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## Kirah Sapong

Senior Software Engineer

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### Experience

#### Block

Senior Software Engineer (Jan 2023 – Present)

- Led the Self-Sovereign Identity Console and the Swift SDK, working across the open standards ecosystem to integrate with OIDC and SIOP. Gained expertise in decentralized identity (DIDs) and verifiable credentials (VCs), contributing to the evolving standards for Web5. Helped establish a robust and open Trust Framework for seamless decentralized payments across borders.
- Developed and launched tbDEX, an open liquidity protocol, fostering a global ecosystem of partners through strategic collaborations with Developer Relations and external stakeholders. Enabled global adoption by building SDKs in multiple languages (Typescript, Kotlin, Swift, Dart, Go, and Rust).
- Presented at conference workshops, mentoring developers on implementing Web5 and decentralized solutions in their applications, driving innovation and adoption in React, React-Native, Flutter, and Vue communities.

#### Royal Bank of Canada

Senior Software Engineer (Jan 2021 – Jan 2023)

- Managed performance feedback, interviews, and mentorship programs. Grew skills in people management while ensuring team growth through coaching and mentorship. Developed strong banking integration expertise, particularly in partnership-driven product development.
- Led a major integration project for ICICI Bank, supporting international student GIC transfers. Developed a mobile-embedded WebView in Angular that enabled over 1,000 daily new account openings, reducing user drop-offs by 50% through optimized user flows and analytics-driven improvements. Championed accessibility, aligning all APIs with WCAG 2.1 standards.

#### Roawn (Startup)

Co-Founder (May 2019 – Oct 2020)

- Gained experience in building a startup from scratch, developing an in-depth understanding of product lifecycle management, user experience design, and full-stack development.
- Developed and launched a peer-to-peer fashion resale marketplace, successfully exiting to Pluto Ventures within a year. Led the technical transition of the platform, building a reusable component library and exploring AI integration for personalized fit and measurements. Supported the next stage of growth by guiding Pluto Ventures' team through the transition phase.

## Independent Contractor

Self-Employed (Apr 2015 – Apr 2020)

- As a founding software engineer for multiple startups, gained hands-on experience in rapid MVP development, cross-platform app design, and early-stage product growth. Expanded expertise in user experience and the intersection of technology and business.
  - Delivered MVPs for two startups (Renterii and Vexxit) that successfully launched to market. At Renterii, helped develop a peer-to-peer rental marketplace, contributing to 5-star app reviews post-launch. At Vexxit, drove UX and front-end development for an AI-powered platform, which expanded into new markets in Western Canada.
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## Education & Awards

### Western Governor's University

Bachelor of Science, Software Engineering (2023)

### Red River College

Creative Communications Diploma, Journalism (2011-2013)

### Certifications

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner (2023)
- ITIL Foundations (2023)

### Awards

- WGU Excellence Award for Technical Communication (2023)
  - Red River College Creative Communications Best First Year Print Journalism Award (2013)
  - Recipient of Eric & Jack Wells Foundation Excellence in Journalism Award (2013)
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## Speaker & Board Experience

**tbdEX and Africa Bitcoin Conference Hackathon** – Panel Judge (2024)

**FinTech DevCon Austin** – Speaker (2024)

**WeAreDevelopers Berlin** – Booth Speaker (2024)

**Advancing Bitcoin Conference London** – Speaker (2024)

**Women Who Code: Unlocking Music with Open Protocols** – Speaker (2023)

**Women Who Code: Unlocking Economic Empowerment** – Panelist (2023)

**Winnipeg Condominium Corporation 797** – Board Member (2021-Present)

**Future Leaders of Manitoba** – Board Member (2015-2019)