

# Natalie Zilka

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

*NatalieZilkaa@gmail.com*

*NatalieZilka.com*

*(503) 438-0426*

*Hi, I'm Natalie, a Graphic Designer from Portland, Oregon, with over five years of experience in corporate branding and web design. I hold an Associate's degree in Graphic Design and am currently pursuing a Bachelor's at Portland State University, continuing to refine my skills and creativity.*

## EDUCATION

### Portland State University

BACHELORS IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

*2024 – Ongoing Portland, OR*

Currently enrolled at Portland State University with the intent to graduate in 2027 with a Bachelors in Graphic Design

### Lane Community College

ASSOCIATES IN GRAPHIC DESIGN

*2015 – 2017 Eugene, OR*

Earned an Associates in Graphic Design from Lane Community College. Maintained honors throughout my time, and mastered skills in Graphic Design, Print Production, Web Design, and Fine Arts.

## REFERENCES

### Christy Zilka

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

*Nike*

*(971)716-2753*

### Lorin Zilka

ANIMATOR

*Dreamworks*

*(909)732-0414*

### Shaylor Murray

DIRECTOR

*Limelight Department*

*(541)513-5565*

## EXPERIENCE

### Graphic Designer

FREELANCE

*2014 – Present • Portland, OR*

Provided a wide range of design services for various clients, including corporate branding, textbook redesigns, product design, and artistic portraits. Collaborated with clients to deliver creative and functional solutions tailored to their needs, ensuring high-quality results across diverse projects.

### Game Director

FREE PIZZA GAMES, LLC

*2023 – Present • Portland, OR*

Co-founded Free Pizza Games in 2023, leading the development of Wizards of Mu, a tactical, dimensional trading card game. Directed the creative, graphical, and mechanical design aspects of the game, ensuring an engaging and cohesive player experience. Oversaw branding and marketing strategies to for eventual promotional launch.

### Graphic Designer

LIMELIGHT DEPARTMENT

*2017 – 2019 • Eugene, OR*

Worked closely with a team of developers to create websites and software for our clients as well as internal projects. A strong focus on sales funnels, UX/UI design and trustworthy corporate design.

### Educator / Graphic Designer

CODER DOJO

*2016 – 2017 • Eugene, OR*

Responsible for designing promotional materials for courses (flyers, posters, newsletters etc.) Responsible for teaching designated curriculum to classes of 5-20 kids. Designed courses for Game Maker Studio to teach students the fundamentals of coding video games.

### Design Assistant

LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

*2015 – 2016 • Eugene, OR*

Worked with the Student Ambassador program to create educational and promotional materials as well as design maintenance on specific webpages for the college. Partnered occasionally with other student designers to complete projects for various departments at the college.

### Intern

BELL + FUNK

*2014 – 2014 • Eugene, OR*

Worked closely with Design Lead, Jordan Anderson to complete an extensive rebrand. Took part in community and company meetings discussing the rebrand, as well as intensive design critiques where I was expected to bring designs which met the standards of the company.

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## SERVICE EXPERIENCE

### Server

DESCHUTES BREWERY  
2023 – 2024, Portland, OR

Provided exceptional service in a fast-paced, high-volume environment. Developed and maintained an extensive knowledge of craft beer offerings, ensuring personalized and memorable guest experiences.

### Server

SCREEN DOOR  
2022 – 2023, Portland, OR

Delivered attentive and knowledgeable service, accommodating dietary restrictions and allergies with care. Excelled in a bustling atmosphere, balancing efficiency with warm guest interactions to foster satisfaction and loyalty.

### Busser

MOX BOARDING HOUSE  
2021 – 2022, Portland, OR

Supported the front-of-house team by clearing and resetting tables, restocking supplies, and maintaining the flow of service. Contributed to team efficiency and seamless operations in a fast-paced environment.

### Server

PIATINOS  
2019 – 2021, Portland, OR

Delivered high-quality service while mastering an extensive menu of diverse offerings. Built strong rapport with guests, ensuring positive dining experiences and repeat business.

### Server

AGATE ALLEY  
2016 – 2017, Eugene, OR

Collaborated within a close-knit team to provide personalized service to the local community. Balanced efficiency with friendly, attentive interactions in a high-demand environment.

### Server

HARVEST: SEASONAL GRILL AND WINE BAR  
2012 – 2013, Portland, OR

Offered expert recommendations on a seasonally rotating menu and wine list. Delivered personable and professional service aligned with the restaurant's high standards.

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#### CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

### Apprentice Electrician

THINK ELECTRIC  
2014 – 2016, Eugene, OR

Assisted with the wiring of commercial and residential buildings, including installation of high-powered indoor lighting systems and network systems in server rooms. Managed inventory and sales reports using proprietary software.

### Assistant Carpenter

JAMIE GREEN CARPENTRY  
2014, Philadelphia, PA

Assisted in creating custom furniture and cabinetry. Worked on general construction carpentry projects, collaborating with the master carpenter to achieve high-quality results.

### Apprentice Electrician

ROBERT MONK ELECTRIC  
2013 – 2014, Philadelphia, PA

Assisted with the wiring of commercial and residential buildings under the guidance of a master electrician. Gained hands-on experience with various electrical systems and installations.

### Plumbers Assistant

LEE GARNER ELECTRIC  
2012 – 2013, Philadelphia, PA

Assisted licensed plumber in installing, repairing, and maintaining residential and commercial plumbing systems. Responsibilities included preparing tools and materials, troubleshooting issues, cutting and assembling pipes, and ensuring job sites were clean and organized. Gained hands-on experience in plumbing systems and adhered to safety and building codes.

### Set Designer / Lighting Technician

BLUE MONKEY THEATER COMPANY  
2010-2011, Portland, OR

Responsible for designing constructing moveable set pieces, which complied with theater safety regulations. Responsible for creating and maintaining dynamic lighting lighting systems for various productions

### Contractors Assistant

ZILKA CONSTRUCTION  
2007-2009, Portland, OR

Worked for my dad, Tony Zilka and learned the basics of construction and trained in the use of various power tool, like nail guns and power saws. Responsible for assisting in and the completion of various carpentry, demolition, and handy-man tasks.

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## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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### Volunteer Chef

FOOD NOT BOMBS  
*2023-Present, Portland, OR*

I help in feeding the Portland community by cooking meals for bi-weekly food distribution events, where donated produce is given out to any and all members of our community

### Member

MULTNOMAH FRIENDS QUAKER MEETING  
*2023-Present, Portland, OR*

I am a member in good standing at my church, where I participate in all manner of community activities. Ranging from weekly worship, to working with our Peace and Justice Committee on various forms of activism.

### Event Organizer

BIT FOREST  
*2014 – 2018, Eugene, OR*

Helped in organizing and promoting community events for game developers and enjoyers. Designed posters for events. Helped set up and manage monthly events. Involved in the hosting of IGC15 (Indie Game Convention 2015), which saw more than 1000 attendees and dozens of showcasing developers.

### Volunteer Bike Mechanic

TIME'S UP  
*2011 – 2012, New York City, NY*

Provided free bike repairs and led workshops on bike maintenance. Taught weekly bike maintenance classes to 6–12 students in a community-focused setting.

### Artistic Mentor

STAGED! THEATER CO.  
*2010 – 2011, Portland, OR*

Led acting workshops for middle and high school students while performing in stage productions. Mentored students in theater arts and creative expression.