

Mario Champion

mariochampion.com | 512.576.0824 | mario@mariochampion.com | Austin, TX 78704

Hello. I'm an insightful, experienced Product Manager with four Patents, and would love to learn how I might help.

PROFILE

A core member of creative, strategy and tech teams for 10+ years, I have a diverse background and a joyful history of diving deep into new fields, learning, and synthesizing input from customers + research + creative + strategy + tech teams to collaboratively build useful and innovative software products. My deep cross-functional experiences have crafted me into, honestly, a kind of unicorn, who listens, leads, and collaborates on all aspects of customer and product research, strategy and development.

I love how the big picture is made of evolving little pictures, and helping wrangle these into solutions that solve the right problems for customers is super satisfying. Focusing diverse cross-disciplinary teams to their strengths, balancing user-centered UI/UX design with product scope, flexing budgets and priorities – all within a framework which is agile, entrepreneurial, high-value and fair – is what I do.

Also, I have significant experience architecting and coding LAMP/ Ubuntu Nginx stack web apps and custom tools, using symfony, github, php, mysql, doctrine, ORMs, jquery, javascript, ajax/JSONP, REST APIs, OOP, html/css, assembla, bash, cURL, Facebook APIs, SSH, twilio, and many more tech stack tools.

RECENT PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS

CO-FOUNDER, DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT: TRAILS.BY (demo: <http://cloudschool.trails.by/get>) 2011-2016

Trails is an innovative platform to visually curate, find, and share resources, and, in the process, build a community around learning and knowledge. That is, the modern way to transform your organization into a collaborative, learner-driven community. Specifically, I created the core ideas and intellectual property, and:

- Generated innovative solutions in #edtech, leading to **two granted US patents**, one pending patent
- Provided all aspects of product dev/roadmap: guide creative and dev teams, hire and manage staff and contractors, wrangle budgets and timeline, conduct focus groups and user testing
- Guided, collaborated, approved all product and site aspects and elements, including brainstorming, budgeting, technical development, visual UI/UX design of site and features
- Wrote code and did quality control (e.g., serve as github traffic cop) of php/mysql/doctrine/javascript base in an ubuntu, nginx, github, assembla environment within a multiple developer context
- Lead customer demos, trainings, support, and feature request prioritizations

COMMON CORE SEARCH APIs: TRAILS <http://standards.trails.by> 2014

The users of Trails desired to tag their resources with standards from the Common Core, but there was no public REST API, so I built one. Now, any developer can utilize two REST APIs to search grade and/or keyword and/or component, with a JSON object result.

- Scraped open Common Core data, restructured it via script into new database
- Built and documented open REST APIs
- Released under the Creative Commons Attribution license

learn more at <http://mariochampion.com>

Mario Champion

mariochampion.com | 512.576.0824 | mario@mariochampion.com | Austin, TX 78704

RECENT PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS (page 2)

COMMUNITY STRATEGY DIRECTOR & BACK-END LEAD: MILKSHAKE MEDIA 2010

For the launch of Generation TX (<http://GenTX.org>), I worked as a consultant to Milkshake Media, serving in a variety of roles centered around launching an online and offline movement to create a “Career and College-Ready Culture” in Texas.

- Strategy and development for a state-wide field organization, including meet with stakeholders and elected officials, coordinate for the pilot market launches in San Antonio and Fort Worth
- Developed custom tech tools to manage, classify, view contacts and resources
- Researched, reviewed, interviewed tech partners to evaluate solutions
- Engaged in both architecture, UI/UX strategy and lead back-end developer of GenTX.org in php, mysql, jquery, ajax, html, css, FB connect, shell scripting, and custom WordPress & BuddyPress plugins and post types, theme development and customization.

CREATIVE & TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR: FGA MEDIA & FAIRYGODMOTHERACADEMY.COM: 2008 – 2010

FGA Media was a startup developing a trans-media life-style brand for tween girls by creating a product and community ecosystem, rooted in the Fairy Godmother Academy book series published by Random House.

- Co-developed, directed and approved company-wide creative and technology strategies, including web design, brand talking points, social media, and offline community plans
- Coordinated and approved team schedules and budgets
- Guided toy and product development for major retailer pitches
- Created structure for “Wisdom Cards” and “Wisdom Acts” online & offline projects
- Owned the major transformation of our Series A Investor Deck
- Website Product Director -
 - Set staff, budgets, schedules and adaptations to timeline and investor needs
 - Negotiated dollar-saving “co-licensing” deals with external vendors
 - Directly coded and supervised Wordpress theme customization (php, mysql, html, css, javascript/jquery)

COMMUNITY & MUNICIPAL INVOLVEMENT

URBAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER: CITY OF AUSTIN JUL 2015 - PRESENT

PRESIDENT: SOUTH LAMAR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION JAN 2014 - DEC 2015

TREASURER, STRATEGIST: TURN TEXAS BLUE PAC 2010-2012

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY: TCDP COORDINATED CAMPAIGN & TEXANSFOROBAMA 2008

CO-FOUNDER, PRESIDENT: LATINOS FOR TEXAS PAC 2005- 2008

WAY BACK IN THE DAY

TWO PATENTS IN CASUAL, SOCIAL, STRATEGY GAMING: GRIDBLOC GAME 1999-2002

CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: TEAM SMARTPANTS, INC 1996 - 2003

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE: UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN 1988 - 1994