

Yusuf Ahmad

I build creative tools and learning communities

media.mit.edu/people/yusufa/

410-615-3602 | yusufa@mit.edu

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Tech.

S.M. in Media, Arts, & Sciences, 2020

Advised by Mitchel Resnick

Columbia University

B.A. in Anthropology, 2012

Summa Cum Laude

Mentorship & Teaching

- Co-taught MIT course on creative learning technologies (2019)
- Co-taught MIT's Learning Creative Learning online course (2018)
- Coach youth in creative computing projects at Fab Lab 01 (2019 - 2020)
- Mentor MIT startups with the MIT Sandbox Fund (2018 - Present)

Talks & Workshops

- IDEO: Toolkit for inclusive design
- CLS: Creating tools for global users
- MIT: Inventing the future of learning
- Harvard: African education ventures
- ALX: Intro to rapid prototyping

Skills

- Systems design, user research, coaching, product management
- Figma, JavaScript, Python

Experience

MIT Media Lab, Lifelong Kindergarten (LLK)

Researcher, 2018 - 2020

LLK is an MIT research group that invents creative tools, communities, and approaches to learning (e.g. Scratch)

- Led 4 engineers and designers in research and iterative development of a design tool for educators; created user stories and roadmap; guided prioritization and testing
- Created planning tool for school leaders adapting to COVID; won \$15,000 Aspen grant; launched with IDEO
- Developed strategies, resources, and partnerships to localize Scratch into 60+ languages for 10M+ users
- Researched innovative K-16 school models and advised school leaders and governments on innovation strategies
- Facilitated design & computing workshops for educators

African Leadership University (ALU)

Director, Degree Programs, 2014 - 2018

ALU is a higher-ed startup with 2000+ students across Africa, campuses in 2 countries, and \$80M+ USD in funding

- Led 20+ faculty in developing project-based degree programs (through ideation, design, and launch)
- Directed technology, staffing, user experience, and scaling strategy for degrees; managed accreditation partnerships
- Led team of 12 in design of a self-directed degree program in Rwanda and unaccredited programs in Kenya
- Developed pedagogy resources and workshops for faculty

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Junior Fellow, 2013 - 2014

- Created data visualizations, content, and website that shaped anti-corruption efforts in Africa and Asia
- Synthesized rule of law reform research for policymakers

American University in Cairo (AUC)

Presidential Associate, 2012 - 2013

- Crafted AUC's enrollment strategy during a revolution
- Awarded \$400,000 grant to enhance civic engagement and employment outcomes at universities in the Middle East