



Spencer Chang

*creative technologist, writer,
dream weaver, computational poet*

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Spencer Chang plays with software as a medium for creative expression, homemaking, and playful tool crafting. He is imagining and creating an alternative future of computing, rooted in communal agency. He believes computing can become an everyday instrument for personal expression and communal flourishing and solidarity building. Spencer practices a combination of design, code, poetry, and worldbuilding to create useful art, playful tools, and empowering infrastructure. He seeks out wonder and connection, including cooking, fashion, photography, walking, sky-watching, and dancing.

Experience

Coda (coda.io)

California, United States
Aug 2019 - Present
*a document, spreadsheet
and database all-in-one. A
tool aiming to democratize
software, so that anyone
can create the tools and
software that work for them.*

Software Engineer

first 50 employees

- Lead development for Templates, system enabling anyone to create a reusable tool (from idea brainstorms, to task trackers, to coffee brew guides) and share it with their team for immediate use, which dramatically increased the ease of getting started and making things with Coda. (see blog post)
- Assisted in the creation of backbone infrastructure, including our billing, organization, and profile systems, to enable email and password accounts, Stripe invoicing, and ACL management and document organization.
- Core engineer on the Packs Platform team (~5 engineers, 1 designer, 1 PM).
 - Maintain the Packs SDK, open-source infrastructure for extending Coda’s functionality by bringing in and taking action on external apps’ data. Created an automated workflow for updating the documentation.
 - Created Pack Cards, a live data, customizable card for external links.
 - Created OpenAI Pack, an integration for everyone to leverage AI for their work and creative expression with their everyday tools.

Verses (verses.xyz)

the Internet
Dec 2021 - Present
*collective of writers,
researchers, & technologists
co-imagining, practicing,
and building a healthier
cyberspace.*

Core Contributor

core contributor group of 10

- Lead product, design, and development for pluriverse.world, an interactive manifesto questioning explicit financialization of relationships in crypto and putting forth patterns and examples for a new “web,” if it were human-oriented and suffused with care and agency.
 - 7500+ signatures and contributions from the planetary community.
 - Press: Zora Zine interview, CCS Journal piece, Arweave.
- Co-lead development for poems.verses.xyz, a gallery of shapeshifting poems and an open-source library for transforming text. Included a live playground. Visitors were invited to create their own live and submit ones they made.
- Helped co-create and maintain the online community of ~200. Created a Treasury tool manage payouts to contributors in a transparent manner.

Independent Studio (spencerchang.me)

the Internet
2020 - Present

Developer, Designer, Writer, Artist

mostly just me

- **tiny internets**: a research inquiry on what does a more natural, soft, and quiet internet look like, one where public spaces are actively shaped by us to not only use but live in? Explored during the Interact Residency and created browser extension exploring different avenues for intimacy with beta users, including digital geocaching, commuting, and time capsules.
- **8-bite**: a computational poem game where the classic Pacman is changed so that players eat words to create their own poem. Published in taper 8.
- **Everyday Magic**: an essay for Reboot calling for agencyful software. Shared by New_Public and DisCO Coop.

Airbnb

California, United States
May 2018 - Aug 2018

Software Engineering Intern

- Extended knowledge graph infrastructure to associate locations (markets/ neighborhoods) with Airbnb inventory (homes, places, experiences, etc.), enabling traversal of inventory by location and what make locations unique via word embeddings derived from the relationships.
- Authored blog post on scaling information access at Airbnb with over 1500 claps and 30k views (bit.ly/SpencerAirbnbPost)

Education

Rice University

Houston, TX,

B.A. Computer Science, Masters of Computer Science

Aug 2015 - May 2019

GPA: 3.87