

Ngoc Ballard

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SUMMARY

Accomplished UX Director with over 10 years in leading product design for technical audiences within growth-stage B2B SaaS environments. Proven expertise in enhancing collaboration between design, engineering, and product teams, driving impactful user experiences across complex workflows. Skilled in developing high-performing design teams while fostering credibility in strategic conversations about products. Committed to delivering intentional and cohesive user experiences that align with business objectives and enhance developer productivity. Eager to join InnovateTech Solutions to improve design's influence on product strategy, ensuring every experience resonates with users.

EXPERIENCE

Director, UX

January 2022 - Present

InnovateTech Solutions

Chicago, IL

Oversee a team of product designers working across various technical product lines while maintaining top standards for design quality. Build partnerships with Engineering and Product teams, integrating UX early in product strategy to ensure alignment. Influence cross-product cohesion and drive experience improvements for developer-facing tools.

- Lead a diverse group of product designers, raising expectations around design quality and establishing strong accountability.
- Influenced greater integration of UX into product strategy discussions by fostering collaborative relationships with PMs and engineers.
- Enhanced usability in developer-facing products by implementing systematic experience improvements reflecting user needs.
- Defined clear boundaries for decision-making within teams, resulting in streamlined collaboration and effective workflows.
- Mentored senior designers, advancing their skills in modern design practices aligned with evolving industry standards.
- Demonstrated the value of UX initiatives to stakeholders by directly linking efforts to measurable business impacts.

Senior UX Designer

June 2016 - December 2021

TechVision Labs

Chicago, IL

Designed user experiences tailored for developer tools, focusing on increasing satisfaction and engagement metrics. Played a key part during the company's rapid expansion, scaling the design function to meet growing demands.

- Created user-centered designs enhancing satisfaction ratings and driving higher levels of user engagement.
- Worked closely with multidisciplinary teams to create intuitive workflows that decreased onboarding time significantly.
- Conducted user research and testing sessions to inform design adaptations aligning with actual user feedback.
- Helped establish a refined design process to streamline work functions amid company growth, hiring and mentoring new talent.
- Developed and advocated best practices contributing to consistent quality standards within all product lines.
- Championing UX awareness among PMs translated into improved visibility of design's impact on overall product success.

UX Designer

March 2014 - May 2016

Creative Solutions Inc.

Chicago, IL

Focused on delivering user-driven design solutions for numerous client projects. Collaborated effectively with developers, ensuring design integrity was upheld during implementation from stage to launch.

- Built responsive, user-oriented designs across web and mobile applications improving client feedback scores markedly.
- Facilitated teamwork between design and development, ensuring that project requirements were meticulously met throughout the cycle.
- Produced wireframes, prototypes, and visually engaging mockups instrumental in securing project approvals.
- Utilized competitive analysis insights to guide design direction contributing to enhanced user positioning and market performance.
- Engaged in frequent design critiques encouraging ongoing improvement and innovation within the team's creative processes.
- Provided comprehensive design specifications during product launches, facilitating smooth transitions to development phases.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Design Excellence Award - TechVision Labs, 2020
- Best User Experience - Creative Solutions Inc., 2015

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

2014

University of Illinois Chicago GPA: 3.8

Chicago, IL

Coursework: UI Design, Product Development, User Research, Digital Media

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified UX Designer 📅 2022
- UX Design Certification 📅 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **UX Design Tools:** Sketch, Figma, Adobe XD
- **Collaboration Platforms:** Slack, Miro, Asana
- **Prototyping Software:** InVision, Axure RP, Framer
- **User Research Tools:** UsabilityHub, Optimal Workshop, Google Forms
- **Testing Platforms:** Lookback, Hotjar, Maze
- **Analytics Tools:** Google Analytics, Mixpanel, Amplitude
- **Design Methodologies:** Lean UX, Agile, Design Thinking
- **Visual Design Frameworks:** Material Design, Apple Human Interface Guidelines, Atomic Design
- **Documentation Tools:** Confluence, Notion, Microsoft OneNote
- **Coding Knowledge:** HTML, CSS, JavaScript

SKILLS

- User Experience Design
- Prototyping
- Experience Improvement
- Mentoring Designers
- Cross-Functional Collaboration
- Design Strategy
- Product Strategy Integration
- Research Implementation
- Team Leadership
- B2B SaaS
- Onboarding Optimization
- Effective Communication
- Usability Testing
- Technical Product Design
- Workflow Streamlining

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member of AIGA, advocating for design excellence and best practices.
- Active participant in Chicago UX Meetup, sharing insights and trends in UX design.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Proficient)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST