MANALI DESAI

EDUCATION

BS in Information

Sep 2016 > Apr 2020

@ University of Michigan | Ann Arbor Minor | Art & Design GPA | 3.5 Courses | All required IA and UX courses Si 538: Citizen Interaction Design Si 582: Intro to Interaction Design Urp 535: Urban Informatics Eecs 280: Data Structures

High School Diploma

Sep 2012 > Jun 2016 @ Lane Tech HS | Chicago, IL

SKILLS

Graphics | Illustrator / Photoshop
Programming | Python / C++
Data Manipulation & Visualization |
Pandas / SQL / Seaborn / Plotly
UX Design | Figma / Sketch /
User Research / Prototyping
Other | Teaching / Digital Fabrication

HONORS

CSforALL Summit Invitee
Oct 2018 | CSforALL

Fifty For The Future Award
Feb 2016 | Illinois Tech Foundation

Posse Leadership Scholarship
Dec 2015 | Posse Foundation
Aspirations In Computing Award
Mar 2015 | NCWIT

INTERESTS

Digital Fabrication / Civic Tech /
Chicago / Education / Brewing /
Urban Planning / Traveling /
Data Science / Food / Cats

EXPERIENCE

Studio Monitor

Jan 2017 > Present

@ Stamps Digital Fabrication Studio | Ann Arbor, MI Maintained, operated and taught students lab equipment such as Universal laser cutters, vinyl cutter, Fusion 3D printers, Form 2 printers, and a 4 axis CNC mill.

Instructor & Executive Board Member

Mar 2018 > Present

@ Invent Summer Abroad Program | Chincha, Peru

Designed Arduino/CAD curriculum for schools across Peru and Colombia. Taught adapted curriculum for 3 weeks to 6-11th grade students in Peru for 2 summers. Currently designing Advanced curriculum and recruiting for next summer.

Border Crossers with Chico Mcmutrie

Jan > Mar 2018

@ Wilson Center| Ann Arbor, MI

Helped build a giant inflatable robot that would cross 'borders' and hopefully the US/Mexico border with inflatables/robotics specialist Chico Mcmutrie. Designed and 3D printed parts for an interactive scale model to be used in gallery by visitors.

Student Teaching Assistant

May > Jun 2017

@ Lane Tech High School | Chicago, IL

Assisted fabrication teacher Jeff Solin in highschool Maker lab. Guest taught CAD program and helped students push their project ideas, troubleshoot and experiment with materials.

PROJECTS

Chi77 for non-profit Together Chicago

Jan > May 2019

As part of MDP program, working with my team to develop Chi77 an open source asset mapping tool that consolidates disparate data sources to aid non profits to better target areas in need. Mainly involved in UX design and user research.

Park Ferndale Jan > May 2019

In SI538 Citizen Interaction Design, my group worked with Ferndale's Department of Transportation to allivate a parking shortage. This involved transit/parking data analysis and user research leading us to design/prototype an app displaying parking availibility

Civic User Testing Group Detroit

March 2019

Worked with Data Driven Detroit and City of Detroit to conduct a formal usabilty test of the Detroit assistant tool, a voice command tool used to make useful information from the city data portal accessible and easily understood.

Chicago Restaurant Inspections

Apr 2018

Merged Chicago restaurant inspection data with Yelp data to explore the types of restaurants that are failing inspections, correlations between violations and Yelp rating, common violations and other findings.

Best Bean Events

Dec 2017

Queried Chicago Bean event data from Facebook and created a word cloud in the shape of the Bean of all the Bean event titles with the size based on how many attendees/interested people there were. "Flip the Bean so it gets an even tan line" was most popular.