

Brendan Shen

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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Computing Science & Business Administration Joint Major

Simon Fraser University

Expected – December 2027

Burnaby, BC

- Relevant Coursework: Data Structures & Algorithms, Database Systems, Networking, Web Development, Software Engineering

EXPERIENCE

Full-Stack Web Developer Co-op

Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

May 2025 – Dec. 2025

North Vancouver, BC

- Built **20+ reusable Contentful-linked frontend components** for [icbc.com](#) using **Next.js** and **Tailwind CSS**, each mapped to a corresponding CMS content model for use by the editorial team, supporting **3M+ licensed drivers**.
- Spearheaded development of the **2025 Year In Review** microsite as co-op **technical lead**, implementing click-driven **Tailwind** animations while consulting with design and content teams and reporting to stakeholders on architecture decisions.
- Extended and created **10+ Contentful CMS content models** end-to-end, spanning the Contentful web client, **GraphQL** schema updates, and connected frontend components, streamlining editorial publishing workflows.
- Resolved frontend bugs on the **MyICBC** portal, addressing responsiveness issues across breakpoints to ensure consistent layout and behaviour for all customers.
- Improved portal accessibility by closing gaps in screen reader support and keyboard navigation, enhancing usability for customers using assistive technology.

Development Team Lead

SFU Surge

Feb. 2025 – Present

Burnaby, BC

- Led development of **5+ public-facing event websites** ([SFU Surge](#), [StormHacks](#), [JourneyHacks](#), [SillyHacks](#), [SparkJam](#)) as team lead, translating **Figma** designs into production interfaces using **Next.js**, **Tailwind CSS**, **Contentful**, **Netlify**, and **Vercel**.
- Built the SFU Surge **Hacker Portal** from scratch using **Next.js**, **Tailwind CSS**, **Neon** (PostgreSQL), **Vercel**, **Vercel Blobs**, and **Stripe**, centralizing hackathon applications, check-in, and project submissions into a single platform.
- Replaced a manual **Google Forms** vetting process by routing all applications through the portal into a **PostgreSQL** database, supporting **1,300+ applications** and a **144% increase** in applicants for StormHacks 2025.
- Built a dedicated admin view for organizers to review and vet submissions, streamlining the applicant review workflow end-to-end.
- Built a **QR code check-in system** tied to each participant's user ID, used across event entry, workshops, and meals, achieving **92% participant retention**.
- Developed a **Vercel Blobs**-backed project submission flow supporting **219 successful submissions** alongside an organizer-facing judging workflow.

PROJECTS

Spending with Spendy 

React Native, Expo, TypeScript, NativeWind, NFC

Award-winning financial literacy mobile app built at HackUTD 2025

- Authored the majority of the codebase as technical lead, building a **React Native iOS app** where children tap a physical **NFC card** to add or subtract a balance, visualized as animated coins that drop down the screen to represent spending in a child-friendly way.
- Built core features including a **parent PIN-protected dashboard** for reloading the NFC card balance and a **gift card redemption screen** for children to spend earned funds.
- Won **Capital One's Best Financial Hack** and **HackUTD Best Design Award** out of 367 projects and 1,154 hackers.

LEKeys 

Express.js, Node.js, Next.js, Tailwind CSS

Interactive LED-assisted piano learning platform built at nwHacks 2025

- Solo-developed a **finalist project at nwHacks 2025** where users select a song from a **Next.js** web interface and an **Arduino UNO** lights up the correct piano keys in sequence via addressable LEDs, guiding learners in real time.
- Intercepted **MIDI commands** using **Node.js** and **Express.js** to translate note data into LED signals, connecting the web UI to physical hardware across the full development lifecycle.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, C, C++, Java, HTML/CSS

Frameworks: React.js, React Native, Expo, Next.js, Express.js, Tailwind CSS

Tools & Infrastructure: GitHub, Docker, Oracle Cloud, Twilio, Neon, Vercel, Netlify, Contentful CMS, Drizzle ORM

Development Practices: Agile Development, REST APIs, GraphQL, Responsive Design, CMS Architecture