

Ben Sax

ben@perceptoscope.com

Education

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
Bachelor of Arts - 2007

Graduated with honors; double major in Film Studies and Philosophy with additional focus in Experimental Music, Interactive Art and Installation.

Leadership Experience

CRASH Space (Collaborative Research Association of Social Hacktivity)

COVID Response Lead and Board Member

March 2020–Present, Los Angeles, CA

Mobilized a collective effort of over 150 Makers and Hackers across Los Angeles to produce PPE for local hospitals including Cedars Sinai, Keck Medicine of USC, and United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles, as well as homeless shelters, mobile clinics, and the Navajo, Zuni, Sioux, and Hopi Nations. Delivered over 20,000 units to the frontlines.

Teaching Experience

Emerson College

Affiliated Faculty

September 2019–Present, Los Angeles, CA

Courses: VM420 and VM331 - You Are Here: Exploring Place and Time through Immersive Experience

Research

National Science Foundation / Small Business Innovation Research

Principal Investigator (2018-2019)

Award #1820238: "Immersive Augmented Reality Landscape Viewer for Public Space Deployment"

Journalism 360 Challenge Grant

Co-Investigator (2018)

"Volum: Volumetric in the Field"

Knight Foundation Prototype Fund (2015)

Iteration and testing of new Perceptoscope prototypes

Professional Experience

Perceptoscope / Founder

April 2014–Present, Los Angeles, CA

Perceptoscope is a scalable public arts initiative devoted to engaging people with places through the deployment of mixed reality binocular viewers. We work with place-based organizations to share stories with their communities and beyond.

VOLUM / Co-Founder

August 2018–Present, Los Angeles, CA

In collaboration with immersive media filmmakers Trevor Snapp, Sam Wolson, and technologist Ben Kreimer, developed modular volumetric capture techniques and workflows to support field based capture of volumetric video using multiple depth camera nodes. Prototypes developed were tested in the field in Sudan and Kenya.

Wondros / Creative Director and Lead Editor

June 2011–February 2014, Los Angeles, CA

Led creative and edited pieces for clients including ONE, IBM, TED, Taschen, and the Columbia School of Journalism. Pitched interactive experiences and installations to major museums and brands. Wore many hats, from art director and copywriter, to motion graphics designer and animator.

Feature Film Industry / Apprentice Editor

October 2009–May 2011, Los Angeles, CA

Apprenticed under Academy Award nominated editor Alan Baumgarten for two features. In addition to apprentice duties, designed experimental compression workflows, did temp VFX and compositing and worked towards narrative structural efficiency.

Everyman Pictures / Story Analyst

August 2007–October 2009, Santa Monica, CA

Production company of Emmy Award winning producer/director Jay Roach. Covered incoming materials, gave script and story notes, worked directly with writers to create the best stories possible.

Awards, Fellowships, and Residencies

Make it in LA / Catalyst Fellow (2018-2019)

National Arts Strategies / Creative Community Fellow (2017-2018)

Center for Cultural Innovation / Creative Capacity Quick Grant, (2017)

Arts for LA / Activate Cultural Policy Fellow (2016-2017)

SXSW Eco Place by Design / Finalist - Arts and Interaction (2016)

SupplyFrame DesignLab / Artist in Residence (2016, Inaugural Class)

Knight Foundation Prototype Fund Recipient (2015)

Presentations and Panels

"Towards an Internet of Place: How Technology, Community, and the Physical World Collide" Hackaday LA, December 2017, Pasadena, CA

UCLA Mobile Experiences Conference, Panelist, October 2017, Los Angeles, CA

"From Wes to the West: Building Great Tech Companies in LA" Panelist, February 2017, Santa Monica, CA

Exhibitions and Engagements

Layered Beyond, Beyond Baroque, February 2019, Venice, CA

Tar Pits Incubator, El Rey Theatre, June 2019, Los Angeles, CA,

Hackaday SuperConference, November 2016, Los Angeles, CA

Maker Faire Bay Area, May 2016, San Mateo, CA

CRASH the Planet Hacker Art Show, CRASH Space, April 2016, Culver City, CA

The Future of Cities Conference, September 2015, Los Angeles, CA

Two Bit Circus STEAM Carnival, October 2014, San Pedro, CA

Documentary Projects

Ofrenda to Los Angeles, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 2018

Produced and directed a documentary for featured display in the "Becoming Los Angeles" exhibition. "*Ofrenda to Los Angeles*" followed NEA Heritage Fellow and master altermaker Ofelia Esparza and her daughter, artist Rosanna Ahrens, as they journeyed across Los Angeles collecting objects for an altar celebrating the cultural diversity of the city.

The View from Mount Lookout, KCET Public Television, 2015

Directed documentary segment for pilot season of LOST LA. "*The View from Mount Lookout*" chronicled how the city of Los Angeles has transformed since its inception, and the technology image makers have used throughout its history to capture and promote its transformation.

Patents

Optically Compositing Augmented Reality Pedestal Viewer.

US. Patent Application 14513805, Publication No. 20150269777, filed October, 2014, granted June 2018