

3 Questions with... Joey Vallejo

Featuring:

Joey Vallejo, Head of UX Design and User Research, MSCI

Hi my name is Joey Vallejo, and I'm the Head of UX Design and User Research at MSCI, and I'm based in Berkeley, California.

Q:

UX designers are often expected to wear many different hats. What's one area or skill you're currently focused on?

Joey Vallejo:

One area I'm focused on with my team is building trust and building relationships across cross-functional teams. That is the most important thing when joining any company.

Q:

Why did you decide to pursue a career in tech and UX design and what advice would you give to new joiners in the field?

Joey Vallejo:

I've decided to pursue a career in the design field because I've always been creative during my youth. I used to draw for the family and friends, I was the one go-to person who always drew the sports banners and everything else. I also was a creative person and always liked to break things when it came to being curious about how things worked. I would break computers, I would rebuild computers using Asus motherboards and putting them all back together and selling them off to my friends. That led me to getting a career in college in the design and tech field, eventually leading me up to growth and career path I am on currently today. A new advice I would tell to individuals in the field is that this is a hot market, this is a hot field, especially with digital products and services that range across different customer bases. It's not just about mobile or devices, it stems to healthcare, it stems to the environment, there's always an end factor of improving things within different spaces. That is some of the advice and opportunities I would give to the people that are joining this field.

Q:

What's one thing most people don't know about you?

Joey Vallejo:

One thing that most people don't know about me is that I grew up in a not-so-great neighborhood that was riddled with crime and gang activity. Which led me to go to college and translate that negativity into positivity. So I am a strong believer of giving back to the community, mentoring troubled youth and teens, and working for the PAL, which is the Police Activities League.

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