



CHRIS BARR

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HELLO

For more than a decade, I've focused on helping teams and individuals unlock their creativity to launch new products, connect with new audiences and explore the future of information and culture. With a background in art, design and technology, I have a deep understanding of how to seed innovation within organizations, ensure those efforts are sustainable and manage people and processes to advance institutional goals.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- + Designed and led the Knight Prototype Fund, a signature program that changed how Knight approaches technology funding and innovation. The program drew national attention in publications such as the New York Times, Art 21, Vice, TechCrunch, Fast Company and others.
- + Managed relationships for technology investments from Knight Foundation with a portfolio of nearly \$40m in grant funding. Grantee organizations include major museums, libraries, journalism & research institutions.
- + Modernized West Virginia University's digital design curriculum as a tenure-track professor, providing students more opportunity to succeed in the field of design.
- + Led team of Villanova University software developers in the creation of open source library software now used by libraries around the world. Focused on software architecture, user experience (UX) design, and translating between technologists and end users. Awarded Mellon Award for Technology Cooperation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

JOHN S. & JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Director, Arts + Technology Innovation	2018 - 2021
Director, Technology Innovation	2014 - 2018
Media Innovation Associate	2012 - 2014

Responsible for creating initiatives within the Arts program that elevate Knight Foundation's technology work to national prominence.

Create and manage initiatives to support technology in the arts. Current projects involve building innovation capacity within museums, supporting open source tools for creativity and partnering with major technology companies like Microsoft and governmental agencies like the National Endowment for the Arts.

Designed and led the Knight Prototype Fund, an initiative providing seed investments to early-stage projects from a variety of fields including journalism, civic technology,



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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE cont'd

arts, libraries. The initiative incorporated training in innovation techniques, like human-centered design, as a key aspect of the program. Many program participants have gone on to scale their ideas and several have also participated in accelerators like Y Combinator.

Funded 250+ projects in five years with a small staff by systematizing workflows, creating a pipeline for investments, and providing enhanced experiences for grantees.

Mentor junior staff members on initiative design, partnership creation, investment decisions and attracting outside funding sources.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY
Assistant Professor, Design

2009 - 2012

Developed new digitally-focused design curriculum reflecting the expectation of employers.

Designed hands-on courses that taught students front-end development, user experience, and design research.

Fostered skills, talent, and confidence in students resulting in career design positions with international companies including LinkedIn and Audi.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
Manager, Technology Development
User Interface Designer

2008 - 2009

2007 - 2008

Responsible for leading a team of software engineers to design library systems, websites, digital collections, and other academic computing projects.

Created the original interface design and user experience for VuFind, an open source library catalog system used worldwide by libraries such as National Libraries of Australia, Finland and Ireland.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts, Department of Media Study
Bachelor of Fine Arts, School of Art & Design

SUNY Buffalo
West Virginia University

CERTIFICATION

Instructor of Human-Centered Design

LUMA Institute