# Tal Zaken

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Recurse Center
November 2021 - February 2022
**Participant**
- tMinusMbta, a webapp that lets users create a dashboard of countdown timers for stations of interest within the MBTA transit system. Built with Django and the MBTA developers API.
- Beantown Compost, a webapp for mapping composting locations in the Greater Boston Area from crowdsourced data. Built with Django, Leaflet.js, and PostGIS.
- ColorController, a Python library for converting colors between english-language names and various color value schemes (RGB, hex, HSV). Find the value of an arbitrary color name, or look up the name of a color by it's value.
- TextCam, a server that generates a stream of ASCII-art derived from a client's webcam, and displays it to other clients. Built with Python, Flask, and JavaScript.
- WikiFilms, a streaming animation of the edits to a given Wikipedia page over time, embedded in a Flask application.
- QR, a toy QR code generator that generates exactly one QR code, which links to talzaken.com.

### NYC Dept. of Sanitation, Bureau of Recycling & Sustainability
March 2020 - December 2021
**Senior Project and Data Specialist**
- Program designer and launch manager of SmartCompost.nyc, a high-tech residential composting pilot program.
- Responsible for collecting all of NYC's recycling data and publishing New York City's annual rate of recycling.
- Managed all reporting, statistics, and analysis for the Bureau of Recycling & Sustainability, including data collection/storage, data visualization, and KPI tracking.
- Responsible for developing all maps released by the Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability.

**Data Specialist, COVID-19 Response**
- Wrote and utilized a geographic clustering algorithm for GetFoodNYC, used in complex routing scenarios at the scale of 25,000+ stops over 20+ routes with variable demand and capacity.
- Managed development and maintenance of the GetFoodNYC Map, NYC's official map of publicly accessible emergency food programs across the five boroughs.
- Built and maintained automated reporting pipelines for the NYC Mayor's Office and NYC City Council, on emergency food and recycling metrics, and designed mission-critical dashboards.
- Supported process improvement on inter-agency data projects, including customer service solutions that shortened response times for 2000+ complaints per day.

October 2015 - July 2020
**Partnerships and Programs Manager**
- Contract manager overseeing agreements valued at $12,500,000 and covering 60+ workers. Managed budget and rep[orting databases with MS Access and SQL Server.
- Wrote and tested reporting queries against budget and payments databases, and developed monthly reports.
- Developed content and specifications for web pages and forms to support crowd-sourced, community-based recycling drop-off programs.
- Built NYC Sanitation's apartment building composting program, also serving nonprofits, institutions, and city agencies. Grew program enrollment from 2000 to 200,000+ households utilizing data-informed approaches.

## EDUCATION

**Brandeis University, 2007 - 2011**
BA in English Literature, with Honors
Allen Grossman Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis

## SKILLS + TOOLS

- Languages: Python; JavaScript; HTML/CSS; SQL/Postgres
- Web Frameworks: Django; Flask
- Data Analysis: Pandas; Jupyter Notebooks; Excel/VBA
- GIS: GeoPandas; ArcGIS; PostGIS; Leaflet/Folium; OSMNx
- Data Visualization: Matplotlib; Bokeh; Power BI; Tableau