

ANDREW JONES

and the
COVER LETTER
of DESTINY

I've included this cover letter as a companion to my resumé to further clarify what I'm looking for in my next opportunity, and to weed out potential "bad fits". Think of it as my 2018 Career Manifesto.

Who Am I?

I've been a full-time web developer since 1997. I've built sites for everything from mom-and-pop stores to international corporations. I've been a freelancer and contractor. I've been at ad agencies, consultancies, you name it.

I'm a jack-of-all-trades, and embrace the title. My focus is front-end development, but I'm comfortable with PHP. I build static sites, but love working with both Wordpress and Drupal. I'm also a lifelong artist, and live to do illustration of all kinds. I enjoy writing blog articles and short stories, and also shooting/editing videos. I've considered focusing on that "one thing" to be a super expert at, but I have the heart of a generalist, and I couldn't give up any of the hats I wear.

What Do I Want To Do?

If I'm honest, my heart is in "making websites". Remember those? Old-fashioned websites. These days, it seems like the spectrum goes from small hobby sites to giant apps, with nothing in between. There's still a need for small and medium-sized companies and organizations to have well-built, maintainable, accessible sites.

What thrills me most? Making a client happy, whether it's for giving them a feature they've been wanting, making something easier for them to use, or simply being there when they need a hand. When a client gives me kudos (or a hug) for something I've built for them, that's the reward.

Who Do I Want To Do It For?

I'm rethinking the types of gigs I'm willing to consider in 2018. Ideally:

- You are a small-ish company, focused mainly on web development for clients.
- You don't rely on things like pool tables or beer-thirties to take the place of actual perks.
- You fiercely protect work/life balance
- You offer healthcare eligibility from day one.
- You allow folks with long commutes to work remotely most (if not all) of the time.
- You encourage best practices in web development, as well as continuous learning in the form of conference attendance, online training, etc.
- You are committed to meeting at least Level A compliance for accessibility on all projects that go out the door.

Summary

The takeaway from all this, is if you're looking for a seasoned, well-rounded, generalist web developer to help build great websites, and you meet the criteria above, I can't WAIT to talk to you! If not, I'm probably not your guy.

Thanks for your time and hopefully we'll talk soon.

Andrew "AJ" Jones

Andrew Jones

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CORE OBJECTIVES:

My ideal gig is to work with developers and designers that are passionate about creating, building and improving web sites for small to medium-sized businesses and organizations. I believe in code as art, and I sweat the details. I'm drawn to working environments where people genuinely love what they do and care that it's done right.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:

1997 - Present
FireBox Studios - Duluth, GA
Founder and Developer

- FireBox is my own design and development studio I founded early on in my career as a developer.
- Originally based in southeast Ohio, I created a niche for myself, catering to travel and tourism clients.
- Many of the sites I built for state and regional tourism organizations won awards for excellence.
- I continue to do freelance web consulting under the FireBox umbrella, which also encompasses my illustration services.

08/2017 - Present
If/Then - Atlanta, GA
Front End Developer

- Built VUE.js components in support of large Drupal 8 site
- Performed web component accessibility reviews for major brands like Coca-Cola, with recommendations on how to mediate compliance issues
- Contribute to React components and front end development for National Geographic's CMS platform

04/2017 - 07/2017
Morrison Agency - Atlanta, GA
Senior Developer

- Built modular, component-based systems using ES6 JavaScript and the VUE.js framework
- Worked to establish and refine frontend workflows with Gulp and Webpack
- Worked with the dev team to transition to newer tools for capacity planning and project management
- Built initial version of in-house email production workflow using Gulp and various other tools to make email development and deployment a little less terrible

06/2016 - MoZeus Worldwide - Conyers, GA
03/2017 **Senior Frontend Developer**

- Developer of experiential HTML5-based apps for live events such as trade shows, sporting events, etc.
- Built single-page apps with the AngularJS framework for seamless transitions and data collection.
- Created new photo-based experiences using the HTML5 canvas to generate animations for social sharing.
- Wrote new libraries for "motion photos" and canvas-based photo filters.
- Led and mentored a team of frontend developers, facilitated team meetings and in-house training sessions
- Served as developer advocate for the frontend team

08/2013 - Big Nerd Ranch - Atlanta, GA
06/2016 **Frontend Developer**

- Frontend developer on multiple Ruby on Rails-backed web apps
- Built Drupal-based backend API's and internal apps with the Laravel PHP framework
- Project lead and developer on an iPad-based web app powered by AngularJS that consumes JSON data from a backend server, and uses HTML5's application cache and local storage for offline capability.
- Wrote chapters on Responsive Web Design and Accessibility for BNR's upcoming book on web app development.
- Designated BNR expert on web accessibility
- Wrote and consulted on multiple BNR training courses, including Mobile Design and HTML5 Web Apps.
- Performed multiple front end code audits, identifying issues with CSS and JavaScript on legacy projects and recommending performance improvements.
- Wrote several articles for BNR's popular blog (bit.ly/ajblogsbnr)
- Wrote documentation to foster collaboration and understanding between the frontend team and the Design and Sales/Marketing teams within the BNR organization

03/2012 - IQ Interactive - Atlanta, GA
08/2013 **Senior Developer**

- Took the lead on introducing the company to Responsive Web Design and integrating it into client projects
- Built a single-page web app experience for Wells Fargo Bank using cutting-edge accessibility techniques for assistive technology users.
- Developed agency's first e-magazine for the iPad
- Developed a number of storyboards for client commercials and promotional videos, as well as animatics.

09/2011 - Turner Sports - Atlanta, GA
03/2012 **Frontend Developer**

- Frontend developer on the Sports Illustrated website.
- Worked on a “second screen” web app experience for both NCAA and NFL football
- The app pulled real-time game information as JSON data and dynamically updated an entire page of stats.
- My part of the app was responsible for populating things like scoreboards, box scores, play-by-plays and player stats.

03/2011 - Sol Design - Atlanta, GA
09/2011 **Lead Developer**

- As lead developer I shaped development policy and practices, as well as mentor, train and supervise the development team.
- Did frontend development and PHP-based app development, utilizing tools like Wordpress, Drupal and the CodeIgniter MVC framework.
- Helped shape Sol’s mobile development platforms, both in compiling apps from web-based technologies, or making web apps mobile-friendly via CSS and JavaScript.

03/2008 - Engauge (formerly Spunlogic, now Moxie) - Atlanta, GA
03/2011 **Senior Application Engineer**

- Built standards-compliant websites as well as managed a small team of other frontend developers.
- Responsible for evaluating a project’s front end prototyping needs, estimating time required to complete and making recommendations for implementation.
- Became part of Engauge’s *Digital Innovation Group (DIG)*, which focused on social media and emerging digital technology.
- Built many Facebook apps, backed by PHP and mySQL, using the CodeIgniter MVC framework
- Wrote documentation and trained other internal developers on Facebook-related best practices

SKILLS/SOFTWARE:

DEVELOPMENT

Languages: JavaScript, PHP

Platforms & Frameworks: Wordpress, Drupal, Laravel, Zurb Foundation, Bootstrap

Tools, Technologies & Standards: HTML5, CSS3, SASS, Canvas, jQuery, AngularJS, Vue.js, React, Gulp, Responsive Web Design, Web Accessibility, Git, mySQL, Apache

ART & DESIGN

Software: Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign, Premiere Pro, Manga Studio, Storyboard Pro

Traditional Art: Inks, colored pencil, marker, graphite, watercolor, airbrush.

PERSONAL PROJECTS:

- Built a full, custom CMS in PHP for freelance clients
- Contributed paintings for 5 years to the Chuck Jones Red Dot Auction (*Chuck Jones directed many Bugs Bunny and Looney Tunes cartoons*)
- Designed and built website for Chuck Jones Center for Creativity in Drupal
- Designed, built and maintain website for theatre restoration project in my hometown
- Create new illustrations and other art for fun and profit
- Official sketch card artist for TOPPS and Cryptozoic on properties including Superman, The Walking Dead and Star Wars
- Working on new PHP-based web app to help artists list, manage and sell commissions
- Working on another app to help artists collect and manage photo reference
- Hopes to publish first printed book of artwork soon

WRITING / SPEAKING:

- Talk: [Adventures in Atomic Design](#)
- Blog: [On Introverts and Conferences](#)
- Blog/Talk: [Regarding Blank Page Syndrome](#)
- Blog: [CSS Sprite Management with Gulp | Part 2](#)
- Blog: [See all my other blogs written for Big Nerd Ranch](#)

REFERENCES

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