

ETHAN MANDEL

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SUMMARY

Informatics graduate focused on Human-Computer Interaction, with a strong eye for design and a drive to create thoughtful, intentional user experiences. I'm constantly observing how people interact with digital and physical systems in everyday life and identifying ways to improve accessibility and usability. I bring that mindset into my creative work, designing visually engaging solutions centered around real user needs.

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine

Irvine, CA

Bachelor of Science, Informatics – Specialization in Human-Computer Interaction

GPA: 3.81 Graduated June 2025

Relevant Coursework:

- UX/UI & Interaction: IN4MATX 131 (user-centered design, usability), IN4MATX 132 (usability testing, evaluation, iterative design), IN4MATX 133 (interactive interfaces, prototyping)
- Research & Data: IN4MATX 113 (stakeholder requirements, user research), IN4MATX 143 (data visualization)
- Systems, Data & Context: IN4MATX 148 (IoT systems, physical computing, smart device prototyping), IN4MATX 121 (system design, object-oriented design), IN4MATX 172 (project-based systems development), IN4MATX 174 (SQL, data analysis, data privacy), I&C SCI 45C (C/C++ programming, memory management), I&C SCI 45J (Java, object-oriented programming)
- Visual Design: Digital Photography (composition, visual storytelling), Photoshop/Digital Imaging (layout, visual design)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Ralphs Grocery Company

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Front-End Cashier / Department Clerk / Floor Supervisor

Sep 2020 – Present

- Observed customer behavior and store systems (self-checkout, signage, checkout flow) to identify recurring usability issues and friction points in the customer experience
- Anticipated common user errors and guided customers through system workflows, especially during payment failures, reward membership, and bag selection screens
- Built strong communication and problem-solving skills by resolving customer concerns with empathy and professionalism in high-pressure situations
- Collaborated with team members to maintain smooth store operations and a consistent, customer-focused experience

Freelance/Personal Projects

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Photo, Video & Design

August 2018 – Present

- Created and edited visual content using Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Lightroom, Premiere Pro), with strong attention to detail and visual consistency
- Applied principles of composition, color, and layout to produce clear, engaging visuals across a variety of digital deliverables
- Designed and developed a personal portfolio using Figma, showcasing academic and independent projects with a focus on effective visual communication and user-focused design

UNIVERSITY PROJECTS

Laguna Ocean Foundation Website Redesign

- Led stakeholder meetings with a nonprofit partner to identify user needs and define key website features aligned with organizational goals
- Designed and iterated on wireframes and interactive prototypes in Figma within a sprint-based workflow using Trello to manage tasks and feedback
- Conducted usability testing and translated insights into design improvements across navigation, homepage, and key user flows, delivering a functional, deployment-ready website

Remembra — Music-Based Memory App for Alzheimer's Care

- Worked in an interdisciplinary team with public health students to design a research-driven app focused on improving quality of life for Alzheimer's patients by combining research on music and memory into user-centered features tailored to patients and caregivers
- Developed and led interactive prototyping, collaborated on early-stage implementation, and created a demo-ready website to showcase user flows and overall experience

SKILLS

Figma • Wireframing • Prototyping • Usability Testing • User Research • Information Visualization • Adobe Photoshop • HTML/CSS • Python • C++ • Java