

Christopher Grant Ward

User Experience Strategy and Leadership

415.971.3460 / christopher@basecampmusic.com

I have seven years of experience designing and overseeing the user experience for web sites, rich media and software products. In the roles of interaction designer, information architect and communication strategist, I have led the development of user scenarios, interaction design standards, UI design systems, content strategies, engineering specifications and interaction prototypes. My passion for this field has also led me to publish and speak regularly on the topics of interaction design, visual rhetoric and digital communication.

EXPERIENCE

2008

Interaction Designer

Topspin Media (current employer)

Interaction and UI design for musician-oriented software and web marketing solutions.

2007

Information Architect

Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Consultant assignment conducting user testing and usability analysis of a regional news website. Provided strategic recommendations for information architecture, user interface design and visual design standards

2006 – 2007

Design Research Manager

Carnegie Mellon University

User-centered research of web communication methods and practices

2005 – 2007

Interaction Designer

Online Documents, Inc.

Responsible for entire corporate web presence including: information architecture, interaction design, content strategy and visual design

2003 – 2005

Marketing Specialist

National Oncology Alliance

Web marketing, communications strategy and web design for healthcare services company

2001 – 2003

Web Designer

Image Media

Interaction and visual design for Portland-based web advertising agency

2001

Visual Designer

GrupoDoxa

Design of web content and offline marketing materials for a EU-affiliated consulting firm. Worked abroad in Madrid.

EDUCATION

2007

Fellowship, Graduate Media Design

Art Center College of Design

Design research; interaction design; communication design

2006 – 2007

MA, Rhetoric

Carnegie Mellon University

Emphasis on media interaction, new media design and visual-verbal communication

1995 – 2001

BS, International Business

Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo

Minors in German and Theater

EXPERTISE

Strategic leadership of UX discipline

User-centered design direction

Usability testing methods and practices

Interaction design standards and systems

Communication across design, product and engineering teams

HONORS & AWARDS

"Stock Images, Filler Content and the Ambiguous Corporate Message." Published in the Journal of Media and Culture 10.5 (2007).

Invited to speak for the Popular Culture Association, National Communication Association, Rhetoric Society of America, Carnegie Mellon University and Duquesne University.

Fellowship, Art Center College of Design

Department Scholarship, Carnegie Mellon