

Rachel Kangas

UX Designer

rachel-kangas.com

(626) 722 - 7205

rachelkangas1@gmail.com

linkedin.com/in/rachelkangas/

EXPERIENCE

Contract UX Designer / StatRookie

Nov 2020 - present | Seattle, WA

- Retained for future contract work after successful completed assignment for proof of concept design mockups.
- Led design vision, identified critical design requirements, and communicated effectively with the client to design a user flow and a conceptual prototype for a children's financial literacy game.

Graduate Accessibility Tester / UW Libraries

Nov 2019 - Sep 2020 | Seattle, WA

- Analyzed keyboard accessibility for 100+ UW Libraries web resources.
- Developed a test framework to log additional accessibility issues using the WAVE extension and collaborate with vendors on a solution.

Graduate Product Designer / Telenav

Jan - Jun 2020 | Seattle, WA

- Collaborated to develop design recommendations and design the conceptual user experience for addressing both in-car safety and users' needs in Telenav infotainment systems.
- Brainstormed design recommendations by analyzing research findings through affinity diagramming and thematic analysis.
- Conducted concept testing and SME interviews to iterate on proposed design recommendations and speculative concepts.

Graduate UX Researcher / AccessVis

Jun - Sep 2019 | Seattle, WA

- Collaborated to develop a thematic data analysis strategy for a 25-person, multi-stakeholder qualitative study on urban accessibility.
- Synthesized interview and design probe findings and extracted design implications for visualization tools as coauthor of a paper submitted to CSCW 2020.

Content Writer Intern / Schema Design

Feb - Jul 2019 | Seattle, WA

- Created and audited content for company documentation, website, and client-facing design project presentations.
- Conducted competitive analyses and analyzed interview transcripts.

EDUCATION

M.S., Human Centered Design & Engineering

University of Washington

2018 - 2020 | GPA: 3.9/4.0

B.S., Mechanical Engineering

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

2012 - 2017

SKILLS

Design

Interaction design
Information architecture
User scenarios & flows
Storytelling
Sketching / Wireframing
Info visualization
Rapid prototyping
3D Modeling & fabrication

Research

Study design
Survey design
Usability & concept testing
Remote interviews & testing
Competitive analysis
Qualitative interviews
Diary studies

Tools

Sketch
Figma
InVision
Illustrator / InDesign
JavaScript / HTML / CSS
Arduino
SolidWorks

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EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Graduate UX Researcher / Zillow Rental Manager

Jan - Mar 2019 | Seattle, WA

- Designed and conducted usability studies with 10 ZRM users on a conceptual prototype provided by Zillow software engineers.
- Collaborated with Zillow researchers and developers to define goals and user scenarios and create testing prototypes.

HMI Test Engineer / Volkswagen Electronics Research Lab

Jan - Sep 2018 | Belmont, CA

- Founded the HMI testing sub team for Audi infotainment features and attended function lead meetings within one year of starting.
- Conducted testing and issue reporting for rear-seat entertainment, driver distraction, and user experience topics.
- Facilitated test engineering discussions to brainstorm and propose software HMI improvements to Germany.

Test Engineer Intern / Volkswagen Electronics Research Lab

Jun - Dec 2017 | Belmont, CA

- Developed the first in-vehicle software test specifications and issue-logging framework for driver distraction standards.
- Conducted testing and communicated results with project leads and German counterparts to ensure compliance.
- Identified the need for a human-machine interface and user experience sub-team within the test engineering team.

LEADERSHIP

HCDE Grad Ambassador

2019 - 2020

Design Volunteer, Atari Women

Jan - Mar 2019

AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

3rd place, Airbnb x UW HCDE

Design Jam, 2018

"Urban Accessibility as a Socio-Political Problem: A Multi-Stakeholder Analysis",

Computer-Supported
Cooperative Work, 2020