Robert Appling

PROFILE

Strategic and results-driven Marketing Manager with a proven record of building brand consistency, engaging diverse audiences, and driving measurable growth. Skilled in developing and executing high-impact marketing campaigns, events, tradeshows, and immersive customer experiences. Adept at managing projects from concept to completion, on time, on budget, and fully aligned with brand standards, blending creativity with analytical thinking to deliver meaningful results. Outside work, I stay energized by tracking industry trends and recharging outdoors with my loyal trail companion, Lou.

WORK EXPERIENCE

2023 - Present

Fresh Hospitality
Marketing Manager

Huntsville, AL

Develop and execute comprehensive marketing strategies to drive restaurant traffic, boost catering sales, and increase brand awareness. Manage and expand B2B and B2C catering sales, cultivating key partnerships with corporate clients, event planners, and local organizations. Coordinate and represent the brand at regional trade shows, food festivals, and networking events, increasing lead generation and business exposure. Oversee all social media platforms, creating engaging content, running targeted ad campaigns, and analyzing performance metrics to optimize digital presence. Lead community outreach initiatives, including charity events, sponsorships, and collaborations with local schools and nonprofits to enhance brand goodwill and local visibility. Collaborate cross-functionally with store staff, event coordinators, and corporate executives to ensure alignment between marketing efforts and operational capacity, track ROI on marketing efforts using analytics tools, and provide monthly performance reports and strategic insights to corporate.

2019 - 2023

Twitchell

Marketing Coordinator

Dothan, AL

Planned, coordinated, and executed domestic and international tradeshows, exhibitions, and industry events, from pre-show planning to post-event follow-up. Managed all aspects of booth design, logistics, shipping, setup, teardown, and promotional materials. Collaborated with sales and product teams to develop event-specific marketing strategies and messaging. Coordinated the development of print and digital marketing materials tailored to the performance. Maintained and updated trade show calendars, marketing schedules, and event checklists. Assisted with brand activations and product launches at events and showrooms. Supported lead capture and followup processes to ensure ROI on events and tradeshows. Tracked event performance metrics and compiled postevent reports. Maintained marketing inventory and promotional material stock. Assisted in social media planning and digital campaigns related to events. Liaised with external vendors, printers, and agencies for marketing collateral and trade show services.

SKILLS

Core Marketing & Strategic Skills

Strategic Marketing Planning
Brand Development & Positioning
Market Research
Consumer Insights
Campaign Development & Execution
Data-Driven Decision Making
Multi-Channel Marketing Strategy
Go-to-Market Strategy
Budget Management & ROI
Optimization

Creative & Content Development

Creative Direction
Content Strategy & Storytelling
Copywriting & Editing
Visual Branding
Video Production & Scriptwriting
Social Media Content Creation
Email Marketing Campaigns
Marketing Collateral Development

Tools & Technical Skills

Adobe Creative Suite Canva Google Analytics & Google Ads CRM Platforms Marketing Automation Tools CMS Platforms SEO & SEM Strategies Project Management Tools Typography Branding & Logo Design Layout & Composition Print Design Digital Design Color Theory Photo Editing & Retouching **Motion Graphics** Packaging Design Prepress & Printing Processes

Soft Skills & Leadership

Creative Problem Solving
Cross-Functional Team Leadership
Stakeholder Communication
Agile & Adaptive Thinking
Time Management & Prioritization
Collaboration & Team Development
Presentation & Public Speaking

WORK EXPERIENCE

2016-2019

Phifer

Graphic Designer

Tuscaloosa, AL

2010-2016

Aha! Creative

Graphic Designer

Florence, AL

Designed and produced compelling visual assets, including brochures, catalogs, packaging, product sheets, trade show displays, infographics, and digital ads. Collaborated with cross-functional teams, including Marketing, Sales, and Engineering, to understand and translate technical content into visually engaging materials. Developed and maintained brand guidelines to ensure a consistent look and feel across all marketing channels. Created visual content for websites, email campaigns, and social media platforms. Supported the creation of product renderings, mockups, and technical illustrations. Assisted in photography and video production/editing when needed. Stayed current with industry trends, tools, and design techniques.

Developed creative concepts and executed designs for a wide range of client campaigns, including print ads, digital banners, social media graphics, packaging, and brand identity. Collaborated with art directors, copywriters, and account managers to translate client objectives into compelling visual content. Designed multi-platform advertising materials for industries including retail, hospitality, tech, and healthcare. Managed multiple projects simultaneously while meeting tight deadlines and maintaining brand consistency across all deliverables.

Participated in client presentations and creative pitches, contributing ideas and mockups that helped win new business. Worked closely with production teams to prepare print-ready and web-optimized files. Maintained knowledge of current design trends and applied them strategically to enhance campaign impact.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Marketing with Graphic Design Minor

University of Alabama Tuscaloosa, AL

Studied: Bachelor of Architecture

Auburn University Auburn, AL

REFERENCES

Gena Webb, VP of R+D Twitchell 334.796.3907

Nancy Egge, VP of Design Twitchell 334.596.7537

Melanie Walker, Marketing Director Phifer 205.345.2120

Monica Thornton, Design Director Phifer 334.596.1155

Lori Moore, Managing Partner TotalCom Marketing 205.345.7363

Patrick Hood, Photographer 256.762.1873

Ray Methivin, Agency Owner Aha! Creative 256.710.8303

Lynn Aldridge, Web Developer 251.824.0851

Paul Cleary, CEO Momentum Textiles 470.298.0501

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Erica Bradford
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Huntsville/Madison CVB



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