

VINH TRAN

Sign Design & Production Manager

Katy, TX (Greater Houston) | (504) 256-8526 | vtran715@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Sign designer and production manager who ran design-to-fabrication workflows at two full-service New Orleans sign shops. Designs in Illustrator, CorelDRAW, and FlexiSign, builds 3D presentation models of monument and pylon signs in Fusion 360 and SketchUp, and takes a job from blueprint takeoff through ADA-compliant fabrication, printing, and install. Hands-on with CNC routers, channel letter benders, laser cutters, photopolymer and raster braille machines, and large-format UV, solvent, and latex printers up to 12 feet wide.

CORE SKILLS

Design: Adobe Illustrator, CorelDRAW, FlexiSign, blueprint takeoffs, ADA and wayfinding sign packages, 3D concept design in Fusion 360 and SketchUp (monument, pylon, fascia signage), awning frame engineering in SketchUp (beams, materials, custom extrusions), extruded box sign frame design

Fabrication: Channel letters (fascia and raceway mounted, front-lit, back-lit halo), interior and wayfinding signage, traffic signs, acrylic, aluminum sheet and extrusion, ACM composite panel, HDU, flex-face signs, awnings with Cooley eradicable fabric graphics (eradication solvent), LED illumination, neon coordination

Printing: Large-format UV, solvent, and latex printing; flatbed and roll-to-roll machines including HP Scitex and 12-foot-wide roll printers; prepress, print substrate application, and post finishing

Vinyl: Vinyl plotting, graphics production, and installation; car wraps and wall mural wraps; pounce pattern making

Machinery: CNC router setup, programming, and operation; channel letter bending software and return benders; CO2 laser cutting and engraving; photopolymer and raster braille ADA machines; plotters; machine maintenance, servicing, and repair

Production: Ticket-to-production scheduling against available timelines and resources, fast-tracking rush jobs while keeping long-term projects on schedule; file conversion and nesting, purchasing and receiving including vendor-ordered custom plaques with stippling patterns, sign packages for public bids, new manufacturing method development, quality control, installer coordination

SIGN INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Production Manager / Sign Designer | OPA Signs & Graphics, New Orleans, LA Jan 2016 - Jul 2019

- Ran production for a full-service sign shop: scheduled tickets into production against available timelines and resources, fast-tracked rush jobs, and distributed work across design, print, fabrication, and installation.
- Programmed, operated, and serviced laser cutting, photopolymer, and raster braille machines, producing ADA-compliant signage from blueprint takeoffs.
- Converted project files, corrected measurements, and nested jobs; performed prepress, large-format printing, and post finishing including vinyl and print substrate application.
- Designed and presented client signage directly, including the iSeatz sign, engineered and fabricated within the client budget.
- Purchasing, receiving, and quality control before every installation; researched and developed new manufacturing methods.

Large-Format Print Specialist | Solomon Group, New Orleans, LA Jul 2015 - Jan 2016

- Print department of an AV production company: ran HP Scitex flatbed and wide-format latex roll-to-roll printers on a wide range of substrates.
- Produced exhibit prints for the National WWII Museum's Road to Tokyo galleries, plus event graphics and custom stage props for the College Football Playoff, Essence Festival, and BattleBots.

Production Manager / Sign Designer | Pro Signs & Graphics, New Orleans, LA Jan 2013 - Jul 2015

- Programmed, operated, maintained, and repaired CNC cutting machines and the channel letter return bender.
- Brought HDU monument work in-house: self-trained on a new CAM program, won the project, and delivered a double-sided carved sign in 2 weeks at half the outsourced quote.
- Designed and fabricated channel letter sets, back-lit and acrylic-faced signage, and extruded box signs.
- Engineered awning frames in SketchUp, measuring beams and specifying materials and custom extrusions; produced awning graphics on Cooley eradicable flex-face fabric using eradication solvent.
- Planned workflow, distributed jobs to departments, and collaborated with fabrication on construction and installation of signage.

SINCE 2019

IT career at Ochsner Health (Epic ClinDoc-certified analyst) and OnPath Credit Union (help desk manager), Jul 2019 to present.

Fabrication skills kept current through independent CNC signage consulting (equipment evaluation, workflow design, operator training) and hands-on personal work: CNC routing, 3D printing for prototypes and custom components, carbon fiber fabrication, and woodworking.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- Airport parking facility: full signage package from blueprint takeoffs to production, 150+ signs including ADA signage, clearance bars, and level identification signs.
- Alarm Center, Baton Rouge: custom shield-shaped sign overlooking Airline Highway; researched new fabrication methods and material vendors to build it.
- West End Plaza: designed the frame for a sailboat-shaped sign with interchangeable tenant panels and directed its fabrication.
- Dat Dog, Frenchmen St, New Orleans: constructed the neon sign for the landmark location.
- iSeatz, New Orleans: personally designed, presented, engineered, and fabricated the client's sign.

EDUCATION

Accounting coursework, University of New Orleans

Pre-pharmacy coursework, Xavier University of Louisiana

Languages: English and Vietnamese, fluent