San Francisco, CA

(808)-551-0455

leighton.kaina@gmail.com

github.com/lkaina

linkedin.com/in/lkaina

leightonk.com

Leighton Kaina

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Strong: JavaScript - Backbone, Node - HTML, CSS, jQuery, Stata.

Knowledgeable: Objective-C, Angular, D3, Python, R, ArcGIS.

EXPERIENCE

2013   ***PhoneTag***   *San Francisco, CA*
- Created a geolocation based, multiplayer, mobile game that combines mechanics of paintball/laser tag with familiar videogame elements like power-ups and respawns.
- Designed game mechanics to overcome hardware limitations and provide a smooth user experience.
- Tech Stack: Backbone, Node+Express, Socket.io, Hammer.js, RequireJS, Stylus, Topcoat

2013   ***Donator***   *San Francisco, CA*
- Developed an iOS app that helps users discover various charitable organizations.
- Plan to deploy on the app store after partnering with charities and implementing in-app donation functionality.
- Tech Stack: Objective-C, CoreData, Parse (BaaS).

2009-Present   **Research Associate –** *Geltner Associates*   *Carlisle, MA*
- Produced the Moody's/REAL Commercial Property Price Index, a price index built from ~30,000 sales observations throughout the US that is widely considered the industry benchmark for monitoring property performance and price trends.
- Created an information product that highlighted the divergent performance of healthy and distressed property sales, later used by the US Department of the Treasury to help evaluate the financial stability of capital markets.
- Created a testing framework that allowed users to optimize index production by simulating different combinations of index parameters and various econometric techniques.
- Developed software that streamlined clients' index production through autonomous operation and identified inconsistencies in results by implementing multiple econometric techniques. Trained clients on software use and its application of the underlying index methodology.

2006-2008   **Research Support Associate –** *MIT Center for Real Estate*   *Cambridge, MA*
- Used econometric analyses to produce a housing affordability index that ranked towns in metro areas of Massachusetts and Rhode Island by their affordable housing inventory.
- Collaborated with 98 communities in the Greater Boston Area to investigate the effects of affordable housing legislation on real estate development by gathering unstructured data on 285 projects and proposals through field research.

2007   **Research Assistant –** *Harvard Business School*   *Boston, MA*
- Assisted in the development of a cross-country historical database that outlines the adoption of over 100 technologies in more than 150 countries since the 17th century and has been used to understand the diffusion of technology over the last 200+ years.

2004   **Research Assistant –** *MIT Media Lab*   *Cambridge, MA*
- Created a vibrotactile glove device to provide robot-controlling users with direct force feedback imitating the robot's touch response.

EDUCATION

2013   **Hack Reactor** - Advanced software engineering immersive   *San Francisco, CA*

2008-2009   **Tufts University** - Master of Arts in Economics*   *Medford, MA*

2002-2006   **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** - Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering*   *Cambridge, MA*

Academic scholarship recipient

PERSONAL

I enjoy playing football and basketball in my spare time and go snowboarding and bodyboarding when the weather permits. I love to travel, especially on road trips. I've driven across the continental US six times now, the most recent trip during my move from Boston to the Bay Area in the summer of 2013.