

Austin Kowitz

Graphic Designer & Front-end Developer

Skills

Experience

So, between May 2012 and April 2013, I travelled the country via Amtrak and toured a bunch of cities to see where I wanted to live. I found Portland. I love it and I've never looked back!

I did various freelance gigs while looking for full-time work. I worked on LGBT fundraisers, sold t-shirts online to niche markets, miscellaneous design work for a raleigh-area high school, and completed numerous personal works.

Currently, outside of work...

I run two nightlife events in Portland.

One is a monthly, relaxed cocktail social, with themed visuals (which I produce) to promote conversation among guests.

The other is a LGBTQ event with DJs, dancers, bouncers, etc. - All people I have to manage, budget for, and pay by the end of the night. I create all of the video, design and promo materials for these events as well.

Austin Kowitz (kOH-witz)

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HTML/CSS (like the back of my hand), PHP, JQuery, Drupal & Wordpress theming.

Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Social Media.

Premiere Pro, After Effects, basic 3D modelling.

Hands-on construction (wood, painting, sewing, etc). Ikea master.

Digital Turf / Graphic Design & Front-end Developer

APRIL 2013 - PRESENT, PORTLAND OR

Digital Turf (digitalturf.net) focuses on design and web presence for political and special interest campaigns around the country. I've designed and built numerous political websites in Wordpress, Drupal, and plain HTML, CSS and JQuery; As well as designed logos and campaign print materials.

DZone.com / Graphic Designer & Front-end Developer

MAY 2011 - MAY 2012, RALEIGH NC

DZone is a destination for links, news, and guides for all things programming. It was built in Drupal and my tasks involved redesigning & building parts of the main site, laying out print materials, working closely with backend developers, fulfilling often contradictory tasks in a hectic environment.

PNC Arena / Beer Team Member

AUG 2010 - APRIL 2011, RALEIGH NC

Well.. we would make sure all the kegs throughout the hockey arena's many coolers were full and tapped. This isn't a job that helped my design career in many ways, other than learning the value of teamwork. Even in instances where you don't quite mesh with the culture of your teammates. It's all about staying positive, having fun, and getting the job done.

Education

Appalachian State University / BFA in Graphic Design

AUG 2006 - JUNE 2010, NORTH CAROLINA

Don't let the name fool you, App State is one of the top design schools in North Carolina - the entry requirements and curriculum were fierce. My design education was awesome, but I'm thankful I was able to get a taste of many different creative mediums while at App as I am a true subscriber to the jack of all trades mentality.

But also in High School...

I was a an AP (advanced placement) art student and president of the art club! I thought I was just a quiet art kid - but it turns out I was pretty popular. I like to think my creative drive brings people together - gets people excited about the possibilities if they just think creatively and resourcefully.

Interests

I want to explore more 3D modelling / design, Cinema 4D video, things like that.

I've started a few nightlife events and social media management is a big part of that - but I'd like to learn more on that front. I'd like to explore what tools are available and dig deeper.

I think projection mapping and other neat visual effects with video could be a very useful skill to pick up.

I'm always looking to improve my typography skills - and design skills overall, but typography is honestly the area I feel I could punch up a notch.

I'd love to produce great video content whether its filming people for interviews or a documentary type situation, or even animation... I just really want to get better at preparing content that people would be interested in consuming.