

# Lola Santos

*Former Design Lead, Current Conservation Student*

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## Summary

Product designer with 10+ years of experience making a career change into conservation. Currently enrolled full-time in Merritt College's Natural History and Sustainability program. Experience with managing small teams, GIS, Python, developing project strategy, mentoring, and data management, as well as bird and plant identification, habitat restoration, and wildlife monitoring. Excited to use passion for Californian ecology and experience with mapping software to help protect our unique ecosystems.

## Experience

2019 – 2024 Unity Technologies

### ↳ Design Lead, Multiplayer

- Defined 2-year design strategy for creating a suite of multiplayer game development tools.
- Led 3 designers to unify 10 conflicting legacy tools as part of unification initiative.

### ↳ Senior Designer, Labs

- Developed and patented a tool to build and manage game economies.

2017 – 2019 Senior UX Engineer, Mapbox

- Researched and developed AR prototypes for geospatial needs using Unity, C#, and Swift.

2014 – 2017 Product Designer, freelance and agencies

- Designed websites for 20+ clients, either as a freelancer or at small agencies (thoughtbot, CoMedia).
- Provided on-call customer service and managed professional relationships and finances.

## Education

2024 – current Merritt College Conservation and Resource Management certificate

2009 – 2013 University of California, Berkeley Computer Science B.A., French Literature minor

## Volunteering

2025 – current Snowy Plover Docent, National Park Service

- Teaching the public about snowy plovers and ensuring their habitat is not disrupted.

2024 – current Wildlife Volunteer, East Bay Regional Park District

- Monitoring snowy plover populations in Alameda every week and submitting reports to biologists.
- Painting decoys and building habitat to attract least terns to the Bay Area.
- Planting trees and weeding invasive plants to restore native habitats in various EBRPD parks.

2024 – current Fieldwork Volunteer, Felidae Conservation Fund

- Servicing wildlife cameras to track mountain lion populations. Involves strenuous hiking.

2024 – current Volunteer, The Crucible

- Assisting ceramics department co-heads with cleaning, loading kilns, and recycling clay.
- Welcoming guests, cleaning studio spaces, and setting up for special events.

## Skills

- Trail maintenance, habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring, bird and plant identification
- GIS, Python, Ruby, C#, UX/UI design, tech writing, user research, digital illustration