

ZACHARY CANTU

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SUMMARY

U.S. Space Force veteran and interaction designer focused on creating immersive digital experiences that feel intuitive and memorable. I enjoy building projects that merge technical development with storytelling to create more engaging ways for people to interact with technology.

EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine

Master of Human-Computer Interaction & Design

Sept 2027

- Admitted for Fall 2026

University of Houston

Bachelor of Science, Digital Media | Minor in Tech Leadership & Innovation Management

Aug 2026

- Recognition: RedFest – 1st place AR Application, 3rd place VR Environment, Dean's List 23' – 26'

PROJECTS

AR Blueprint Builder – AR Development

Developer

- Developed a mixed reality architectural experience using Unity and Meta Quest hand tracking.
- Built a fully interactive 3D environment containing **58** modular assets optimized for real-time performance.

A Look Into Houston's Lowrider Scene – Immersive Storytelling

Tech Lead

- Collaborated with Latino cARTographies on a storytelling project documenting Houston's lowrider culture.
- Produced immersive media for exhibitions across **7** locations and additional international presentations.
- Managed **50+** project assets including 360° video, separate audio recordings, renders, and Unity media files.

VROAM – App Design

Project Lead

- Led a 5-person design team to create a virtual travel app prototype using Figma/Miro.
- Designed **25+** interface screens and user flows focused on accessibility and intuitive navigation.

EXPERIENCE

Latino cARTographies

Houston, TX

Immersive Media Intern

Jan 2026 – May 2026

- Supported development of the organization's emerging immersive media initiatives.
- Collaborated with teams to refine the approach to storytelling through VR and 360° media.
- Assisted in the production of immersive exhibition assets across interactive and spatial media workflows.

United States Space Force

Denver, CO

Satellite Systems Operator

Jan 2019 – Jan 2023

- Led mission-critical monitoring and control of a constellation of space-based infrared radar satellites.
- Partnered with engineering teams to troubleshoot user interface and telemetry issues.