allison kos

I am a design leader and creative problem solver with over a decade of experience who brings a passion for purpose-driven work and a strategic mindset to everything I do.

A graphic designer by trade, I spent 7 years in communications and marketing strategy roles before returning to creative direction, which allows me to bring a unique perspective to my work, equally balancing the visual and strategic elements of any project. I specialize in communicating complex narratives in clear and innovative ways by leveraging data-driven insights and building strong relationships with the stakeholders I support.

I spent 9 years at Liberty Mutual Insurance, holding positions in internal communications, marketing and design, supporting the rapid business growth of the Strategic Partnerships organization, and improving employee communication and satisfaction through internal campaigns and creative. At Optum, I led a team of marketers and creatives who directly supported the organization's aggressive growth targets through the development of B2B collateral and sales decks that led to partnerships with some of the country's largest retail banners and health plans.

I am a natural leader who takes pride in the success of the teams I manage and am equally as comfortable in a management position as I am working alongside my team as a hands-on designer. I excel at implementing structure and fostering transparency, having created standardization, reporting metrics, and improved workflows at different organizations throughout my career, including having served as a steering committee member for UnitedHealth Group's Creative Community of Practice to break down silos and connect creatives from across the company.

Guiding principles:



I have a passion for work that drives measurable business impacts.

Having spent 5 years as a marketing strategist, I excel at stakeholder collaboration and not only creating visually stunning solutions, but ones that best support the business objectives behind them. Throughout my career, I have consistently built strong relationships with the stakeholders I support and developed a reputation as a trusted partner within organizations.



I lead with openness and a team-first mindset.

As a leader, I believe in putting my team first and building trusted relationships with my direct reports. I pride myself in being a strong communicator and open book, who helps my team members become better contributors while working towards their long-term development goals.



I care about the process as much as the end product.

Having worked in fast-paced environments and on small, nimble teams throughout my career, I continuously strive to find process improvements and more efficient ways of working that also produce better quality outcomes. I've created design trainings, built self-serve resource hubs, and implemented tracking systems to improve reporting and measure creative efficacy.

Volunteer involvement:

- Steering committee member; UnitedHealth Group Creative Community of Practice
- Optum Consumer National Employee Engagement
 Committee member
- Able@Liberty employee resource group design and communications volunteer
- Literations summer reading kit assembly volunteer

Professional experience:

Optum

AUGUST 2022 - OCTOBER 2023

Solutran (Optum)

Creative & Communications Director

As the creative leader at a rapidly growing FinTech company within Optum Financial, I oversaw the design and messaging for B2B marketing materials and strategic presentations, working closely with c-suite leadership, internal marketing partners, and external agencies. I led a team of marketers and creatives who directly supported the revenue organization's growth targets, crafting presentations and executive readouts, managing event appearances, and leading large-scale brand initiatives that led to partnerships with leading health plans and retail banners.

DECEMBER 2013 - AUGUST 2022

Liberty Mutual Insurance

Marketing Manager / Senior Presentation Designer / Senior Internal Communications Designer

I first joined Liberty Mutual as an executive presentation designer and internal communications specialist for the Commercial Claims business unit. I helped translate complex and often sensitive stories about business results and employee engagement into digestible, compelling and on-brand presentations for internal and external audiences.

In 2015, I joined the Strategic Partnerships group as a presentation designer, working with the SVP to support employee communications and sales initiatives. Following a promotion in 2017, my role expanded to include marketing support of B2B sales and client stewardship. I developed standardized sales presentations for our account team, and managed an integrated, multi-channel marketing strategy to support lead generation and program growth. I was promoted in my role once more and grew the scope of my responsibilities, including presentation design trainings, large-scale vendor management, and support of other marketing initiatives including brand strategy, consumer insights studies, and more.

JUNE 2014 - JULY 2022

Hockey by Design

Editor in Chief / Assistant Editor / Site Contributor & Designer

I joined Hockey by Design as a site contributor, writing about aesthetics and design within the NHL, college and international hockey. Supporting the expansion of the site's retail arm, I created art for 100+ original products including apparel, posters, stickers and drinkware, accounting for 85% of the top 20 revenue-producing products.

In 2019, I was promoted to assistant editor, overseeing editorial content and the site's social channels. Within my first week of managing the HbyD Instagram channel, engagement increased by 923%, and followship grew 2x within three months time. In late 2021, I was promoted to Editor in Chief, managing all editorial content, promotions and communications for the blog and Market. The market subsequently experienced a year-over-year increase in return customers of 30%, and a 56% increase in sales attributed to marketing efforts.

APRIL 2013 - DECEMBER 2013

Blood, Sweat & Cheers (Greatist)

Graphic Designer

My primary responsibility at BSC was designing banner ads for the blog and emails, helping attract new subscribers and promote sponsored giveaways. I also helped publish editorial content and email campaigns through BSC's content management system and conducted photo research to support the editorial team.

DECEMBER 2011 - DECEMBER 2012

Her Campus Media

Graphic Designer

Working directly under the Creative Director and co-founder, I created packages of web assets for sponsored brand takeovers and specialty themed site displays. My responsibilities also included collaboration with multiple university branches to develop original design elements relevant to their respective schools yet staying cohesive with the Her Campus master brand.

Education:



Northeastern University Boston, Massachusetts BFA, Graphic Design / Cum Laude