

Kevin Payravi

<https://kevin.payravi.dev> • kevin@payravi.dev • github.com/KevinPayravi • linkedin.com/in/kevinpayravi

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SUMMARY

Software engineer working in the intersection of technology and open knowledge. I build web tools that help people discover and contribute to free information, with most of my recent experience being software development for the Wikimedia ecosystem and the Digital Public Library of America. I also organize communities, having co-founded WikiPortraits, organized WikiConference North America, and secured more than 20 grants for Wikimedia programs and initiatives. Before freelancing, I spent nearly seven years at Capital One working on developer platforms, data infrastructure, and security tooling.

EDUCATION

Master of Library & Information Science

Kent State University, August 2022

Bachelor of Computer Science & Engineering

The Ohio State University, May 2017

WORK EXPERIENCE

Digital Public Library of America

Software Developer (Contract)

April 2026 – Present

- Develop and maintain the main dp.la website.
- Work on the data ingestion pipeline that brings partner collections into DPLA.
- Improving analytics for the platform.

WikiPortraits

Co-founder, software developer, photographer

January 2024 – Present

- Co-founded the WikiPortraits initiative to capture high-quality portraits of notable individuals and cultural events for Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects.
- Co-leading team of over 100 photographers who have contributed 100,000+ photos from around the world, receiving 1 billion+ page views per year across Wikimedia projects.
- Developed several tools and web applications to support our organizers and photographers, including a portfolio management platform and onboarding wizard.
- Photographed numerous significant cultural events as press, including but not limited to Sundance Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Riddu Riddu, and the Nobel Prizes.

Wikimedia Foundation

Lead Developer (Contract), Depiction Viewer

August 2022 – January 2023

- Developed View it!, a suite of tools that enables the discovery of freely-licensed media on the Wikimedia Commons.
- Created a web app that allows querying for media by Wikidata item IDs.
- Created a REST API to better enable users to query for media.
- Created a JavaScript widget that injects a gallery of images to the top of articles across all Wikimedia projects (including Wikipedia). Currently used by >200 editors.

Capital One

Software Engineer, Enterprise Services

August 2022 – May 2024

- Frontend development for an internal CI/CD platform used by hundreds of teams to build and manage deployment pipelines.
- Built accessible, reusable Lit web components for a shared component library, adopted across the platform.
- Migrated microfrontends to a static cloud service, improving reusability and reducing deployment overhead.
- Designed and implemented a developer-facing onboarding interface for a new application workflow.
- Onboarded our APIs onto New Relic, establishing observability and monitoring across services.

Software Engineer, Financial Services

August 2021 – August 2022

- Built fullstack greenfield prototypes exploring new digital engagement channels for the auto industry.
- Developed a proof-of-concept frontend for an end-to-end online vehicle purchasing experience.
- Engineered a web portal and API enabling user onboarding to external communication vendors.

Software Engineer, Credit Risk Management

September 2019 – August 2021

- Built a self-service platform enabling business analysts to independently onboard and execute resource-intensive models.
- Managed data infrastructure pipelines processing terabytes of data per job.
- Engineered a custom AWS autoscaling solution that reliably scaled infrastructure on demand, cutting hosting costs by 60%.
- Received the Mark of Distinction award, recognizing top performers across the line of business.

Assoc. Software Engineer, Cybersecurity

September 2018 – September 2019

- Fullstack developer on an internal enterprise-wide web application that enables vulnerability scanning for thousands of codebases across the company.
- Reduced false-positive static scan findings by 70%, earning an enterprise award and saving hundreds of development teams significant time.
- Designed a vulnerability database to efficiently store and query millions of security finding records.

Assoc. Software Engineer, Financial Services

September 2017 – September 2018

- Engineered the frontend for highly customizable display ads served to thousands of customers daily.
- Optimized ad performance through Selenium and JMeter testing, reducing load time to 30 milliseconds.
- Architected and built an internal marketing platform enabling marketers to segment audiences, assign channels, and optimize campaign results.

Hyland, creator of OnBase

Intern, Healthcare Services

Summer 2015 – Spring 2016

- Interned in Hyland's Healthcare Services department.
- Developed an internal reporting tool to automatically generate a navigable website of project and employee data.

Taazaa Inc.

Intern, Web Development & Community Manager

Summer 2014

- Developed a new WordPress-based website for the company.
- Helped manage communications, continued running Taazaa's social media, and performed basic market research.

Intern, Mobile Application Development

Summer 2013

- Worked on the mobile team to help design and debug an Android mobile healthcare application.
- Established and maintained Taazaa's social media presence.

SELECT PROJECTS

Sightglass (sightglass.toolforge.org) (code)

Sightglass reports view counts for files and whole categories on Wikimedia Commons, drawn from Wikimedia's Mediainfo data. Queries run on the server, and every query has a link that can be shared.

WikiPortraits Photo Service (photos.wikiportraits.org)

The public home for event coverage by WikiPortraits photographers: over 100,000 freely licensed photos from film festivals, sports, music, and more, browsable by event and photographer.

WikiAsteroids (asteroids.wiki) (code)

WikiAsteroids is the classic Asteroids arcade game with a Wikipedia twist, in which each edit to an article on Wikipedia spawns an asteroid.

Commons Gallery (commons.gallery)

Commons Gallery is a platform allowing Wikimedia Commons photographers to create modern portfolios of their work.

Cite Unseen (meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Cite_Unseen) (code)

A JavaScript widget that embeds icons on Wikipedia citations to indicate the nature and reliability of sources. It catalogs over 20,000 domains and is used by hundreds of Wikipedia editors across several language versions of Wikipedia.

Wiki Arcade (playwiki.games) (code)

Wiki Arcade is an online directory of Wikimedia-powered and themed games. Games are presented in three views: grid, scroll, and arcade machine.

Indie Wiki Buddy (getindie.wiki) (code)

Indie Wiki Buddy is a browser extension that helps users easily discover and support independent wikis they might otherwise miss in search results. When visiting a wiki on a large, corporate-run site, this extension will notify or automatically redirect users to quality independent wikis when they're available. Search results in Google, Bing, and DuckDuckGo can also be filtered, replacing non-independent wikis with text inviting users to visit the independent counterpart. Indie Wiki Buddy also supports BreezeWiki, a service that renders Fandom wikis without ads or clutter.

View it! (meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/View_it!_Tool) (code)

View it! is a project in active development that helps surface freely licensed images from the Wikimedia Commons to readers and editors of other Wikimedia projects. The tool uses Wikimedia Commons's relatively new structured data labelling to query media relevant to the respective subject.

ACNH.Directory (acnh.directory) (code)

A filterable directory of websites and tools dedicated to *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*. This site serves as the largest one-stop site to discover resources for the game. The website is open source, allowing anyone to submit additional resources.

Nookipedia API (api.nookipedia.com) (code)

An open-source API that queries and returns structured data from Nookipedia, an *Animal Crossing* wiki. The API is used by hundreds of users and has been used to build Discord bots, game guide websites, and school projects.

HackOHI/O 2016 Website (hack.osu.edu/2016) (code)

HackOHI/O 2016 was Ohio State's largest hackathon, held November 19–20, 2016. Following the OHI/O 2015 website (below), the site was built from the ground up and serves as a landing page and showcase for the event. The branding focus for the year was an emphasis on triangles. The Trianglify JS library creates a unique header on each load, and triangles appear throughout the rest of HackOHI/O's 2016 branded content.

OHI/O 2015 Website (hack.osu.edu/2015) (code)

As co-chair of web, I helped create and maintain the website of Ohio State's 2015 hackathon.

The homepage was spearheaded by fellow co-chair Matt Faluotico, while the live page was created and maintained by me

EXTRACURRICULAR LEADERSHIP

WikiPortraits (wikiportraits.org)

Co-founder and Photographer (2024 – Present)

WikiPortraits is an initiative to capture high-quality photos of people and cultural events for use on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects. Since WikiPortraits was formed in early 2024, its photographers have uploaded over 100,000 photos, which have been used on over 20,000 articles across more than 200 language versions of Wikipedia.

These photos are used on articles that receive upwards of 100 million views per month — or over a billion views per year.

WikiGameJam (wikigamejam.org)

Co-founder and Organizer (2024 – Present)

WikiGameJam is a community-driven game jam focused on creating games inspired by Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects.

WikiHaus (wiki.haus)

Co-founder and Organizer (2024 – Present)

WikiHaus is a collaborative living space and community hub for Wikimedians and Wikimedia enthusiasts. WikiHaus has hosted spaces during SXSW 2024 and 2025, as well as starting the WikiGameJam program.

Wikimedia District of Columbia (wikimediadc.org/wiki/Home)

Board Member (June 2018 – Present)

Wikimedia District of Columbia is a registered non-profit that serves as the regional outreach organization for Wikipedia and the other projects of the Wikimedia Foundation in the Washington D.C. area and beyond. After being named Volunteer of the Year for 2017 by the organization, I was invited to join the Board of Directors in 2018 and have served since.

WikiConference North America (wikiconference.org)

Organizer / Steering Committee (2017 – Present)

WikiConference North America is an annual gathering of Wikimedians and movement allies from across North America, including Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean. I first attended WikiConference North America 2016 in San Diego and was inspired by the in-person collaboration among Wikimedians from across the continent. Starting in 2017, I have helped organize this annual conference, eventually becoming a primary organizer and member of the steering committee. My responsibilities have included programming, sponsorship, branding, and maintaining the conference's website. The conference has grown over the years to attract over 300 participants annually, both in-person and virtual.

WikiCred / WikiCredCon (wikicred.org)

Organizer (2019 – Present)

The WikiCred project supports convenings, software projects, and research for the Wikimedia community with a focus on improving credibility and information literacy. WikiCred got its start at WikiConference North America 2019, with a track focused on reliability of information on the Wikimedia projects. Following the conference, with support from Craig Newmark Philanthropies, we distributed microgrants to support software projects related to reliability and Wikimedia. In 2025, WikiCred held the first standalone WikiCredCon gathering of over fifty people for three days of talks and planning at the Internet Archive headquarters in San Francisco.

Wiki Loves Monuments in the United States (wikilovesmonuments.us)

Organizer (2016 – Present)

Wiki Loves Monuments is an annual international photographic competition that invites the public to document and promote historic sites around the world by uploading photos to the Wikimedia Commons to be used on Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects. Since 2016, I have led the U.S. competition. Between 2016 and 2021, participants have uploaded over 46,000 photos of U.S. historic sites. Roughly 10% of these have found use on Wikipedia and other educational projects.

Ohio Wikimedians User Group (meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Wikimedians_User_Group)

Founder and Organizer (July 2016 – Present)

In July 2016, I founded the Ohio Wikimedians User Group, serving as the official Wikimedia affiliate for the Ohio area. The goal of the group is to support and develop the Wikimedia movement and community in Ohio. The group's first project was co-organizing Wiki Loves Monuments 2016 in the United States, a national photography contest with the goal of cataloging historical monuments and sites. Since then, we have worked to keep our members informed of local events, as well as having supported several Art+Feminism edit-athons throughout the state. Future initiatives include collaborating with local libraries and historical societies to host edit-a-thons, and to provide further resources for individuals hosting their own Wikimedia events.

Wikipedia Connection (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia_Connection)

Founder and President (March 2015 – May 2017)

In 2015, I founded Wikipedia Connection as a student organization at the Ohio State University alongside several of my peers. We are dedicated to exploring and contributing to Wikipedia. Each semester, Wikipedia Connection hosts various events: workshops, edit-a-thons, outreach programs, photograph events, and more. We've successfully managed to educate students about Wikipedia, and have been able to engage students and staff to contribute themselves. Through doing all this, I've gained valuable experience in event organizing and team management, along with learning the best ways to engage different audiences.

HackOHI/O (hack.osu.edu)

Web Lead, Branding Lead, & Sponsor Coordinator (March 2015 – May 2017)

After attending OHI/O 2014, Ohio State's flagship hackathon, I became interested in event organizing and joined the planning team in 2015. I served as co-lead on OHI/O's web and branding teams, developing the hackathon's website and internal tools while establishing the visual identity and brand for the event. The event doubled in attendance compared to 2014. In 2016, I continued in these leadership roles and expanded my responsibilities to include corporate sponsorship and company relations. Working with a dedicated team of students and staff, OHI/O provided valuable experience in community building and fostering technical culture on campus.

CERTIFICATIONS

Amazon Web Services Solutions Architect - Associate

January 2021 – February 2024

GRANTS

22 grants totaling \$91,450 and CHF 37,500 from the Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia CH, as the grantee on 20 and advisor on 2.

WikiGameJam Bay Area 2026 (Advisor) — \$4,971 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikireceipt Machine Toolkit Creation and Workshop 2026 (Advisor) — \$5,000 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Extending Cite Unseen — CHF 20,000 from Wikimedia CH ([link](#))

WikiCommons Gallery Showcase by WikiPortraits — CHF 17,500 from Wikimedia CH ([link](#))

Wiki Loves Monuments 2024 in the United States — \$2,040 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

2024 Edinburgh Festival Fringe WikiPortraits Initiative — \$5,000 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

SXSW 2024 Wikimedia Portrait Initiative — \$5,000 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wiki Loves Monuments 2023 in the United States — \$1,890 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikimedia Hackathon 2022: District of Columbia Local Meetup — \$4,100 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wiki Loves Monuments 2021 in the United States — \$1,905 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wiki Loves Monuments 2020 in the United States — \$1,905 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wiki Loves Monuments 2019 in the United States — \$995 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikipedia Asian Month 2018 — \$2,000 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

WikiConference North America 2018 — \$44,000 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wiki Loves Monuments 2018 in the United States — \$1,960 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikipedia Asian Month 2018: Preparation — \$1,310 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikipedia Asian Month 2017: South Asia Project — \$1,850 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikipedia Asian Month 2017 — \$2,000 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wiki Loves Monuments 2017 in the United States — \$915 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikipedia Connection Semester Funding for Workshops and Events (Spring 2017) — \$1,170 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Ohio Wikimedians User Group Project Funding for Fall 2016 — \$1,910 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

Wikipedia Connection Semester Funding for Workshops and Events (Spring 2016) — \$1,529 from the Wikimedia Foundation ([link](#))

EVENT ORGANIZATION

Art+Feminism Turns 10: Symposium on Collective Action in Houston ([link](#))

April 15, 2023

Worked with a great team to help celebrate Art+Feminism's 10th year with a symposium on Collective Action. I managed the Zoom for this hybrid event, as well as coordinated for the audio-video setup.

Get Wiki With It: An Introduction to Wikipedia Editing at Columbus Metropolitan Library ([link](#))

April 1, 2023

Ohio State University's Center of Ethnic Studies partnered with the Columbus Metropolitan Library to host an introduction to Wikipedia editing. I presented an overview of Wikipedia, with a focus on Wikipedia's coverage of Columbus topics and opportunities to help improve it.

Ohio State Center of Ethnic Studies Wikipedia Edit-a-thon ([link](#))

March 31, 2023

Ohio State University's Center of Ethnic Studies invited me to campus to present an introductory session on Wikipedia, including a tutorial on editing. After the introduction, participants were invited to contribute to Wikipedia to improve topics related to Asian American Studies, American Indian Studies, and Latinx Studies, as well as other articles pertaining to ethnicity. In just a few hours, participants drafted eight articles, and helped improve and expand several others.

WikiConference North America 2022 ([link](#))

October 11–13, 2022 | Attendance: 300 (Virtual) | [Report](#)

The virtual WikiConference North America 2022 was jointly held with Mapping USA. The theme was open knowledge allies, to recognize the bridging of the Wikimedia and OpenStreetMap communities at this conference.

WikiConference North America 2021 ([link](#))

October 8–10, 2021 | Attendance: 260+ (Virtual) | [Report](#)

WikiConference North America 2021 took place online for the second year in a row. The conference theme was Global & Local, and a highlight was providing multiple tracks of live translation between English and Spanish.

WikiConference North America 2020 ([link](#))

December 11–13, 2020 | Attendance: 100+ (Virtual)

With the COVID-19 pandemic, WikiConference North America 2020 was the conference's first venture into an all-virtual event.

WikiConference North America 2019 ([link](#))

November 8–11, 2019 | Attendance: 350+ | [Report](#)

WikiConference North America 2019 was hosted in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference continued to grow, attracting over 350 participants and featuring diverse programming on Wikimedia projects and open knowledge.

WikiConference North America 2018 ([link](#))

October 18–21, 2018 | Attendance: 200+ | [Report](#)

2018's WikiConference North America was hosted by the Ohio State University Libraries. We also partnered with the Columbus Metropolitan Libraries and several other local cultural institutions for tours and collaborative work.

WikiConference North America 2017 ([link](#))

August 11–13, 2017 | Attendance: 200+

A continuation of WikiConference North America, this event took place in Montreal as part of Wikimania's pre-conference. We partnered with Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec and McGill to provide tours and collaborative events.

Art+Feminism Edit-a-thon 2017 ([link](#))

March 3, 2017 | Attendance: 34

Art+Feminism is a global event that brings together diverse communities to create and improve Wikipedia articles related to women in the arts. Wikipedia Connection hosted Ohio State's second Art+Feminism at Ohio State, hosting 34 students and faculty (up from last year's 15 participants). The event concluded with 11 new articles, 5 new drafts, and 28 articles improved through over 100 edits.

HackOHI/O 2016 ([link](#))

November 19–20, 2016 | Attendance: 750+

For Ohio State's premier 2016 hackathon, I lead the Branding and Web teams of the event, which included the design of the event's logo, website, and online resources. I was also active in sponsorship and company relations, helping raise over \$10,000 through corporate sponsorship.

WikiConference North America 2016 ([link](#))

October 7–10, 2016 | Attendance: 200+

Serving as a volunteer organizer for the annual conference of Wikimedia enthusiasts in North America, I primarily worked in communications and lead the conference's social media.

Art+Feminism Edit-a-thon 2016 ([link](#))

March 5, 2016 | Attendance: 15

Art+Feminism is a global event that brings together diverse communities to create and improve Wikipedia articles related to women in the arts. At Ohio State, Wikipedia Connection hosted a local edit-a-thon for Art+Feminism. The event concluded with 28 articles improved, and 6 more created.

OHI/O 2015 ([link](#))

November 14–15, 2015 | Attendance: 500+

In 2015, I joined OHI/O, the student organization behind Ohio's largest hackathon at Ohio State. I served as co-lead on OHI/O's web and branding teams, working to create the event's web presence, internal tools, and the hackathon's visual identity and brand.

Buckeye Edit-a-thon ([link](#))

September 8, 2015 | Attendance: 15

Hosting my first edit-a-thon (and the first edit-a-thon at Ohio State), this event brought together students and faculty to edit articles on Wikipedia related to Columbus and Ohio State. In the end, 67 edits were made to 19 articles, 2 of which were newly created.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Intro to Wikipedia for ACS Cleveland Education Night (April 27, 2022) ([link](#))

Presented to the Cleveland chapter of the American Chemical Society, this presentation introduced how Wikipedia works and how to edit, with a focus on Wikimedia's use of machine learning as well as how to improve chemistry-related articles.

WikiCred Demo Hour @ Mozfest 2021 (March 12, 2021) ([link](#))

At MozFest 2021, I presented a short introduction to references on Wikipedia, followed by a demo of Cite Unseen, my user script that adds icon annotations to citations.

Wikipedia's Scope, Biases, Solutions, and Editing (February 9, 2017) ([link](#))

Presented to a INTSTDS 4850: Understanding the Global Information Society section at Ohio State, this presentation covered how Wikipedia operates on a global scale; what problems exist globally (such as accessibility and biases); some solutions to these problems; and a quick introduction to editing.

Wikipedia Editing + Sourcing (January 26, 2017)

In preparation for a WikiEdu course program ([link](#)) for GEOG 3900: Global Climate Change: Causes and Consequences, I was invited into the class to present on editing basics, as well as how to identify reliable sources. Students learned how editors collaborate on Wikipedia, as well as several policy pages regarding sourcing.

Introduction to Wikidata (January 18, 2017) ([link](#))

Presented to CO-ASIS&T at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, this presentation served as an introduction to Wikidata, a free and open knowledge base. The presentation covered its basics, its usefulness, examples of queries, its future, and how contributions are made. More details are available on the event page.

Wikipedia Organizations on Campus: Case Study and Guide (October 8, 2016) ([link](#))

Representing Wikipedia Connection, a student organization at Ohio State, Maria Rimmel and I shared our experience with running Wikipedia Connection, and then generalized the experience to running Wikipedia student organizations at large. The ultimate goal of the presentation was to share the experiences of a rather unique organization, and provide some of the foundations of what running such an organization entails (especially when compared with other Wikimedia affiliates). More details are available on the event page.

Wikipedia in Your Next Project (November 17, 2016) ([link](#))

Presenting for Open Source Club while representing Wikipedia Connection and OHI/O, I presented on numerous ways to incorporate Wikipedia and its sister projects into student development projects. MediaWiki, its API, machine learning and botting, Wikidata, and more were all discussed. Wikimedia's Tool Labs, ClueBot NG, and other open source tools were also presented. More details are available on the event page.

Introduction to MediaWiki (February 12, 2015) ([link](#))

Presenting for Open Source Club, I presented an introduction to MediaWiki, the open-source software used to power thousands of wikis (including Wikipedia). Its development history, as well as a live demo of setting up an instantiation, were discussed. More details are available on the event page.