



Joe Mertz

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EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA — BFA Drama, Focus in Media Technology, Automation, and Robotics, 2017

EXPERIENCE

Vice President of Business Development, Kitchen 17 — March 2020 - Present

Bar and Special Events Manager, Kitchen 17 — July 2019 - March 2020

Oversee the creation and expansion of a packaged food division of an established local restaurant. Launched successful direct-to-consumer frozen vegan pizza brand during COVID-19 pandemic. Sold over 2000 pizzas in first two months. Increased quarterly sales totals by over 10%. Preparing for expansion to wholesale distribution with grocery stores across the US.

President / Chief Creative Solutions Specialist, Amalgam Incorporated — April 2019 - Present

Own and operate a consulting company specializing in custom electronic design, fabrication, and integration for the live entertainment industry. International portfolio of clients includes design firms, theaters, museums, escape rooms, and ad agencies.

Research and Development Lead, L3DFX (Bolingbrook, IL) — June 2019 - December 2019

Wore multiple hats in a fast paced startup environment. Project managed all work for one overseas client, including conducting a site visit and leading the design. Built, lead, and managed the controls engineering and integration team, delivering the electrical aspects of all projects. Provided feedback and direction the mechanical design team for all projects. Led purchasing for electrical projects. Assisted in growing company from < 20 to > 100 people by recruiting and hiring 15 employees (4 full time, 11 part time).

Automation Technician / Project Manager, Chicago Flyhouse — July 2017 - May 2019

Participated in the electrical design, fabrication, install, and commissioning of custom rigging hoists, primarily for the entertainment industry. Maintained and developed integrations with white label Safer Venue mobile app. Tracked budgets and led electrical purchasing for OEM hoist control solutions. Streamline inspection processes with the aid of technology.

Freelancer — January 2014 - April 2019

Provided services including: Electronics Hardware Design and Assembly, Event Production, and Small Batch Manufacturing

Controls Integration Intern, Tait Towers (Lititz, PA) — Summer 2016

Tested, installed, commissioned and repaired automation control systems for touring concerts and installations.

Hardware Intern, Zego Robotics (Pittsburgh, PA) — Summer 2015

Research and development on autonomous UAVs, specialty 3D printer filaments, and other blue-sky ideas.

Student Researcher, Carnegie Mellon Biorobotics Lab (Pittsburgh, PA) — Summer 2013

Research and maintenance on modular snake robotics platform, with a focus on novel gaits and passive end-effectors.

SKILLS

Juggling

Programming Languages: Arduino, Python, Javascript, HTML/CSS

Productivity Tools: Asana, Slack, Freshdesk, Airtable, iFormbuilder

Electronics: Soldering, Eagle CAD, Arduino/Embedded Computing, Troubleshooting, Industrial Wiring

CAD/CAM: AutoCAD, Autodesk Fusion 360, MasterCAM, Flow Waterjet Software, Engravelab

Entertainment: Rigging Arena/Theatre, Power Distribution, TV Studio Operations, Basic Lighting, Basic Sound Reinforcement

Show Control: TAIT Navigator, QLab, Millumin

Fabrication: Laser Cutting, Rotary Engraving, Machining, Scenic Carpentry, Metal Fabrication, 3D Printing, CNC Toolpathing and Operation, Rapid Prototyping, Welding GMAW/some GTAW, Prop Making

REFERENCES

William (Red) Whittaker - Professor of Robotics

red@cmu.edu

412-268-6559

Ben Carter - CMU Scene Shop Supervisor

bcarter@cmu.edu

412-268-8218

Meryn Daly - Former Project Manager (Flyhouse)

meryndaly@gmail.com

607-643-3026

Further References Available Upon Request