

## Bio – Yana Yakubchik

I'm a person who really enjoys the act of creating and learning new skills. My background is in fine art. I concentrated in sculpture while studying as an undergraduate at Rutgers University but I didn't restrict myself to only working three dimensionally. I made videos, animations, paintings, drawings, prints and digital artworks.

After graduating, I started working as a freelance illustrator to earn money. This led me to create a personal art website. I really didn't like free website templates that were available and so I worked to create my own. It was then that I discovered that I really enjoyed coding. For me, learning to code has been like discovering another form of creative medium.

I chose to pursue web development as a career to satisfy my creative tick and earn significantly more money than I could as an illustrator. As an undergrad, I learned about an organization of people who give at least ten percent of their income to cost effective charities called Giving What We Can or GWWC. I'm hoping with the extra money I'll earn as a developer, I can help in the fight in ending world poverty. I'm particularly interested in helping a charity called Against Malaria Foundation, for they provide bed nets to people to protect them from mosquitoes harboring the malaria virus. I have a special sort of hate for mosquitoes! I hate mosquitoes and goats. Goats are gross.

Lucky for goats, I don't eat meat, otherwise I might try to eat them to extinction! (Kidding of course) In fact I'm a vegan, and one of my favorite hobbies is learning new vegan recipes. I feel that one needs to be particularly creative when living off a vegan diet and I aspire to create meals that are comparable to high end restaurant dishes!

This drive that I have to be really good at cooking doesn't stop at cooking. I love mastering any skill I set out to learn. I'm not satisfied unless I'm over achieving and I can do so even under stress. In my studies, I earned a scholarship, a prestigious award, and maintained a high GPA, all while working part time and commuting to school.

Though, there are some skills that I have yet to master. I understand that many developer projects are largely team based. I'm highly introverted and interacting with large groups of people is sometimes a struggle. I am fully capable of holding conversations, communicating ideas, and working with a group to complete tasks. Afterwards, however, I feel really drained and need a night to recharge. I thrive psychologically when I'm given enough time to decompress.

Besides my slight worry about being overwhelmed by social interaction, I'm excited for the road ahead towards becoming a web developer. I feel that my skills as an artist help me better deal with the hardships of coding. Sculptures break, and paintings fail and as an artist, I have to problem solve and make my work better. Code breaks all the time and I'm comfortable with that – each time I learn from the experience. I look forward to meeting individuals like myself who are passionate problem solving coders!