

Katarina Blumenstein

Project Management | Design | Fabrication | Events | Marketing

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References Available Upon Request

OVERVIEW

- Themed experience professional with 7+ years of experience and a passion for creating immersive themed environments.
- Proven track record in design development, fabrication, and project coordination for small and large-scale projects.
- Highly skilled in translating creative vision into tangible experiences, adhering to thematic consistency and quality standards.
- Adept at collaborating across departments to maintain cohesive storytelling and achieve project objectives.
- Strong attention to detail, proactive problem-solving, and a commitment to delivering exceptional results.
- Enthusiastic about leveraging my creative talents and expertise to enrich dynamic and innovative cultures.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

View my website for a complete list of experiences.

Decorator | Holiday Services

Walt Disney World Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL | July 2022 – Present

- **FEATURED PROJECT:** Led the design process for Wish – Disney Springs Tree Stroll presented by AdventHealth, in collaboration with Walt Disney Imagineering's (WDI) creative direction and our team's head designer. Utilizing extensive research and adhering closely to WDI storylines, I orchestrated the fabrication and decoration phases. This encompassed a wide array of tasks, including prop sculpting, mold casting, painting, sewing, creative lighting, floral arranging, and narrative storytelling.
- **DESIGN PROFICIENCY:** Apply fundamental elements and principles of design, including color theory, to create visually compelling and thematically cohesive holiday décor installations across Walt Disney World Resort properties.
- **COLLABORATION:** Collaborate with leaders to develop thematic concepts for décor that maintains the creative intent through samples and mock-ups.
- **PRODUCTION:** Prep materials, install hardware, light, and decorate décor items resort-wide, demonstrating exceptional attention to detail and adherence to safety and quality standards.
- **REHAB:** Refresh and maintain décor items between seasons to uphold show standards and enhance guest experience.
- **INSTALLATION & STRIKE:** Safely and efficiently operate various equipment and tools during the installation and strike phases.
- **TRAVEL:** Travel domestically and internationally as needed.

Costume Specialist (Lead, Dresser, & Runner) | Entertainment Marquee Events

Universal Orlando Resort, Orlando, FL | August 2019 – Present

- **LEADERSHIP & TEAM SUPPORT:** Lead costume teams in organizing tasks, providing training, and offering support to foster a collaborative and productive work environment.
- **COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION:** Effectively communicate with event teams and collaborate with designers to maintain integrity and thematic consistency in props and costumes.
- **DECISION-MAKING:** Demonstrates the ability to problem-solve and make quick and informed decisions to resolve issues and maintain smooth event operations.
- **COSTUME REPAIR:** Utilize hand and machine sewing techniques to complete minor costume repairs with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring performers' costumes remain in top condition throughout events.
- **OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY:** Support seamless event operations by assisting performers with costume changes and ensuring timely availability and transport of costumes and props.

Scenic Décor Tech | Entertainment Marquee Events

Universal Orlando Resort, Orlando, FL | October 2023 – November 2023

- **VENDOR LIAISON & MANAGEMENT:** Oversaw external vendors in the installation of holiday décor park-wide, ensuring adherence to quality standards and schedule progress.
- **CREATIVE DIRECTION:** Provided creative direction to vendors and problem-solved to maintain thematic integrity and show quality standards in décor installations, aligning with the documentation and overarching creative vision.

Creative Project Management Intern | Digital & Technology – Digital Production & Program Management

Universal Orlando Resort, Orlando, FL | January 2023 – May 2023

- **FEATURED PROJECTS:** Played a key role in managing Universal Studios Hollywood Marketing Initiatives, including Super Nintendo World, The Toothsome Chocolate Emporium & Savory Feast Kitchen, and NBC Sports Grill & Brew.

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- **PROJECT MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGIES:** Utilized Agile/Scrum methodologies and Adobe Workfront software to manage and track creative asset development for marketing projects. This included participating in two-week sprint meeting cadences, developing and implementing process changes, collaborating with team members, and prioritizing tasks based on the value of importance and difficulty.
- **SCHEDULE DEVELOPMENT:** Created and maintained project schedules using the critical path method, considering in-market dates, IP & legal reviews, internal stakeholder reviews, creative development, expected duration, and revisions for each project and its tasks.
- **PROJECT MONITORING & EVALUATION:** Monitored project progress and evaluated performance to ensure projects stayed in scope and met deadlines, re-evaluating schedules as progress percentages changed and in-market dates adjusted.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Served as the main point of contact for creative communications between the design agency, product owner, stakeholders, IP & legal representatives, vendors, and other team members.
- **REPORTING:** Provided project status updates in daily standup meetings, created sprint reporting documents for end-of-sprint demos, and generated reports showing past and current project statuses and timelines for comparability analysis.
- **MEETING COORDINATION:** Coordinated meetings and schedules with team members, department partners, and vendors using Microsoft Outlook and Teams Meetings.
- **OPERATIONAL REFINEMENT:** Socialized inefficiencies, implemented process improvements, and created standard operating procedures to remove blockers that the team experienced as it grew over time.
- **TRAINING:** Developed training materials and utilized them to train the team's new project managers, enhancing the team's professional development.

Production Artist | Picture Perfect Holidays

Slice Creative Network, Orlando, FL | August 2020 – December 2020

- **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT:** Played a key role in concept and design development meetings, contributing ideas and insights to enhance project creativity and scope effectiveness.
 - **PROJECT COORDINATION:** Tracked meeting notes for reporting, established a list of desired materials and props to source, and presented ideas to the rest of the teams and stakeholders on this collaborative project.
 - **SOURCING:** Thoroughly researched and sourced materials to use for fabrication, focusing on cost-effectiveness and durability.
 - **FABRICATION & SCENERY PRODUCTION:** Constructed set elements based on conceptual and technical drawings, provided themed scenic services, and staged the scenes with props and décor to enhance the storyline and design intent.
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ADDITIONAL SKILLS, PROGRAMS, AND KNOWLEDGE

- Microsoft Office Specialist (Office Suite)
 - Mac OS & Windows OS
 - Adobe Creative Cloud (Including Photoshop, Illustrator, & InDesign)
 - AutoCAD, Revit, & SketchUp
 - Google Workspace/Google Suite
 - Canva, Keynote, & Prezi
 - BIM Process
 - Design Documentation & Deliverables
 - Project Tracking & Punch Lists
 - Project Proposals & Pitches
 - Themed Finishes
 - Paint Mixing & Color Matching
 - Story & Design Research Development
 - Architectural, Technical, & Shop Drawing Comprehension
 - Project & Team Leadership
 - Workflow Process Management
 - AWP/PIT Trained & Certified
 - Strategic & Goal-Oriented
 - Creative Innovation
 - High Attention to Detail & Uniqueness
 - Adaptable Learner & Achiever
 - Integrity & Dependability
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EDUCATION

University of Central Florida – Rosen College of Hospitality Management, Orlando, FL

Bachelor of Science | Entertainment Management | Summa Cum Laude

Undergraduate Certificate | Theme Park and Attraction Management

Valencia College, Orlando, FL

Associate in Science | Live Entertainment Design and Production – Production Design | Summa Cum Laude

Associate in Arts | Coursework Focused on Art, Architecture, & Theatre | Summa Cum Laude

Technical Certificate | Stage Technology

Florida Atlantic University – College of Business, Boca Raton, FL

Executive Education Certificate | Hospitality & Tourism Management

ORGANIZATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

- Themed Entertainment Association
- IAAPA