

Sowmya Chandrasekaran

Design Researcher | Human Centered Designer

Portfolio: www.sowmya.studio | Email: sowmyachandrasekaran14@gmail.com



Portfolio of Practice

Clickable Links



WORK EXPERIENCE

Program Manager

Lead by Design, Chennai

Aug 2025 - Mar 2026

- Designed and developed classroom toolkits for the Creative Learning Lab, including worksheets, activity sheets, and visuals, informed by fieldwork, classroom use, and iterative feedback.
- Collaborated with fellows to align materials with session plans, supporting coordination and contributing to communication design content.

Junior Curator

Param Science Experience Center,
Bengaluru

Dec 2025 - Apr 2025

- Designed content experience for exhibits & galleries.
- Conceptualised visuals, prototyped, and built an exhibit.

User Research Freelance

Unnamalai Silks

Jun 2024 - Oct 2024

- Conducted user research and competitive analysis to inform business strategy.
- Contributed to planning the transition from B2B to B2C operations.

Design Researcher

ODDE Research Center, SMI Lab

Nov 2022 - Apr 2023

- Conducted field and ethnographic research on sustainability, ecology, and human-centered design with regional communities.
- Used contextual inquiry and visual mapping to uncover insights through practice-based methods.

Developer (Programmer Trainee)

Cognizant Technology Solutions, Chennai

May 2018 - Feb 2020

- Worked on system-level communication templates, ensuring consistency and usability across both digital and postal channels.

EDUCATION

Master of Design (Human Centered Design)

Srishti Manipal Art and Design, Bengaluru • 8.94

2024

Master of Science, Computer Science

Bharathiar University SDE, Cbe

2022

Bachelor of Science, Computer Science

Ethiraj College for Women, Chennai

2018

12th CBSE, All India Sr. School Certificate

DAV BHEL School, PCM-CS Major, Ranipet • 91%

2015

CONFERENCES

- INDIA HCI 2023** (UPES, Dehradun, India) • Presented **design research** project "Interactive Storytelling for Children."
- NAOP 2023** (National Academy of Psychology, Ahmedabad, India) • Presented the "Close-Knit toolkit" **design project** • Moderated the Symposium "Juxtaposition between Psychology and Technology in Health Communication."

CERTIFICATE

- Learning Design for Sustainability** • Professional Certifications and Continuing Education Units • Changing behavior through design, behavior models, sustainability, social innovation
- Introduction to User Experience Principles and Processes** • University of Michigan • UX research & design methods, Heuristic evaluation, and micro-usability tests
- Modern Art & Ideas - The Museum of Modern Art** • Art History, Art, History, Creativity, Art Direction

WORKSHOP

- Moonscoon School - Dr.TMA Pai Chair in Adaptive Ecologies & Climate Extremes, Manipal School of Architecture & Planning-MAHE**

Jun 2024

Conducted field research and designed installations to communicate complex ecosystems

- Engaging in and with Aqueous Ecologies - **Srishti Manipal Institute, India; Department of Landscape Architecture, Cornell University, USA; School of Architecture & Cities, University of Westminster, UK**

Mar 2023

Presented visual mappings and narratives of design research project

SKILLS & TOOLS

- Research**- Contextual, Qualitative, Practice-based, Participatory, User Research, Ethnography, Behavioral, Quantitative
- Design** - Adobe InDesign/ Photoshop/ Illustrator/XD, Figma, Canva, Miro
- Interaction** - Figma, XD
- Code/Web** - C++, C, JavaScript, Cobol