

Ayana Nishali Leelasena

Summit, NJ | ayanal@umich.edu | +1 (908) 376-8222 | <https://ayanaleelasena.com/> | [linkedin.com/in/ayana-leelasena/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ayana-leelasena/)

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, School of Information

Ann Arbor, MI

Master of Science in Human-Computer Interaction - User Experience Design/Research Track (GPA 4.0)

Aug 2024 - May 2026

Relevant Courses: Advanced Interaction Design (Figma, Axure), Fundamentals of Human Behavior, UX Research Methodologies, Web Design and Development (HTML5), Graphic Design (Photoshop/Illustrator), Python 1, Usability Evaluations and Needs

Tufts University

Medford, MA

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Psychology, Minor in Computer Science (GPA 3.5)

Sep 2018 - May 2022

Relevant Courses: Cognitive Science, Human Computer Interaction, Methods for Human Factor Engineering (CAD), Computer Interface Design (Figma), Intro to CS, CS Algorithms, CS Data Structures (GIT, C++, SQL), Web Programming (JS/HTML)

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

UFinance

Ann Arbor, MI

UX/UI Designer and Researcher

Sep 2024 - Dec 2024

- Designed interactive wireframes and high-fidelity prototypes in Figma for a new student accessible budgeting application
- Conducted usability testing and 15+ interviews in order to enrich data-driven user insights and develop detailed user flows
- Created information architecture and cohesive design system, leading to user satisfaction scores increasing by 40%

Ann Arbor SPARK

Ann Arbor, MI

User Experience Researcher

Sep 2024 - Dec 2024

- Managed 10+ user interviews with small business owners and mental health professional stakeholders in Ann Arbor region
- Developed affinity diagrams utilizing qualitative research data, identifying key findings and solutions to aid self-employed individuals facing mental health and financial stability challenges
- Presented key findings and solutions to 200+ individuals including C-Suite executives in a keynote presentation

WORK EXPERIENCE

Copper Hill

Livonia, MI

UX Design Intern (Part-Time Winter Internship)

Jan 2025 - April 2025

- Apply design system management, including creating UI components, documenting design specifications and style guides, and maintaining consistent interface patterns across Copper Hill's digital platforms
- Gather usage data through surveys and application analytics for sketches, wireframes, mockups, and prototypes

WillowTree

Charlottesville, VA

Platform Software Test Automation Engineer

Sep 2022 - Aug 2024

- Partnered with designers/devs to ensure functional/usable implementation of design specifications for mobile applications, significantly increasing user satisfaction scores on the App and Google Play Store by 40%
- Sole TE on project and wrote end-to-end automation tests for mobile applications, improving test coverage by 70%
- Led Test Releases where I maintained integrity of test pipelines and CI/CD processes, reducing deployment errors by 60%

Canvas GFX

Boston, MA

Software & Usability Test Engineer Intern

April 2021 - March 2022

- Executed Software and Usability testing for 100% of Canvas GFX's Envision software on the Web and Desktop platforms
- Configured cloud based software deployments on AWS and S3, achieving fully automated and consistent deployments
- Provided feedback on the application's interface to optimize UX on 15 projects, improving the usability experience by 80%

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

SIMA (School of Information Master's Association) and MSI Committee, Academic & Curriculum Lead

Sep 2024 - present

- Co-Lead in faculty interdisciplinary committee, advising in significant decisions affecting UMich classes and curriculum

Computers4Kids, Mentor

Jan 2024 - Aug 2024

- Mentored three youths to foster equity and opportunity in their communities, teaching fundamental technology skills

Trees of Color, Employee Resource Group Lead

Aug 2023 - Aug 2024

- Co-Lead of group of over 200 people, building a community for People of Color through organizing company-wide events

SKILLS

Design: User Flows, Wireframes, Information Architecture, Visual Hierarchy, Prototyping, Journey Mapping, Design Systems, Color Theory, Layouts, User-Focused Design, Typography, Accessibility, High Fidelity Mockups, Visual/UI Design, Interaction Design

Research: UX Research, Competitor Analysis, User Surveys, Heuristics Evaluations, Usability Testing, User Interviews, Personas

Software: Figma, HTML/CSS, Python, C++, Swift, SQL, JavaScript, SurveyMonkey, Sketch, Adobe Photoshop, Excel, Powerpoint

Product Delivery: JIRA, GIT, Wrike, Trello, Miro, Azure, AWS, Agile, Confluence, Problem Solving, Collaboration, Communication