



# Kayla Thompson

Human Centered Designer - Industrial Design Graduate - Design Researcher

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*"First, think. Second, dream.  
Third, believe. And finally, dare."  
- Walt Disney*

## education

Aug 2015 - July 2019

### Lawrence Technological University

Bachelors of Science

Industrial Design

Southfield, Michigan

## achievements

### Project Featured in The Guardian

*"There is ingenuity in Africa: the  
architect who builds with trash"*

September 2019

### Mega Rose Recipient

Chi Omega Rho Sorority, Spring 2019

### Art Analysis Researcher & Presenter

Michigan Academy of Science,

Arts, & Letters Conference, Spring 2016

### Finalist & Scholarship Winner

Magna HMI Project, Fall 2016

## skills

**Collaboration Tools** Mural Miro

Google Drive

**Adobe** Photoshop Illustrator

InDesign AfterEffects

**Research Methods** Affinity Mapping

Journey Mapping Synthesizing

Interviewing Storytelling

Systems Mapping Presentations

Brainstorming Sessions

Workshop Facilitation Co-designing

**Described as** outgoing curious  
colorful empathetic kindhearted

## experience

### Desklight Learning

**Design Researcher** - May 2021 - Present

**Design Research Fellow** - September 2020 - November 2020

Desklight Learning uses human-centered design to build engaging learning platforms.

I produced an independent thesis project as a fellow. As a Design Researcher, I help with research plans, interviews, and synthesizing on different client projects.

- recruiting stakeholders and coordinate interview slots
- developing questions and exploration areas for research plan
- aid in facilitating workshops and brainstorming sessions
- interviewing and note-taking with different stakeholders

### Catapult Design

**Junior Design Consultant** - February 2021 - Present

Catapult is one of the pioneering non-profit design studios. I was assigned to multiple projects including communication design Navajo Relief Fund, systems mapping for Bainum Family Foundation and doing research and strategy for re-branding

- co-created 1-pagers about COVID-19 with non-profit, manager, and illustrator
- formatted final documents for print with Navajo & Hopi translations
- gave insights and ideas for brand strategy and storytelling opportunities
- developed systems maps explaining early childcare education in D.C.

### Obvi Design

**Freelance User Researcher** - August 2020

Obvi Design is a research and human centered design studio. I supported on a research discovery-phase project to find ways to supporting young people of color (POC) in post secondary education, career path and work culture

- produced outline for interview objectives and plan
- recruited and screened POC individuals for interview
- synthesize findings and provided three recommendations

### Citizens Campaign for the Environment

**Grassroots Organizer/Canvasser** - March 2020 - October 2020

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is a grassroots organization that advances environmental policy throughout Connecticut and New York

- raised money to support a green economy, personal record of \$717 in one day
- engaging with stakeholders daily discussing our nonprofit efforts
- gain support through receiving donations, signatures, & letters
- delivering information and resources door to door through rain or shine

### International Design Clinic

**Humanitarian Designer** - May 2019 - August 2019

Through a partnership with Lawrence Tech, we collaborated with Kevin Kimwelle, a local architect, to create projects in Port Elizabeth, South Africa to promote sustainability practices & facilitate post-apartheid local job creation

- tested and produced prototypes with recyclable materials
- used qualitative research methods to create proposals for projects
- designed & created eco-friendly outdoor installation
- helped construct wood beams, flooring, & deck for maker-space built in seven days