

melissa cagan

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Designer + photographer with a passion for education and experience design that encourages empathy, hope, and equity. I am an avid theater lover and storyteller with a background in teaching and community organizing.

Education

Carnegie Mellon University 2021-2020
Master of Arts in Design
Pittsburgh, PA
Served as teaching and research assistant

Northwestern University 2018-2014
B.S. in Social Policy and Education
Evanston, IL
Major: Learning Sciences | Minor: Theater

Tools

Photoshop	Microsoft Office Suite
Lightroom	Figma
Illustrator	Garageband
After Effects	Paper + Pen
Adobe XD	Photography (Digital + Film)

Notable Work

The Underdogs

Carnegie Mellon University, Spring 2021

The Underdogs is a product ecosystem with multiple touchpoints that encourages the adoption of sustainable habits. A humorous picture book sparks excitement for children and caregivers which is then channeled into an app that guides users through taking actionable steps with delightful characters that represent under-acknowledged endangered species.

Passions

Singing
Non-Traditional Education
Theater for Young Audiences (TYA)
Photography
British Panel Shows

Experience

Content and Graphics Creator 2021
School Vaccine Hub by Brooklyn Lab Charter Schools

Created a visual language for the School Vaccine Hub, a collection of resources regarding vaccine distribution and education for school administrators and teachers. Designed graphics for social media distribution alongside project partners like Boston Children's Hospital and Ariadne Labs. Compiled and vetted informational resources for online database in partnership with public health experts.

Administrative Assistant/Events Assistant 2020-2019
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Helped plan and manage the CMU Robotic Institute's anniversary celebration which hosted 500+ event attendees. Oversaw the creation and distribution of informational and complimentary materials given to all event attendees. Photographed event.

Worked with student financial services to create and organize documents regarding government loans while acting as a point of contact for students with questions regarding account balances and refunds.

Museum and Outreach Educator 2019
Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA

Taught educational programs centered around history, environmental science, and the natural world to audiences of all ages, in schools, libraries, community centers, festivals, and at the museum. Assisted outreach team in updating program activities and materials.

Educational Content Creator 2019-2018
Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh PA

Researched and composed an educational blog for the Nature 360 program, an initiative designed to connect 8-13 year olds with nature through both online and in-person learning. Also photographed images for the blog and supported the museum's education team in designing and implementing the overall program structure.