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Hello!

Here in writing is my expressed my interest in interviewing for the HTML Email Developer position with JAM Direct, and not only interviewing, but working the job too, and using my experience in the publishing and graphic design world (communication design, typesetting, ebook coding, websites or otherwise) to take these table-based emails to a whole new level. I studied at OCADU's Cross-Disciplinary Arts: Publications program, where I undertook a wide breadth of learning in areas such as printmaking, bookbinding, graphic design, publishing for web or print, and code.

I'm currently interning at Penguin Random House Canada in Production (Typesetting and Ebook orientated), so I have a ton of experience in proofreading, entering an upwards of 1000 changes in layout files within quick time frames (I also get to typeset entire books), and miscellaneous admin tasks; I know how to work on my own projects while at the same time knowing my role is just one part of a delicate yet sturdy collaboration. My internship soon comes to an end. To replace it, I'm seeking an opportunity to deepen my ties in the coding world with a job that I hope can last a long time, both using my current skills as well as challenging me along the way to learn new ones.

What I'd bring as an intern is a strong familiarity with creation in different forms (printed and digital)—I've created zines for poetry workshops and also conceptualized and executed, under little direction, last year's festival guide for the Ottawa International Animation Festival as their graphic designer. As for coding, I'm not shy around digital landscapes that need a sensitive eye! For a two-month web development residency with Whippersnapper Gallery, I learnt HTML, CSS and Javascript in order to hand-code an artist website from scratch (no templates, so if I needed help, I was sure to ask either two of my incredible mentors). At Penguin, I both code and complete Quality Assurance for ebooks, making sure they look as intended across a variety of platforms. This is incredibly similar to the experiences I've had coding emails (just like email developers bemoan Outlook constantly throwing their code into a blender, so do ebook quality testers bemoan the dreaded Kindle).

The vast majority of my work experience has been remote or hybrid, so I'd also bring to the role a strong familiarity with organizing myself, keeping myself to task, and keeping myself to deadline. I can be creative or I can be clinical. I can collaborate and work with a large team (as I did with Ottawa International Animation Festival) or push through tasks independently (as I did at Strike Design Studio, checking in with my creative director only once a week or with any pressing questions - this job included a lot of MailChimp).

I've always known I wanted whatever work I do to involve publishing and communication, and email is such an important form of those. I'm confident I can bring fresh and innovative perspective to the HTML Web Developer position, and feel I would be a good fit for the job. Please reach out if you feel the same, as I would love to hear from you.

(I know my resume speaks a firm case to my being a designer, but I should assure you I love to code).

designer and developer

she/her

Kianna Mkhonza