunteer**

Volunteering at the City of Markham as a Program Leader is a great opportunity for me to meet new people and contribute to the community. While volunteering, I help out at events, manage spaces such as the Markham Museum, and learn from other volunteers and employees. I also enhance my communication skills by interacting with customers and visitors.

February 2022 – May 2022

- **VRC Team 3150A – Programmer & Robot Design**

While on Silver Owl Robotics Team 3150A, I worked with the team to produce a competitive robot for our local, provincial, and international Vex Robotics Competition tournaments. We have won three local live remote tournaments, and qualified to the 2022 Ontario Provincial Championships. We achieved the most prestigious award of 2022 Provincial Tournament Champion, and qualified to the international 2022 Vex Worlds tournament. At Vex Worlds we made it into the round of 16 in our division.

August 2019 – February 2022

- **VRC Team 839A & 839Z - Head Programmer & Digital Development Team Lead**

As the head programmer and digital development team lead of VEX Robotics Competition Team 839A, I managed our libraries of code for our robot. I collaborated with other programmers on Team 839A to solve problems and find new solutions to challenges we are presented to in VRC. I lead the team in using online technologies such as Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Office, SharePoint, and GitHub. On VRC Team 839A, I also contributed heavily to designing and building the robot for each season, using tools such as Fusion 360 CAD and MeshCAM. We have successfully ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Ontario and qualified for the global VEX Worlds 2021 Championship. Previously as a member of the programming team and mechanical team on VRC Team 839Z, I worked on building the robot as well as programming it to complete the challenges presented in the VEX Robotics Competition. I learned new programming techniques as well as improved my skill with C++.

December 2020 – February 2021

- **Youth Programming | Code Club – Volunteer Instructor**

At Code Club I volunteered weekly and taught youth from the GTA the basics of programming, such as loops, functions, and sensing using Scratch. We used Scratch to build small games, animations, and chat bots.

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## Selected Projects

August 2022 – July 2023

- **Personal Portfolio Website**

Created a revamped personal portfolio website, with a clean and sustainable design. This website was completely custom designed, and created using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, along with GSAP and the Bootstrap framework. Check it out at <https://winstonzhao.ca>.

October 2022 – Present

- **The Drive Team Podcast & Website**

Started a fun podcast with Evelyn Wong, The Drive Team. We talk with members of the competitive robotics community about their journey and experiences, sharing their highlights and inspiring current STEM students. Also made a simple website to listen to the podcast: <https://thedriveteam.ca>.

June 2022 – October 2022

- **Team 25K Website**

Creating a new website for VRC Team 25K, <https://25k.team>. Collaborated with Anita Du.

Simple, fast, and fluid. This custom designed website built from scratch showcases information about the team elegantly. Vibrant shades of orange are used throughout, contrasting with the simple white backdrop. Text animations make the website come to life.

A single page website promotes important content, as the user can effortlessly scroll through the page. Optimised for all screen sizes, the experience is light and airy on all devices.

This website is handcrafted from scratch using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, along with the Bootstrap framework, Locomotive Scroll package, and Material Symbols. No website builder needed!

December 2020 – February 2022

- **Team 839 Website**

Designing, developing, and maintaining the Team 839 Website, <https://www.839.team>. This website was created using the Bootstrap framework, with HTML, CSS, jQuery, and JavaScript. The website displays content relevant to VRC Team 839, with articles and information about the team.

July 2020 – Present

- **Elapse VRC App Project**

Contributing and maintaining the Elapse VRC app open-source project. This app aims to provide a better experience of the schedule of tournaments for VEX Robotics competitors. The app is in development with a cross-platform Flutter app, as well as a web-app developed with the React framework.

August 2020 – December 2020

- **Controller Deskmats**

Designed a game controller themed Deskmats and sold it as a group buy with TheKey.Company.

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## Achievements

November 2023

- **Alice hacks – Best Design Hack**

Received **Best Design Hack** from Alice hacks 2023 for our app project, [Hopper Hangout](#). This app allows you to plan hangouts with your friends and get suggestions for places everyone will like. As a pure design hack, we created everything in Figma and made an in-depth prototype for people to try. App graphics were also all custom designed, and interfaces were carefully planned out to showcase all of the app's features. Collaborated with Anita Du, Laison Tao, and Andrew Chu. [View on Devpost](#).

September 2023

- **Awwwards – Honors**

Received **Honors** from Awwwards.com for my personal portfolio website, [winstonzhao.ca](http://winstonzhao.ca). This website was completely custom designed and featured unique and stylish elements. [View on Awwwards](#).

May 2023

- **Skills Ontario Competition – Web Design and Development**

Received **3<sup>rd</sup> place** bronze award in the field of Web Design and Development at the 2023 Skills Ontario Competition. Created a website for a fictional dog park using HTML, PHP, and CSS, featuring an attractive design with a database for park events with MySQL.

February 2023

- **VRC – Excellence Award**

Team 25K received the best overall award, the **Excellence Award** at the iDesign Central Toronto qualifying tournament. This was a combination of robot performance, engineering notebook, and judging session presentation.

May 2022

- **Skills Ontario Competition – Web Design and Development**

Received **2<sup>nd</sup> place** silver award in the field of Web Design and Development at the 2022 Skills Ontario Competition. Created a website for a fictional online bookstore using HTML, PHP, and CSS, featuring a secure database and admin system for updating and creating products on the main website page, with MySQL. The website had an improved overall design and a better administration portal over last year.

February 2022

- **VRC – Provincial Champion**

Our Vex Robotics Competition team received the most prestigious award, **1<sup>st</sup> place** Ontario Tournament Champions at the 2022 Vex Ontario Provincial Championships.

May 2021

- **Skills Ontario Competition – Web Design and Development**

Received **2<sup>nd</sup> place** silver award in the field of Web Design and Development at the 2021 Skills Ontario Competition. Created a website for a fictional online dog collar store using HTML, PHP, and CSS, featuring a secure database and admin system for updating and creating products on the main website page, with MySQL.

January 2020

- **VRC – Tournament Champion**

Our VEX Robotics Competition team received the **1<sup>st</sup> place** Tournament Champions award at Appleby Competition.

November 2018

- **FLL – Tournament Champion**

Our FLL Team Polaris won **1<sup>st</sup> place** Tournament Champion at the Tomken Road Regional Qualifying Tournament.

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## Tools & Technologies

### Proficient:

- HTML
- CSS
- JavaScript
- Figma
- Fusion 360
- Microsoft Office/365
- Adobe Illustrator

### Intermediate:

- C++
- Python
- Flutter/Dart
- ReactJS & similar
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Premiere Pro
- Microsoft Azure

## General Skills

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UI/UX Design</li><li>• Graphic Design</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brand Design</li><li>• Web/Frontend Development</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teaching &amp; leadership</li><li>• English, Chinese, Swedish, French</li></ul> |
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