



Samson Zhang

hello@samsonzhang.com | Portfolio at clips.samsonzhang.com

Award-winning student journalist and data journalist with experience covering AAPI activism and politics. Also experienced software engineer and product manager and founder of Y Combinator-interviewed startup.

Awards and grants

Best Interactive Graphic of 2021 by the California College Media Association in March 2022

Awarded for "[Data visualization: first-generation, Black student percentages drop in Pomona's class of 2025](#)"

Best COVID Coverage of 2021 by the California College Media Association in March 2022

Awarded to *The Student Life*, with my byline for the [TSL 5C COVID Dashboard](#)

2022 Next Challenge Grant from the American Public Media Group's Glen Nelson Center in February 2022

\$10,000 grant awarded to *The Yappie* with my contribution to application and pitch deck

SJN Advancing Democracy Grant in October 2021

\$7,000 grant awarded to *The Yappie* with my participation in one of three grant-funded projects

Writing and journalism

News Associate Editor, former Staff Writer at [The Student Life](#) from Sep 2021 - Present

Contributed COVID coverage and data journalism to the Claremont Colleges' student weekly. Directed 21-person news section of award-winning weekly student paper, focusing on COVID coverage and data journalism

Editor at [The Yappie](#) from May 2021 - Present

Covered California AAPI politics and activism alongside Axios and POLITICO reporters, contributed to business strategy and grant applications as early team member, participated in grant-funded solutions journalism project

Executive Digital Editor at [The Phillipian](#) from January 2019 - January 2020

Spearheaded transition to digital-first publication by rebuilding website, creating broadcast-like live news show

Software, product, and entrepreneurship

Product and Software Intern at [EV Connect](#) from July - September 2021

Developed product certification portal for Series C EV charging company, integrating with existing data

Founder at [Postulate](#) from January - June 2021

Selected for YC S'21 interview. Creator workflow startup with 1M+ words posted to date.

Organizer at [Edyfi Agora](#) in Summer 2021

Organized 18-person hacker house in SF, part of 5-house network, with venture-backed founders, VCs, engineers as members

Product Manager and Software Engineer at [StartupTree](#) from September 2020 - January 2021

For 300K+ users on 125+ platforms, rebuilt navigation and dashboard, working directly with CEO, CTO, CPO

Software Engineering and Design Contractor at Illumina, Contrary Capital, Remnote and others from June 2020 - Ongoing

Education

B.A. Media Studies, Physics | Pomona College, Fall 2021 - Spring 2025 (anticipated)