

Nicolas Watkins

Application for Lead JavaScript Frontend Developer



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Hiring Team
Northstar Digital Studio
Chicago, IL

Dear Hiring Team,

I am applying for the Lead JavaScript Frontend Developer role at Northstar Digital Studio. Over eight years in agency and consulting environments, I have led front-end delivery from discovery through launch while staying involved in architecture, implementation, accessibility, performance, and code review. I am based in Chicago and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a team that treats technical quality and design craft as connected parts of the work.

In my current role, I direct front-end delivery across six concurrent client engagements. One practical focus has been reducing uncertainty between design, CMS, API, and front-end workstreams: I established shared TypeScript models, clarified content contracts, and introduced implementation checkpoints before major build milestones. I also govern an SCSS component library connected to Figma variables and libraries, which gives designers and developers a consistent way to make responsive decisions without hiding important layout details behind a utility framework.

I bring the same attention to the experience after the interface is built. I have introduced WCAG 2.2 reviews covering keyboard behavior, focus management, semantic markup, contrast, and screen-reader output; used Contentful modeling to support reusable and localized content; and applied Lighthouse and Core Web Vitals checks before client demonstrations and releases. For motion, I use GSAP or Framer Motion selectively and preserve reduced-motion preferences. I have also coached four developers through pairing, code reviews, and architecture discussions, and I use Copilot, Cursor, and Claude Code as reviewable aids rather than substitutes for testing or sound engineering judgment.

Northstar's combination of strategy, design, architecture, and hands-on delivery matches how I work best. I would be glad to discuss how my experience with React, Next.js, TypeScript, bespoke SCSS, Figma, headless CMS platforms, and technical mentorship could support your client engagements.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Watkins

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