

Ben Thornton

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Education

B.S. Geography, May 2017
Florida State University
Minors: Entrepreneurship
Urban Planning

Relevant Coursework

Spatial Data Analysis
Big Data
Transportation Planning
Entrepreneurial Negotiation
Multicultural Urbanism
Collective Decision Making

Skills

Spatial Analysis + Cartography

ArcGIS 10.x
ArcMap, ArcCatalog,
ArcPy, ArcToolbox
QGIS
R statistical programming

UI/UX + Graphic Design

Adobe CC
Illustrator, Photoshop,
Lightroom, After Effects
Sketch

Web Mapping

Mapbox Studio
Leaflet
Mapbox GL JS

Development

Git
HTML, CSS
Javascript
Python
SQL

Research Interests

Bivariate Visualizations

Using color theory and
normalized grids

Spatial Data Models

US National Grid
application in a GIS

Urban Design

Sustainable cities

Experience

GIS Developer and Cartographer

August 2015 - Present

Florida Geographic Alliance

- Created custom maps using cartographic principles and geospatial analysis for use in print publication and within ArcGIS Online
- Identified and compiled necessary data sources for use in projects and completed data cleansing to ensure accurate maps
- Administrator for the FL K-12 ArcGIS Online organization and built data layer inventory
- Consulted with teachers across the state of Florida to develop maps, data, and instructions for their lesson plans

GIS Analyst/Researcher

January 2015 - Present

Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center at Florida State University

- Developed new visualization techniques and cartographic principles that I compiled and published in multiple academic papers with colleagues
- Extended the use of a custom Spatial Data Model through the conversion of widely used data sets presenting new insights into the data
- Wrote Python scripts to automate tasks in ArcGIS increasing productivity for map creation by 98%

Organizer and Sponsorship Coordinator

May 2016 - October 2016

Floatie - A Florida Hackers Conference

- Worked with a core team of 8 to build a first-of-its-kind conference bringing together 70 leaders of student tech organizations under one roof promoting cross university collaboration in Florida
- Developed a sponsorship prospectus and outreach initiative to gain quality sponsors and establish a collaborative co-host relationship with GitHub

Director of Sponsorship

May 2015 - February 2016

HackFSU - Florida State University hackathon

- Directed a 470 person hackathon that created a unique event experience, empowering the attendees to develop 85 projects in 30 hours
- Created a sponsorship prospectus and outreach plan for raising sponsorships
- Worked with Fortune 500 companies to incorporate their technology into the event and secured \$35,000 in sponsorships to cover event budget
- Worked with the Directors of UX and Logistics to manage a 18 person team

Publications

The Florida Geographer, Vol. 47

Fall 2016

Bivariate Statistical Legends: Mapping Examples on Florida Covariance Data using Scatterplots from Open Source Visual Analytic Tools

Projects

Stadia Transit - Transit Analysis Web App

Spring 2017

Final Project for Sports Geography Course

This was a web app to visualize public transit option in proximity to professional sporting venues. I created the stadium data set myself and used the Mapzen Transitland API to populate the transit stops. I ran further analysis on the data to gain other statistical insights beyond what could be seen via the map.

MediDock - Personal Medication Tracking iOS App

September 2016

Mhacks 8 - Winner: Best UX, Best Wellness App

My team built an iOS app and hardware accessory in 36 hours to manage medication dosage, schedule, and refill information for users. I worked on the hardware and backend communication between the device and iOS app. Used the IoT dock hardware accessory to automate the deduction of pills within bottle.