

Marisa Kawakami

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EXPERIENCE

TURTLE BEACH | UX/UI DESIGN INTERN

June 2025 – Present

- Redesigned a Turtle Beach app, owning the whole design process from UX research to high-fidelity prototypes, creating an intuitive and seamless user experience.
- Conducted user research through surveys and interviews to validate design decisions, and collaborated with engineers to ensure feasibility. Created UI concepts and mockups for new projects while contributing innovative ideas across cross-functional teams.

PRODUCT SPACE | PRODUCT DESIGN FELLOWSHIP

November 2024 – June 2025

- Selected as 1 of 7 fellows from 150+ applicants for a competitive mentorship program, gaining professional development through guidance from experienced designers.
- Refined skills in product design, user interaction, and strategy by developing user-centered solutions through iterative prototyping, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and hands-on project work.

KIZUNA

June 2024 – Present | Little Tokyo, CA

Nikkei Community Internship (NCI):

- Developed and implemented marketing strategies that increased NCI visibility and community engagement while creating polished, compelling visuals with Photoshop and Lightroom to strengthen audience connections.

Chibi-K Event Coordinator:

- Spearheaded the revival of the Chibi-K Run in collaboration with 2 non-profits, Kizuna and the JACCC, my efforts to restore a beloved Little Tokyo tradition, lost in 2011, and inspire future generations.

UC SAN DIEGO | INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT

DESIGN OF EVERYDAY THINGS

September 2024 – December 2024

- Coordinated course operations for 200+ students by tracking deadlines and milestones, collaborating with faculty and IAs, and providing detailed feedback on quizzes, projects, and journals to support learning and improve comprehension.

PROJECTS

SIMMER | PANTRY TRACKER & RECIPE GENERATOR

Product Space Capstone - 2025

- Developed and implemented a platform enabling users to track ingredients, generate recipes, and reduce food waste.
- Built an end-to-end product including UX/UI and functionality.

ESSENTIALLY YOURS | REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KIOSK

UC San Diego - 2024

- Designed an interactive kiosk concept that integrated innovative physical and digital elements to provide private, affordable, and discreet access to essential reproductive and sexual health products, addressing barriers to care and enhancing student well-being.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO | LA JOLLA, CA

REGENT SCHOLAR RECIPIENT

Expected June 2026

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science with a Specialization in Design & Interaction – minors in Computer Science and Dance

SKILLS

DESIGN

Wireframing
User Experience
User Interface
Product Design
Interaction Design
Low - High Fidelity Mockups

RESEARCH

User Interviews
Usability Testing
Information Architecture
User Personas
Competitive Analysis
A/B Testing
Mind Mapping
Storyboarding

TOOLS / TECHNOLOGY

Figma • Canva • Adobe Lightroom
Github Version Control • Matlab
VS code • Python • Java • C

COURSEWORK

UNDERGRADUATE

Design of Everyday Things

(Instructional Assistant)

Data-Driven UX/Product Design
Prototyping

Usability and Information Architecture
Practicum in Professional Web Design
Advanced Data Structures
Data Science in Practice

SOCIETIES

Nikkei Student Union

-Executive Board: Communications Chair

-Intern Coordinator

Product Space
Scholars Society