

# CANDACE SCHUTT

*Environmental Graphic Designer*

## CONTACT

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## CORE COMPETENCIES

- Graphic Design
- Creative Collaboration
- Thought Leadership
- Client Services
- Strategic Planning
- Process Improvement
- Project Management
- Vendor Coordination
- Training
- Budgeting
- Effective Communicator & Presenter

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Adobe Creative Suite
  - Illustrator
  - Photoshop
  - InDesign
  - Acrobat Pro
- SketchUp
- AutoCAD
- Microsoft Office
  - Word
  - PowerPoint
  - Excel
  - Outlook
- Keynote
- Final Cut Pro
- Rasterlink Pro
- HP Onyx Thrive

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

*Innovative Graphic Designer with a combination of creative talents and business acumen. Ability to work collaboratively across company department teams such as sales and marketing, successfully lead a team of designers, and communicate clearly with outside architects, interior designers and vendors to design and deliver unique creative design concepts. Successfully manages project scope, budgets and brings the client's vision and brand to life. Extensive experience in designing large format environmental graphics, branding, logos, signage, and print layouts.*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**MDC INTERIOR SOLUTIONS, LLC.,** Glendale Heights, IL ..... 2016 – Present  
*Design Solutions Manager | Digital Department*

*MDC is one of the largest providers of commercial wall designs to national market segments including hospitality, retail, restaurant, corporate, and education environments.*

- Created and implemented a standardized project management protocol that allows for delegation of workflow, effectively collaborate with our national sales force, outside vendors, and clients, resulting in an increase in sales from \$6 million to \$9+ million within two years.
- Grew the design solutions team from five project coordinators to nine project coordinators within a year
- Consult effectively with clients, sales team members and vendors to develop and design client solutions that support brand development, generate unique concepts, and enrich the physical environment.
- Review construction documents, dimensions and work with renderings to create visual mock-ups, helping customers envision final graphics within the physical space.
- Prioritize and manage multiple client projects at one time, providing design mock-ups, scheduling conference calls, monitoring quotes and revisions, and making sure all project documents and approvals are in order.
- Design and establish national brand program standards for large hospitality and commercial clients such as Marriott, IHG, Footlocker, LaQuinta, Bonchon and Melting Pot Restaurants.
- Developed and maintain a positive team environment that fosters collaboration, creativity and skill development.
- Developed and continually build training programs for both internal operations and external sales team.
- Significant commitment to teams training and development in knowledge of digital materials, verbal communication and collaboration of artwork concept development combine with print production guidelines

**BANNERVILLE USA,** Burr Ridge, IL ..... 2011 – 2016  
*Lead Graphic Designer & Design Department Manager*

*For over 45 years Bannerville has been a leader in the custom sign industry working with some of the largest institutions and corporations in Chicago including Choose Chicago, and the Art Institute of Chicago.*

- Managed the design department composed of four designers.
- Charged with consulting and developing creative, visual concepts for new

## EDUCATION

### MASTER OF FINE ARTS

DIGITAL IMAGING

Governors State University, University Park, IL

### EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

AIGA & YALE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS:

BUSINESS PERSPECTIVES FOR THE CREATIVE LEADERS

Yale School of Management, New Haven, CT

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

GRAPHIC DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY

Dominican University, River Forest, IL

## ACHIEVEMENTS

◦ *Beauty in Abandonment*

South Suburban College

March – April, 2014

- Solo Exhibition Displaying a complete body of work

◦ *President's Exhibition*

Governors State University

May 2012 – May 2013

◦ *Beauty in Abandonment*

Visual Arts Gallery at Governors State University

April 2012

- Solo Thesis Graduate Exhibition displaying a complete body of work

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE | CONTINUED |

and existing clients including environmental graphics such as wall graphics, window graphics, wayfinding signage and POP graphics such as trade show displays, banners, posters, and print media including marketing materials, handouts and digital media, while ensuring brand integrity and cohesiveness.

- Established and integrated standardized processes for artwork specifications, proofing processes, and production resulting in improved efficiency and quality and decreased the amount of errors and needs for reprints.
- Specialized in color correction and color matching through production which increased accuracy during the proof process and resulted in quicker client approvals.
- Worked collaboratively with sales teams, architects and other creative contributors.
- Created and designed Bannerville promotional materials for marketing, sales, print ads, website, trade shows, and public relations materials.
- Responsible for branding School Spirit Lab, a division of Bannerville USA, including logo development, related documents for proposals, marketing materials, website content, and creating concepts for and directing promotional videos.
- Represented Bannerville at local Chamber of Commerce meetings and events as well as organizations like Choose Chicago, Chicago Loop Alliance, and Art Institute of Chicago to build relationships, network, and offer industry expertise.

### FREELANCE DESIGNER, Chicago, IL ..... 2016 – Present

*Graphic Design & Photography*

*Enjoying the luxury of working with friends, family, and referrals.  
Connecting people through the power of great design.*

- Specialize invitation packages: wedding package design, baby showers, bachelorette parties, birthday parties and anniversaries.
- Personal logo and branding development: business cards and marketing materials for customers such as Neurosensory Vision Integration Clinic; Hyland Family Foundation; Burton Place Bar and Grill; Andre Smith, Personal Trainer; Abigail Zupancic, Stylist and Event Coordinator; Simple Skin Solutions logo and product labels.
- Rosewood Community Church: logo design for GEMS, t-shirt design, print materials, and banner design for church programs.
- Realtor sale photography for Christine Zdunek of Century 21 Real Estate

## ACTIVITIES

### AIGA MEMBER ..... 2015 – Present

- Fall 2017 *Learning Leadership Skills* Mentorship Program: 10-Week continuing education program for emerging leaders in the design field aimed at developing inspired leadership skills and practical application for creating a positive environment for their teams.

### CHICAGO INNOVATION MEMBER ..... 2018 – Present

- *Chicago Innovation's* mission is to create a thriving innovation ecosystem in the Chicago region by educating, connecting and celebrating innovators. Attend monthly events coming together with Chicago region innovators to share ideas and building relationships and find opportunities.

### DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI PANEL FOR DESIGN GRADUATES ..... April 2017

- Selected to represent the Dominican design program as an established alumna successfully working in the field of study. May 2015