

Ryan Balla

Front-end developer, interface designer.

Objective

To join a forward-thinking team where my passion for crafting the best user experiences through front-end development and creative thinking can be used to their fullest capacity.

Education

10.2005 - 09.2008

The Illinois Institute of Art – Chicago; Chicago, Illinois
Bachelor of Fine Art, Interactive Media Design - 3.8/4.0 GPA
Received Dean's List Honors, Jan. 2006 - Sept. 2008

Strengths

- Highly skilled in crafting user interfaces for web sites and web applications.
- Strongly rooted in standards-based HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Experienced with optimizing sites for accessibility compliance.
- Enjoys working both with teams and independently.
- Committed to clear and concise communication with team members.
- Experienced with Agile and SCRUM iterative management styles.

Primary Software / Tools *(not exhaustive)*

Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Drupal, Wordpress

Languages

Front-End: CSS, SCSS, JavaScript, XML, HTML5

Back-End: Ruby on Rails, SQL, PHP, ASP

Work Experience

10.2008 - Present

PointRoll (Formerly ShopLocal); Chicago, Illinois
Designer, Front-end Developer

Led development of the iPad and mobile optimized site platform using CSS3 and HTML5. Created user-flow, wireframes, and related documentation for platform redesigns. Designed interfaces for new site implementations to seamlessly integrate into existing branding. Led initiatives to re-factor front-end code to be standards-based and to streamline work flows. Introduced CSS pre-processing, saving time and adding new tools for team use. Worked with visually impaired users to make sites highly accessible, even with AJAX. Developed procedures for testing and improving JavaScript performance.

10.2007 - Present

Freelance; Chicago, Illinois
Independent Contractor

Single point of contact for client's Web needs. Projects varied from e-commerce to personal sites and blogs. Scope of work ranged from design to development. Worked with PHP and Ruby on Rails languages. Provided consulting to add value to the client's business and exceeded expectations.

Extracurricular

ChicagoRuby - User Group volunteer/assistant, member

WindyCityRails - Conference assistant, attendee