Eric Lau

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Education

University of Michigan   Ann Arbor, MI
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science   *May 2024*
Minors in Science, Technology & Society (STS) and Digital Studies

Coursework: *Data Visualization, Critical Data Visualization, Rhetoric of Infographics, Introduction to Statistics and Data Analysis, Database Management Systems, How Algorithms See, Programming Paradigms, Programming Languages, Introduction to Computer Architecture, Data Structures and Algorithms, Foundations of Computer Science*

Experience

The San Francisco Standard   San Francisco, CA
Data Journalist   *Sep. 2022 – present*
- Wrote over 20 newsletter stories with data analysis and visualizations localized to thousands of California neighborhoods, reaching over 10,000 subscribers.

The Texas Tribune   Austin, TX
Data Visuals Fellow   *Jun. 2022 – Aug. 2022*
- Produced 24 graphics on election fundraising, droughts, public schools, the juvenile prison system and more.
- Analyzed polling data, interviewed pollsters, created graphics, and wrote a story on abortion public opinion.
- Improved accessibility in the team's graphics kit by allowing screen readers to read alternative text in visuals.

Engineering Fellow   *Jan. 2022 – May 2022*
- Converted Django template files to flatpages, reducing code duplication and allowing for easier copy changes.
- Modified a Slack bot to show Salesforce campaign names to help evaluate real-time fundraising performance.
- Implemented several quality-of-life CMS features (e.g., copyable photo IDs, flexible grid dimensions, etc.).

The Michigan Daily   Ann Arbor, MI
Senior Software Engineer   *Jan. 2023 – present*
- Built a crossword player and administrative dashboard with SvelteKit. Collaborated with crossword writers and the business and design teams to publish weekly puzzles, garnered over 20,000 page views.
- Tracked live power outages in Southeastern Michigan, presented to the Michigan Public Service Commission on DTE outage data gaps.
- Wrote dozens of pages of educational and referential material on web development and data journalism to aid in knowledge transfer and new member onboarding.

Managing Online Editor   *Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022*
- Led the newsroom's team of 40 engineers, designers, and data journalists to create over 50 special websites, designs, data graphics and stories published on our WordPress website and React microsites.
- Developed bore, an in-house data graphics library built on top of D3, allowing data journalists to quickly prototype basic and stylistically consistent visualizations.
- Oversaw the release of The Daily's mobile application built with Expo and React Native.

Data Journalist   *Sep. 2020 – Dec. 2021*
- Created over 20 data visuals on university feeder schools, city restaurant closures, survey data and more.
- Collaborated with reporters to write a series of 3 stories on university salary data.
- Developed a live election tracker for the 2021 Ann Arbor special election, used Svelte and Python.

Skills

Data analysis and visualization   Svelte, D3, Leaflet, Observable, Python, Datawrapper, Illustrator, QGIS
Web development   Svelte, React, Next, Django, Flask, SQL, AWS, WordPress
Languages   JavaScript, Python, HTML, CSS, PHP, C/C++

Awards & Honors

Lipsey Journalism Award for Multimedia Reporting (2022), SPJ Region 4 Mark of Excellence Data Visualization (2022), SBUHacks Best UI/UX – Aurora Hack (2020), National Merit Scholarship Finalist (2020), University Honors (Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2021), AP Scholar with Distinction (2019, 2020)