

STEPHEN CASTANEDA

Los Angeles, CA | (310) 901-9100 | stephen.castaneda40@gmail.com | [LinkedIn: Stephen Castaneda](#)
[GitHub: Stephen Castaneda](#)

FRONT-END SOFTWARE ENGINEER

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dynamic and results-oriented front-end software engineer with a strong focus on **React**, **JavaScript**, and **TypeScript** development. Transitioning from a rich background in music, including a Master's degree in Music Education, into a successful software engineering career, I bring a unique blend of creativity, technical aptitude, and problem-solving capabilities. Proven track record of designing and delivering scalable, user-centric web applications, driving process improvements, and enhancing user experiences for multiple startups and large-scale client engagements. Adept at collaborating cross-functionally with design and development teams to build seamless, secure, and highly functional user interfaces. Eager to apply my technical and strategic skills to solve complex challenges and contribute to the success of innovative tech initiatives.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Full Stack Software Development (React, React Native, NodeJS)
- Mobile Application Development and Optimization
- Component Library Development and API Integration
- Agile Methodologies (Scrum, Pair Programming, Mentoring)
- User Experience (UX) and Interface (UI) Design
- Scalable, High Performance Web and Mobile Solutions

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Languages & Frameworks: JavaScript, TypeScript, ReactJS, React Native, NodeJS, HTML5, CSS
- Backend & Cloud: AWS, Docker, NextJS, Django
- Tools & Libraries: Styled Components, Storybook, Emotion, Figma, Postman
- Other Skills: Wordpress, PHP, SonarQub, Heroku, Jira

EXPERIENCE

Front-End Web Expert

Booz Allen Hamilton, Remote

06/23 – Present

In my current role as a Front-End Web Expert, I support client engagements for prestigious US government clients by leading the design and implementation of highly scalable, durable, and secure web-based applications and services. Collaborate closely with UI/UX designers and back-end developers to ensure a seamless user experience across browsers, platforms, and devices. Utilize both functional and industry knowledge to develop front-end solutions that prioritize accessibility and security, meeting the needs of diverse users. Benefit from mentorship, code reviews, and opportunities for skill development to contribute effectively to the delivery of optimal solutions for clients.

- Orchestrated the overhaul of the homepage on WordPress for the United States Mint, leveraging Advanced Custom Fields (ACF) to create dynamic content sections. Implemented over 32 custom fields across four distinct groups, enhancing user engagement and interaction.
- Collaborated with a team of four colleagues, serving as the sole developer, completed the redesign project in 3 months, despite a historical precedent showing a 12-month completion timeline, representing a 75% reduction in development time.
- Implemented accessibility enhancements to the redesigned website, including optimizing website structure and integrating assistive technologies, resulting in a 20% increase in accessibility compliance scores based on WCAG guidelines.

Co-Founder

Culturally Tech, Nashville, TN

04/21 – 06/23

Focuses on ensuring education and career opportunities in the tech industry for high school students belonging to underrepresented groups and equipping them with industry-aligned skills. Runs coding tutorials virtually and in-person teaching as many as 25 students at a time using JavaScript, Bootstrap, and React showing strong leadership abilities and industry expertise.

- Awarded Diversity & Inclusion Initiative of the Year 2022 by the Nashville Tech Council for exemplary efforts and outstanding results in the field of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Leveraged a strong coaching mentality to co-write detailed curriculum using in-demand tech languages and teach over 100 students the main coding techniques

Full Stack Software Engineer

02/22 – 01/23

Littera Education, Remote

Participated in the design and creation of scalable software simultaneously testing and fixing coding issues. Developed and managed well-functioning databases and applications. Wrote effective APIs to ensure responsiveness and efficiency. Troubleshoot and upgraded software as necessary and created security and data protection settings. Assumed responsibility for prioritizing and writing tickets and ensuring deliverable dates. Partnered on the component-library building project using React, Storybook, and Emotion and built back-end endpoints utilizing NextJS. Worked on the classroom waiting-room experience, utilizing React and TypeScript, and regularly added unit tests to increase code readability and provide quality code across the platform.

- Recognized as one of the two engineers tasked with building a component library to create reusable components for engineers across all teams.
- Member of the seven-person team, including two quality assurance, that delivered a tutoring platform serving over 50,000 students.
- Utilized TDD approach and maintained 100% coverage for each branch while averaging three-to-five-unit tests for each new feature.

Software Engineer

03/21 – 02/22

FortyAU, Nashville, TN

Analyzed the problems and designed scalable solutions using software engineering principles. Assumed responsibility for data acquisition, maintenance and security, test case designing, and documentation. Developed and executed project plans by creating technical specifications, designing, and developing test cases. Adept at using PHP, WordPress, jQuery, JavaScript, and React.js. Built a notification service that utilized Amazon AWS SDK and NESTJS. Refactored components of legacy Word Press source code into reusable architecture and created a reusable upload component in React. Evaluated client needs and specifications to improve one React/NestJS application and more than ten Word Press sites.

- Worked collaboratively with three other software engineers to maintain WordPress sites for over 200 funeral homes
- Completed over 50 bug tickets for high-traffic WordPress sites thereby reducing downtime for clients
- Took part in building an education platform for United Methodist Church, utilized by over 1,000 users at a time
- Mentored two junior developers on a Word Press project through pair programming and developed a standalone Word Press website for a high-priority client

Front-End Web Developer- Contract

11/20 – 03/21

CorrDyn, Nashville, TN

Optimized the user experience using HTML, JavaScript, and CSS. Developed and maintained the user interface and implemented designs on mobile websites. Created tools to improve site interaction regardless of the browser. Managed software workflow following SEO best practices. Ensured the alignment of web design and user experience requirements by optimizing web pages for maximum efficiency.

- Took part in building an app for an NFL agent containing data from 22 different professional football leagues, utilizing React, Typescript, Inertia, and Django
- Worked independently creating 10 major components of the component library for the application, resulting in reusable components for all engineers
- Displayed advanced knowledge of Agile methodology

JavaScript Teacher/Coach :

01/20 – 01/21

Pivot Tech, Nashville, TN

Taught adult students how to code, using JavaScript, React, Python, and Django. Leveraged strong communication skills to deliver comprehensive coding instruction and professional career coaching services as well as lead diverse independent and group projects.

- Designed and delivered an in-depth JavaScript curriculum, tailored to equip students with industry-relevant skills in front-end development, covering core concepts such as DOM manipulation, asynchronous programming, and modern frameworks like React.
- Led engaging JavaScript classes for groups of up to 25 students remotely, fostering hands-on learning.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Music Teacher Kipp Nashville Collegiate, Nashville, TN	06/19 – 05/20
Music Teacher RePublic High School, Greater Nashville Area, TN	06/15 – 06/19

CERTIFICATIONS

Google Project Management Certification	ongoing
Amazon AWS Certification	ongoing

EDUCATION

Full Stack Development Bootcamp (JavaScript/React/Python/Django) Nashville Software School, Nashville, TN	2021
Master of Arts, Music Education Westminster Choir College, Lawrenceville, NJ	2015
Bachelor of Arts, Piano Performance Hampton University, Hampton, VA	2012