Ayana Nishali Leelasena

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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 - April 2026

    Relevant Courses: Interaction Design (Figma, Axure), Fundamentals of Human Behavior, UX Research Methodologies, AR/VR Intro, Web Design (HTML5), Graphic Design (Adobe Design Suite), Accessibility, Python 1, Usability Evaluations and Needs

Tufts University   **Medford, MA**
Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science, 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 (Python), CS Data Structures (C++), 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 50+ 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 30+ 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

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%

Human Care Systems   **Boston, MA**
Software Quality Assurance Intern   April 2020 - Aug 2020
- Performed structured end-to-end testing and provided critical feedback and reported bugs on new features using JIRA, reducing error rate significantly across all digital platforms by 30%
- Composed detailed testing plans using Excel to track progress for every feature, ensuring full and thorough coverage

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*   Sep 2022 - July 2023
- Mentored three youths to foster equity and opportunity in their communities, teaching fundamental technology skills

Trees of Color, *Employee Resource Group Lead*   Aug 2022 - Aug 2023
- 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, Interaction Design, Prototyping, Journey Maps, Design Systems, Workflows, Adaptive Design, Mobile/Web Design, Typography, Accessibility, Mock-Ups, UX Design, UI Design, Visual Design
Research: UX Research, Competitive Analysis, Surveys, Heuristics, Usability Testing, Interviews, Affinity Diagrams, User Personas
Software: Figma, Axure, HTML, Python, C++, Kotlin, Swift, JavaScript, Excel, Sketch, Adobe Creative Suite, CAD, Lucid Chart
Product Delivery: JIRA, Wrike, Trello, Miro, Azure, AWS, Agile, Confluence, GIT, Problem Solving, Collaboration, Communication