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Lauren Elizabeth Kwiat

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With my fashion expertise, attention to detail, and extensive retail management experience, I am a qualified candidate for any position in a creative, design focused, team orientated, work environment. I am looking for a challenging position in which I can significantly contribute to the success of my company while growing professionally within a fashion and design related business.

Professional Experience

Operations Manager: Old Navy, Division of GAP Inc., Skokie, Illinois (2007-present)

- Executed visual merchandising elements, mannequin styling, visual displays, setting merchandise and making appropriate flexing decisions to continually drive business.
- Responsible for consistently implementing corporate visual standards and communicating store specific merchandising decisions to team and General Manager.
- Improved weekly and monthly marketing and its placement with the product, as well as fixture blocking, color stories, and outfit stories that appeal to our target customer.
- Planned, executed, and supervised new collection rollouts; each new department flow requires meticulous planning and a tremendous sense of urgency to meet deadlines.
- Managed 50+ employees; including interviewing, hiring, training, coaching, and developing direct reports,
- Led weekly marketing, signage and markdown teams to ensure accurate product pricing and customer satisfaction.

Production Artist: DDB Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (2005-2007)

DDB is a worldwide advertising agency.

- Provided assistance to art directors and producers with digital production, digital photography, photo retouching, and digital output.
- Designed and created presentations for new business pitches.

- Coordinated materials for client presentations.

Assistant Manager: Transworld Entertainment (FYE), Chicago, Illinois (1999–2005)

FYE is a music, film, and game retail business with store locations nationwide.

- Effectively developed a small, but critical, core of top-quality employees using managerial savvy and constructive coaching to inspire both loyalty and a commitment to excellence.
- Successfully utilized human resource strategies for selecting, hiring, and training employees for optimal performance.
- Executed management responsibilities: Overseeing cash handling, opening/closing the store, payroll, and inventory.
- Exceeded monthly sales goals consistently through teamwork, individualized coaching, and exceptional customer service.

Education

BA, Professional Commercial Photography, Columbia College, Chicago, IL, 2005

MFA, Fashion Journalism, Academy of Art University Online, San Francisco, CA., 2011

Skills

- Proficient in Photoshop, Microsoft Word and Excel
- 75 wpm typing ability
- Comfortable with store fixtures, handling tools, and lifting 25+ lbs.
- Conversational Spanish

References

Janet Webber, previous Associate Creative Director, DDB Chicago, IL, 847-778-5015

Shannon Dahlem, previous General Manager Old Navy, Skokie, IL, 847-370-3565

Joshua Speyer, Operations Manager, Old Navy, Morton Grove, IL, 847-967-0584