JULIAN MERCER

DATA VISUALIZATION SPECIALIST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Data Visualization Specialist with 6+ years designing Tableau and web dashboards that make complex metrics understandable. Combines chart design, accessibility, and data modeling to help executives and operators find the answer quickly and act on it.

CORE SKILLS

Tableau | Dashboard design | D3.js | Data storytelling | Information design | Accessibility | SQL | Power BI | Data modeling | Color theory | Interaction design | Performance tuning | User research | Governance

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Data Visualization Specialist Feb 2022 - Present
Spotify, New York, NY

- Redesigned the executive growth dashboard suite in Tableau, cutting average time to find a key metric from 4 minutes to under 1.
- Established a chart and color standard with accessibility checks, raising dashboard usability scores from 68 to 86.
- Built certified data sources with documented definitions, removing seven conflicting versions of subscriber metrics.
- Prototyped interactive D3 views for editorial teams, adopted in monthly planning by 45 stakeholders who had previously relied on static slide exports.
- Tuned extracts and calculations across the busiest dashboards, reducing median load time from 14 to 5 seconds and cutting complaints about slow reports.
- Ran quarterly usability sessions with 12 dashboard owners, retiring five low-use views and simplifying navigation for the remaining suite.
- Mentored two junior designers on chart selection and annotation, with both leading dashboards of their own within a year.

Data Visualization Developer Jul 2020 - Jan 2022
The New York Times, New York, NY

- Produced 30+ interactive charts and maps for newsroom stories using D3 and Observable, with clear annotation and sourcing.
- Created reusable chart templates that reduced production time for routine graphics from two days to half a day.
- Worked with reporters to select appropriate encodings, replacing misleading dual-axis designs on four featured stories.
- Tested mobile layouts and screen-reader labels on real phones and assistive tools so graphics remained usable on small viewports and for readers using screen readers.
- Pitched and prototyped a reader-facing dashboard of local public-health data, then handed it to the metro desk, which kept it updated through the year.
- Collaborated with graphics editors on a style guide for annotations and sourcing, applied across the desk's interactive features.
- Built a live election results map that updated every few minutes and held steady under heavy traffic on election night.

EDUCATION

B.A. in Information Design, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

CERTIFICATIONS

Tableau Desktop Certified Professional | Microsoft Certified: Power BI Data Analyst