

# Marisa Kawakami

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## EXPERIENCE

### TURTLE BEACH | UX/UI DESIGNER

June 2025 – Present

- Designed an entirely new Xbox app for Turtle Beach from end to end while working closely with the product team and software engineers to implement new features as they were developed.
- Conducted user research through surveys and interviews to validate design decisions, and collaborated with engineers to ensure feasibility. Created UI concepts and mockups for new projects while contributing innovative ideas across cross-functional teams.

### PRODUCT SPACE | PRODUCT DESIGN FELLOWSHIP

November 2024 – June 2025

- Selected as 1 of 7 fellows from 150+ applicants for a competitive mentorship program, gaining professional development through guidance from experienced designers.
- Refined skills in product design, user interaction, and strategy by developing user-centered solutions through iterative prototyping, cross-disciplinary collaboration, and hands-on project work.

### KIZUNA

Nonprofit - Little Tokyo, CA

Nikkei Community Internship (NCI): June 2024 - September 2024

- Developed and implemented marketing strategies that increased NCI visibility and community engagement while creating polished, compelling visuals with Photoshop and Lightroom to strengthen audience connections.

Chibi-K Event Coordinator: September 2024 - Present

- Spearheaded the revival of the Chibi-K Run in collaboration with Kizuna and JACCC, bringing back the beloved Little Tokyo tradition for the first time in 15 years in 2026 after two years of planning, coordination, and community outreach.

### UC SAN DIEGO | INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT

DESIGN OF EVERYDAY THINGS

September 2024 – December 2024

- Coordinated course operations for 200+ students by tracking deadlines and milestones, collaborating with faculty and IAs, and providing detailed feedback on quizzes, projects, and journals to support learning and improve comprehension.

## PROJECTS

### SIMMER | PANTRY TRACKER & RECIPE GENERATOR

Product Space Capstone - 2025

- Developed and implemented a platform enabling users to track ingredients, generate recipes, and reduce food waste.
- Built an end-to-end product including UX/UI and functionality.

### ESSENTIALLY YOURS | REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KIOSK

UC San Diego - 2024

- Designed an interactive kiosk concept that integrated innovative physical and digital elements to provide private, affordable, and discreet access to essential reproductive and sexual health products, addressing barriers to care and enhancing student well-being.

## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO | LA JOLLA, CA

REGENT SCHOLAR RECIPIENT

June 2026

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science with a Specialization in Design & Interaction – minors in Computer Science and Dance

## SKILLS

### DESIGN

Wireframing  
User Experience  
User Interface  
Product Design  
Interaction Design  
Low - High Fidelity Mockups

### RESEARCH

User Interviews  
Usability Testing  
Information Architecture  
User Personas  
Competitive Analysis  
A/B Testing  
Mind Mapping  
Storyboarding

### TOOLS / TECHNOLOGY

Figma • Canva • Adobe Lightroom  
Github Version Control • Matlab  
VS code • Python • Java • C

## COURSEWORK

### UNDERGRADUATE

Design of Everyday Things

(Instructional Assistant)

Data-Driven UX/Product Design  
Prototyping

Usability and Information Architecture

Practicum in Professional Web Design

Advanced Data Structures

Data Science in Practice

## SOCIETIES

Nikkei Student Union

-Executive Board: Communications Chair

-Intern Coordinator

Product Space

Scholars Society