Ben Thornton

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Education

B.S. Geography, May 2017
Florida State University
Minors: Entrepreneurship
      Urban Planning

Relevant Coursework

Spatial Data Analysis

Big Data

Transportation Planning

Entrepreneurial Negotiation

Multicultural Urbanism

Collective Decision Making

Skills

Spatial Analysis + Cartography
  ArcGIS 10.x
    ArcMap, ArcCatalog,
    ArcPy, ArcToolbox
  QGIS
  R statistical programming

UI/UX + Graphic Design
  Adobe CC
    Illustrator, Photoshop,
    Lightroom, After Effects
  Sketch

Web Mapping
  Mapbox Studio
  Leaflet
  Mapbox GL JS

Development
  Git
  HTML, CSS
  Javascript
  Python
  SQL

Research Interests

Bivariate Visualizations

Using color theory and
normalized grids

Spatial Data Models

US National Grid
application in a GIS

Urban Design

Sustainable cities

Experience

GIS Developer and Cartographer   *August 2015 - Present*
Florida Geographic Alliance

- Created custom maps using cartographic principles and geospatial analysis for use in print publication and within ArcGIS Online
- Identified and compiled necessary data sources for use in projects and completed data cleansing to ensure accurate maps
- Administrator for the FL K-12 ArcGIS Online organization and built data layer inventory
- Consulted with teachers across the state of Florida to develop maps, data, and instructions for their lesson plans

GIS Analyst/Researcher   *January 2015 - Present*
Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center at Florida State University

- Developed new visualization techniques and cartographic principles that I compiled and published in multiple academic papers with colleagues
- Extended the use of a custom Spatial Data Model through the conversion of widely used data sets presenting new insights into the data
- Wrote Python scripts to automate tasks in ArcGIS increasing productivity for map creation by 98%

Organizer and Sponsorship Coordinator   *May 2016 - October 2016*
Floaite - A Florida Hackers Conference

- Worked with a core team of 8 to build a first-of-its-kind conference bringing together 70 leaders of student tech organizations under one roof promoting cross university collaboration in Florida
- Developed a sponsorship prospectus and outreach initiative to gain quality sponsors and establish a collaborative co-host relationship with GitHub

Director of Sponsorship   *May 2015 - February 2016*
HackFSU - Florida State University hackathon

- Directed a 470 person hackathon that created a unique event experience, empowering the attendees to develop 85 projects in 30 hours
- Created a sponsorship prospectus and outreach plan for raising sponsorships
- Worked with Fortune 500 companies to incorporate their technology into the event and secured $35,000 in sponsorships to cover event budget
- Worked with the Directors of UX and Logistics to manage a 18 person team

Publications

The Florida Geographer, Vol. 47   Fall 2016
Bivariate Statistical Legends: Mapping Examples on Florida Covariance Data using Scatterplots from Open Source Visual Analytic Tools

Projects

Stadia Transit - Transit Analysis Web App   *Spring 2017*
Final Project for Sports Geography Course
This was a web app to visualize public transit option in proximity to professional sporting venues. I created the stadium data set myself and used the Mapzen Transitland API to populate the transit stops. I ran further analysis on the data to gain other statistical insights beyond what could be seen via the map.

MediDock - Personal Medication Tracking iOS App   *September 2016*
Mhacks 8 - Winner: Best UX, Best Wellness App
My team built an iOS app and hardware accessory in 36 hours to manage medication dosage, schedule, and refill information for users. I worked on the hardware and backend communication between the device and iOS app. Used the IoT dock hardware accessory to automate the deduction of pills within bottle.