

Interview of Kaila Allen

1. Where were you born and where were you raised?

I was born in Maryland and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii from the age of 4. The weather here in Honolulu is great and for the most part people are friendly and welcoming.

2. What was your childhood like, and who was your biggest influence as a child?

It was often tumultuous but also filled with creativity and fun, especially with activities like making art and performing hula at hotels in Waikiki. My biggest influence was my mom—watching her navigate life and its challenges taught me many valuable lessons.

3. What hobbies did you enjoy when you were younger?

I've always loved art, partly because teachers and parents praised my work, which motivated me to keep creating. I also enjoyed dancing hula and ballet, which allowed me to express myself through movement.

4. What are your hobbies now?

These days, my hobbies include oil painting and photographing the people around me.

5. What is a memorable achievement from your university days?

One of my most memorable achievements was working in a data visualization lab that specialized in virtual and augmented reality, as well as artificial intelligence. Creating UI and visuals for the cutting-edge technologies developed in this lab was an incredible experience.

6. What accomplishment are you most proud of and why?

I'm most proud of fostering meaningful personal relationships—with my husband, friends, and family. Being a kind and loving presence for the people I care about feels like one of my greatest accomplishments.

7. What got you into UI/UX design?

I studied computer science at the University of Hawaii but found myself more drawn to the visual and experiential aspects of technology rather than the technical intricacies of coding. UI/UX design felt like the perfect middle ground—it allowed me to combine technical knowledge with my passion for design and

creating user-centered experiences.

8. What do you like and dislike about the field?

I love the variety of design challenges it presents. It's fascinating to balance aesthetics with functionality and create intuitive, user-friendly designs. However, I dislike how creativity can sometimes take a backseat, especially when client demands or project restrictions limit what's possible. This is particularly true for projects with rigid requirements, such as those for government or state clients.

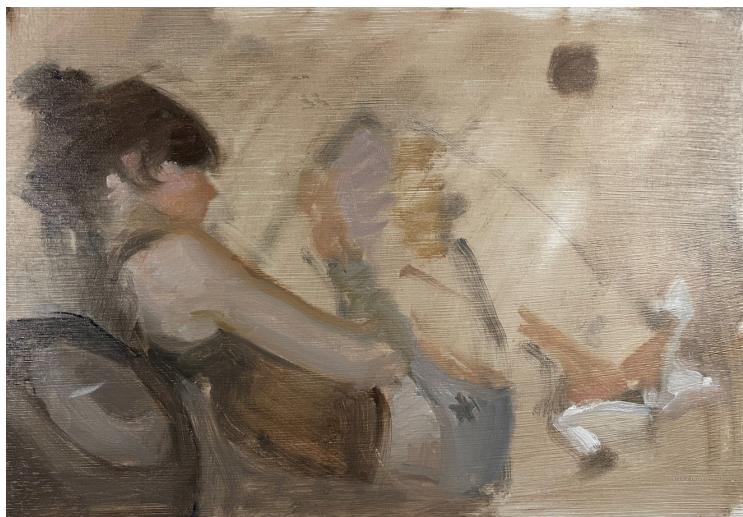
9. Please tell me a milestone or achievement from your career.

Starting as a junior UI/UX designer with no real-world experience and eventually leading a UI/UX team on a project was a significant milestone. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and taught me leadership skills, even as someone who is naturally more soft-spoken and introverted.

10. What advice do you have for someone looking to get into the same industry as you?

To succeed in any industry, you need at least a spark of passion for the work. If you're genuinely interested in solving problems by understanding users' thoughts and emotions while balancing design and functionality, you're already halfway there. Additionally, having a portfolio website showcasing your projects—whether professional or personal—can be a huge advantage when applying for jobs in this field.

Pictures - Hobbies:



Oil painting 1

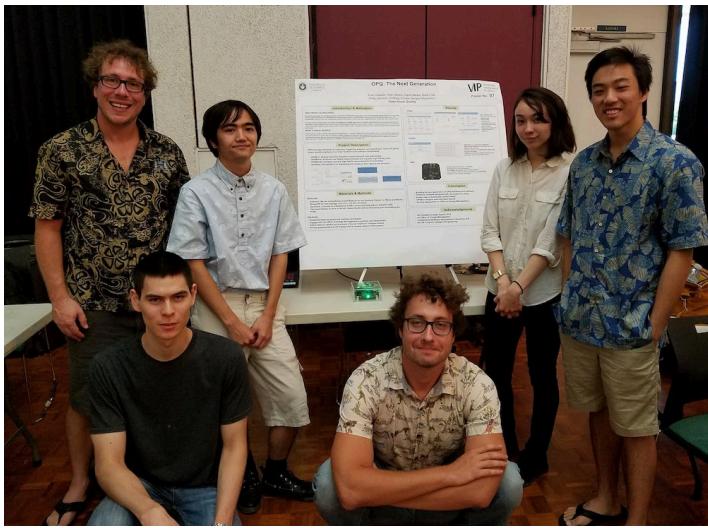


Oil painting 2



Oil painting 3

Pictures - Achievements:



Open Power Quality Project



Meaningful relationships



Graduated from the University of Hawaii

Portrait



About picture

About

Kaila Allen is a UI/UX designer based in Honolulu, Hawaii. Originally from Maryland, Kaila moved to Hawaii with her family when she was 4 years old and has lived there since.

From her childhood, Kaila showed a natural talent for the arts and other creative endeavors, a passion that was encouraged by her teachers, friends, and family alike. As

a child, she enjoyed dancing hula (a traditional Hawaiian form of dance), as well as ballet, drawing, painting, and other creative outlets.

This passion for the arts continues on to this day as Kaila enjoys oil painting and photography which she uses to both express herself and connect with others. Her love for art and design combined with her education in computer science would eventually lead Kaila to her current career in UI/UX.

While studying at the University of Hawaii, she worked in a data visualization lab and contributed to various projects related to artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and augmented reality, an experience that furthered her understanding and interest in the tech industry. After graduating, Kaila would go on to become a junior UI/UX designer, eventually leading teams on various design projects.

For those looking to work in the UI/UX design field, Kaila recommends creating a portfolio website that showcases both personal and professional projects to get a leg up in the job search. She also advises finding a passion for the work and a genuine interest in solving problems by understanding users' thoughts and emotions while balancing design and functionality.

Kaila takes pride in being a kind and loving presence for the people she cares about and cites her resilient mother as being her biggest influence in life.

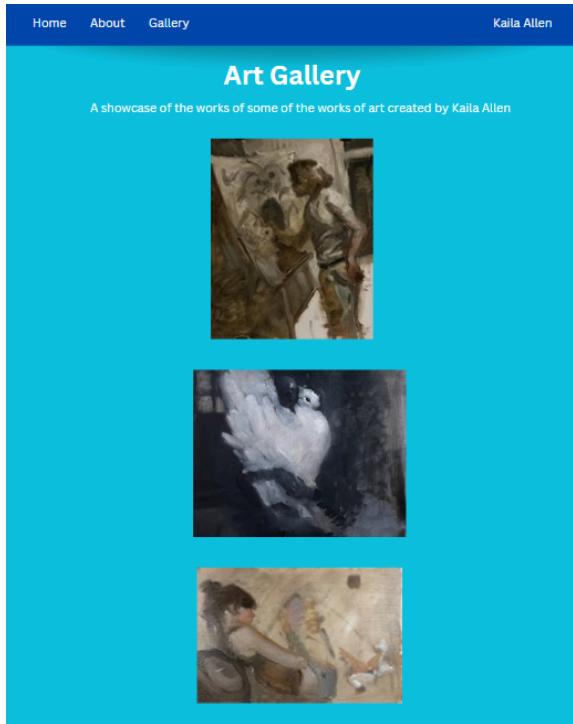
Wireframes

The wireframe shows a landing page with a blue header bar containing 'Home', 'About', 'Gallery' on the left and 'Kaila Allen' on the right. The main content area has a teal background. It features a title 'Kaila Allen' and subtitle 'UI/UX Designer and Artist'. Below this are three images: the University of Hawaii logo, a group photo of people at a conference, a painting of a person, and a photo of three women holding a baby.

Landing page

The wireframe shows an 'About' page with a blue header bar containing 'Home', 'About', 'Gallery' on the left and 'Kaila Allen' on the right. The main content area has a teal background. It features a large profile picture of Kaila Allen, followed by a section titled 'About' with descriptive text about her background and passion for art and design.

About Page



Hobby page (Gallery)

Style guide (colors)

file:///C:/csd/csd-340/module-5/style_guide.html

A screenshot of a browser window displaying a style guide. The address bar shows the file path: "File C:/csd/csd-340/module-5/style_guide.html". The navigation bar includes links for "Home", "About", and "Gallery". The main content area features a large blue header with the text "Style Guide Header" in white. Below the header, a blue paragraph states: "This is the page will look." The rest of the page is blank.