

Charlesa Thompson

BRAND & UX/UI DESIGNER

I'm a Chicago designer working across brand identity and web, from concept and rationale through to delivery. I like ambiguous briefs, thinking out loud with a team, and taking creative risks I can stand behind. I'm looking to sharpen my process inside a studio and grow next to people who care about craft.

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EXPERIENCE

Across these roles, I take brand and web from concept and rationale through to delivered work.

Co-Founder & Lead Designer, Braid

2024 to Present

- Designed the brand identity and the web and mobile experience for a textured hair care education app, carrying one system from concept through to a fully working Figma prototype.
- Worked alongside co-founders to concept, iterate, and align on direction, presenting rationale at each step.
- Translated research into an accessible visual language that speaks to the community it serves.

Founder & Designer, Project 808

2025 to Present

- Built the brand, campaign, and website for a civic initiative on creative manufacturing access, shaping the full story from message to high-fidelity design.
- Presented the platform to Mayor Brandon Johnson's office, advocating for the idea and the people behind it.
- Started from an ambiguous brief and figured out the scope, the audience, and the design as I went.

Product Designer, The Columbia Chronicle

May 2025 to Aug 2025

- Led the first version of a campus news app, from information architecture to high-fidelity UI.
- Delivered a full component system and a working Figma prototype, alongside a fully designed front-end app built with Claude Code.
- Worked as the sole designer and researcher, structuring the core reading and navigation flows for the campus audience.

Freelance Designer

2024 to Present

- For ANTIX Art Fest, a 500+ guest fashion show, produced 10+ event signs and set up tap-to-pay across bar, ticketing, and parking, syncing multiple devices to one account in four hours of prep.
- With the Chicago Fashion Coalition, created event visuals and print collateral for a Met-inspired experiential event.
- Designed brand systems and web for fashion, culture, and lifestyle clients including Oshun Waves, Black Ambition, and UBNI.

SELECTED WORK

WebGL Meadow · Three.js

Animated, interactive web scene with motion lighting and instanced environments. A self-directed study in web craft and visual storytelling.

Maison Margiela Archive Deconstructor

Editorial data-visualization web piece translating a fashion archive into a visual narrative. Live.

Where We Rest

Laser-cut miniature architecture. Lost Design South Side Sanctuary Award.

TOOLKIT

Design & Brand

Figma, Adobe Creative Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign), brand systems, typography, layout, prototyping

Web & Build

Figma Make, Claude Code, React, Three.js, Supabase, Vercel, responsive frontend

EDUCATION

B.A. UX/UI Design, Minor in Craft
Columbia College Chicago, 2025

RECOGNITION

Lost Design South Side Sanctuary Award
Drive Capital Creator Hackathon, Mentor