

SAM FELDSTEIN

EVENTS SPECIALIST

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting

Chapman University | Orange, CA | December 2018 (withdrew)

Bachelor of Arts in English and Creative Writing

The University of Iowa | Iowa City, IA | December 2016

SKILLS

Creative & Technical

- Microsoft Office and Google Suite
- Web content creation and publishing
- Web Design and Development
- Photography

Nonprofits & Communication

- Fundraising and donor relations
- Empathy and diplomacy
- Professional writing

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Web Designer & Developer

April 2024 – Present | Boulder, CO

- Build bespoke, high-performance websites using modern static site generators and Content Management Systems.
- Optimize site performance using strategies like image optimization, CDN caching, and lean codebases to achieve sub-second load times and 95+ Lighthouse scores.
- Where needed, create content management workflows with headless CMS integrations, enabling non-technical clients to update site content independently.

Freelance Journalist @ The Big Bend Sentinel

September 2022 – December 2023 | Marfa, TX

- Produced compelling local journalism covering community events and grassroots activism, developing expertise in interview techniques and deadline-driven writing.
- Conducted in-depth interviews with community leaders, activists, and local stakeholders to uncover compelling narratives and ensure accurate representation.
- Balanced journalistic integrity with narrative storytelling to create articles that were informative, engaging, and accessible.

General Manager @ The Sentinel

October 2020 – November 2021 | Marfa, TX

- Managed front-of-house operations, delivering exceptional customer service and fostering a welcoming, community-oriented atmosphere.
- Led hiring efforts by crafting compelling job postings, conducting interviews, and implementing a standardized training program to ensure team consistency and efficiency.
- Oversaw inventory management, vendor relations, and supply ordering to optimize costs and maintain seamless operations.

Donor Engagement Specialist @ Lear Solutions

May 2019 – December 2019 | Santa Ana, CA

- Secured a projected ~\$300,000 in funding for high-impact organizations, including the ASPCA and Doctors Without Borders, through persuasive face-to-face donor engagement.
- Cultivated relationships with prospective donors, tailoring messaging to align with individual values and maximize long-term contributions.
- Implemented proven rhetorical fundraising techniques to drive high-quality, recurring donations, strengthening donor retention and organizational sustainability.

Graduate Teaching Assistant @ Chapman University

January 2018 – December 2018 | Orange, CA

- Facilitated classroom operations by organizing course materials, preparing lesson plans, and leading discussions on screenwriting techniques and industry practices.
- Provided mentorship to first-year graduate students, offering detailed feedback on scripts, résumés, and internship applications to enhance professional development.
- Evaluated and graded assignments with a focus on narrative structure, character development, and industry standards in screenwriting.

Wix Developer & Horseback Riding Instructor @ Community Health and Equine Coalition

April 2024 – May 2024 | Galveston, TX

- Redesigned and maintained the organization's website using Wix CMS, enhancing user experience and accessibility.
- Integrated a secure payment gateway, streamlining the donation process and increasing fundraising efficiency.
- Instructed clients aged 13-25 in horseback riding, fostering skill development and confidence.

Volunteer @ Workaway

April 2024 – September 2024 | Various Locations

- Hippotherapy Center and Farm in Galveston – Cared for farm animals, assisted with daily operations, and contributed to improvement projects.
- Airbnb Supervision in New Orleans – Managed guest coordination, answered inquiries, resolved issues, and cleaned units to maintain high standards.
- Home Improvement in Boulder – Built a flagstone wall and replaced deteriorating flagstone steps.
- Collaborated with volunteers from Hungary, Italy, Spain, and France, developing strong cross-cultural communication and teamwork skills.

Horse Trainer @ Animal Rescue League

January 2014 – January 2015 | Ankeny, IA

- Rehabilitated and trained rescued horses to improve handling, responsiveness, and trust, preparing them for adoption and new owners.
- Worked with neglected and abused horses, implementing patient, trust-building techniques to rebuild confidence and correct behavioral challenges.
- Assisted with daily care and stable management, including feeding, grooming, and monitoring equine health to ensure proper rehabilitation.

PUBLICATIONS

Made of Memories

Short Story | *Tales to Terrify* | December 2023

Big Bend Reproductive Coalition Launches Community Needs Assessment

News Article | *The Big Bend Sentinel* | August 2023

The First

Flash Fiction | *The Collidescope* | October 2022

Trans-Pecos Festival of Music + Love Doubles as Platform for Advocacy and Outreach

News Article | *The Big Bend Sentinel* | October 2022

Absence of Meaning in the Lighthouse

Film Criticism | *The Frida Cinema Blog* | April 2022

PROJECTS

ReGreen Big Bend

Website | January 2025 – February 2025

- Developed a custom WordPress theme for an environmental restoration project in Far West Texas.
- Designed high-fidelity mock-ups in Figma with a focus on regional aesthetics and responsive design.
- Optimized performance through strategic asset loading and caching to achieve 95+ Lighthouse scores.

Postoley Dance Ensemble

Website | November 2024 – February 2025

- Built a website for an independent folk dance studio in Boulder, CO.
- Transformed the legacy site into a modern, component-based static website using Astro, achieving 95+ Lighthouse performance scores.
- Integrated a headless CMS so the client could update site content independently.

Prairie Rose Arena

Website | April 2024 – May 2024

- Built a custom static website for an equestrian event center in Elkhart, IA.
- Conceived and implemented a complete site redesign with a mobile-first, responsive approach.
- Integrated a headless CMS to allow the client to independently manage events.
- Optimized performance through modern build processes, lazy loading, and asset optimization.