Snapshot

Overview

We create Web sites that take our clients to the top of their class. We build visually stunning interfaces optimized for Web technology. Over the past ten years, this approach has led to numerous awards and recognition. However, we continue to measure success by the results of our work. We’re focused on achieving ROI for our clients – ensuring that an investment in a Web solution builds loyalty and sales.

Our experience spans industries which keeps our perspective fresh and well rounded. Throughout the past ten years, we’ve worked for clients in the fields of transportation (BART, WMATA), arts (San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Ballet, KQED), finance (AXA Rosenberg, Credit Suisse), education (Library of Congress, McGraw-Hill), wine (Beaulieu Vineyards, Beringer Vineyards, Jordan Vineyard & Winery, Pine Ridge, Robert Mondavi Wineries, Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars), and many more.

Despite our large client list and wide range of capabilities, we are a small firm able to provide high-level principal involvement and exceptional client service. The same hands that created the sites in our portfolio will craft your Web solution. We limit the amount of work we take at any time, so we must carefully consider each project opportunity. We aspire to work only on the projects that generate the most interest among our team.

Approach

The approach is highly collaborative. We’re not afraid to express strong opinions based on our professional experience, but we also know how to listen to our clients – and to the ultimate arbiters of success, the users. ’s design prowess, technical know-how and research skills, combined with our clients’ industry expertise, create a fresh perspective and fuels innovation.

Results

We deliver impeccable projects and tangible results – on time and on budget: Our site for Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) was named Best Public Transportation site in the country. We established Robert Mondavi as the online leader in the wine industry. America’s Library – our site for the Library of Congress – has received over 300 million visits in just over 2 years. We quadrupled online sales for the San Francisco Symphony, a five-year old site that is still considered the gold standard. It’s no wonder our clients are so loyal; they enjoy the process and they appreciate the results.

"415 took our vision of creating a world-class music learning resource for children, families, and schools and helped make it a reality."

Ron Galman, director of education for the San Francisco Symphony
Capabilities

Results are the culmination of everything we do. Here, a project is not considered successful unless it achieves the goals outlined by the strategy. Winning awards is great, but without solving your problems, awards are meaningless. Throughout every project, we revisit the goals established at the outset to ensure that the end product will be successful. Whatever those goals may be – increasing online sales, generating massive traffic, automating business processes (or something else entirely), we evaluate our work according to the targets that help define our initial strategy. You see tangible, focused ROI; we see happy clients.

"415 was integral in helping us with our online brand strategy and messaging and their experience in the digital environment was pivotal in communicating all of our objectives online."

Sheila Franks, Manager, Web Communications, Robert Mondavi Wineries

**Strategy**

We understand the Internet; we know how to use the medium to improve your business. We listen to your needs and combine your industry knowledge with research, analysis, and our expertise in marketing, business processes, content management, and technology platforms. We develop an integrated project strategy that aligns with your organizational objectives and defines specific goals – such as traffic and sales, search engine optimization, increased efficiencies, industry recognition, and user enthusiasm. These goals inform project development and determine success. Working together, we create an end result that exceeds your expectations.

**User Interface Design (UI)**

UI includes the navigational and informational structure of a site – it defines how users will interact with your organization online. It’s an often subtle, but important aspect of our work – and one that sets the Internet apart as a communications medium; unlike traditional media, your customers are able to guide their own experience. Using extensive quantitative and qualitative research and testing, combined with well-honed instinct, we make the user an integral part of the design and development process. By the time we launch a site, we aren’t wondering if the audience will embrace it; we already know they will.

**Visual Design**

Visual design encompasses the look and feel of a project; it breathes life into the UI and is the most apparent manifestation of your brand. Our designers bring a wealth of diversified expertise to their work. They understand how to capture complex brands and translate them onto the Internet, and how to map the visual design back to the project strategy and the specific elements of the UI. Our tailored approach results in an incredibly diverse portfolio; Our designers understand how to listen, transcend personal preferences, and create exactly what you need and what will inspire your audiences.
**Technology**

We think of technology as a vehicle to deliver the experience to the user. We’ve built, integrated and customized interactive technologies – from commerce, content, and community to database, workflow, and information-gathering. This extensive in-house experience and our vast array of partnerships with industry leaders allow us to select and implement the most appropriate technology for each project. We then tailor the technology to facilitate the user interface, visual design, and user experience so that technology will never come between you and your customer.

**Process**

While we understand that every project – and every client – is different, we use a simple, flexible, easily modified process that has proven successful for even the most complicated tasks:

**Analysis:** Investing in a proper analysis allows a comprehensive strategy, an efficient project flow and a superior product – be it a simple marketing site or a complex solution. During this phase, we dive into your industry, brand, customers and competitors. We validate objectives, requirements and specifications and challenge conventions and preconceptions. We synthesize this information into a goal-driven roadmap that ensures success at the end of the project.

**Iterative Design & Implementation:** We then focus on translating strategy and goals into design – the seamless combination of interface, visual and technical design that serves the user and the client. 415 creates sites that feature an intuitive interface designed to deliver a superior user experience; striking visuals that communicate your message and express your brand; and a technical infrastructure that provides flawless support for site functionality and a solid and extensible foundation for the future.

We implement the “Agile” methodology which entails frequent deliverables and an iterative approach. We develop a priorities list and work our way through the list as an integrated team. Projects are dynamic; our process treats the project as a living and breathing entity which evolves as we learn more about it rather than locking it in early, when we know least about it.

**Refine:** Web projects often continue to evolve over time, to reflect changes in organizational goals, new products or services, or simply to accommodate a phased roll-out plan. Traditionally, we work with clients after launch, revisiting goals to ensure that our projects continue to achieve established objectives and ongoing success.

**Costs**

Each project has its own unique requirements. We prepare bids on a per-project basis after a series of initial questions. This project will require some light initial analysis followed by a three round design phase (more rounds can be added if needed). Projects are billed on an hourly basis. Hours are reported daily on a password protected “worksite” so that the client knows exactly how much has been spent at all times. We estimate that this project may require in the neighborhood of $ for the initial look and feel and approximately $ for each additional sub-version. This estimate is rough and initial. More detailed analysis can be done, on request.
This brand new site (currently in Beta testing phase) connects the California dance community. Using a wide array of 3rd party APIs and open source software (Google Calendar, Google Maps, Yahoo Pipes, Drupal, Google Adwords Grant Program, Salesforce, YouTube), it delivers an amazing amount of functionality on a non-profit budget. Community members can use the site to improve their listings on search engines, become findable to other members of the community, to build a web presence, and to learn about dance related happenings around the state.
As the nation’s largest and oldest federal cultural institution, the LOC wanted to make their extensive resources available to a young audience in time for their bicentennial celebration. With considerable fanfare, we launched the site which now supports more than 10 million users per year.

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<th>Standard of Excellence WebAward</th>
<th>America’s Library is “a fun way to meet Amazing Americans, explore the states and jump back in time” – USA Today</th>
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<td>Forbes Best of the Web</td>
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<td>New Media Invision Award</td>
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<td>Mercomm Mercury Award</td>
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McGraw Hill

Not public

We worked with McGraw hill on an extensive project to provide teachers, parents, and students with innovative educational tools and deep hooks into McGraw Hill’s wide ranging collection of educational resources. We constructed portals and tools for each user type. For example, for the teacher we created a portal that showed current classes, lesson plan, student charts, and teacher news. For the parent, we provided their child’s class list, homework due, upcoming projects, and access to classroom materials. For the student, we offered a view into his or her day, assignments, schedule, and access to interactive educational materials. The project explored the limits of using Web technology to advance teaching methods, materials, and scholastic community.
SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

www.sfsymphony.org and www.sfkids.com

The Symphony came to us to update their outdated Web site and to create an entirely new site for kids. Objectives included educating the public, conveying a sense of excitement and vitality, increasing subscriptions, ticket sales, donations and attendance. From all angles, both sites have been a remarkable success. Users – both new and existing patrons – are truly interacting with the Symphony online they are learning, subscribing, listening, and volunteering via the site... and ticket sales have increased by 160% to 400% (depending on month)! Kids and teachers across the U.S. have been using the kids’ site and sending rave reviews. The kid’s site includes all kinds of interactive Flash features – such as the “Composerizer” which teaches kids about music in an entertaining way!
POST came to us looking for Web site redesign, but didn’t have a clear set of objectives in mind; they knew simply that they needed a new Web site. We helped this nonprofit organization marshal their assets, resources, and develop a Web strategy – to help determine the most effective use of the Web to further their organizational mission. Our striking design captured the essence of ‘Open Spaces,’ while connecting with their multiple audience profiles.
Heller Ehrman’s previous website was black, dark, and imposing... it was the Darth Vader of Web sites. In reality, Heller Ehrman is vibrant, full of character, progressive, and approachable. The firm wanted to let the world know about its true charms: to give visitors a sense for what it might be like to work at the firm or with one of the firm’s attorneys. Our solution brought the firm to life and full color, providing visitors with a compelling and satisfying experience. The site was implemented in English and Chinese (Traditional and Simplified) on a mid-tier content management solution (Omniture Publish).
BART selected us to redesign and develop BART.gov to improve ease of use for all BART riders. The site went live and resulted in an immediate 65% drop in customer service calls.

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<th>International Web Page Awards - Creative Excellence Award</th>
<th>American Public Transportation Association Best Public Transit Web Site in the Nation</th>
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<td>Web Awards Web Site Competition Standard of Excellence</td>
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BART tests new car floors

Notice anything different on the BART train you ride to work this morning? If the floor beneath your feet seems to have changed overnight, you're right! BART is currently conducting a study to assess customer reactions to BART cars with non-carpet floors.

Download schedules to your Palm

Attracted by the convenience of easily checking BART schedules anytime, anywhere? Thousands of BART riders are downloading the BART QuickScheduler for Palm OS handheld devices.

News and Events

The BART Board has scheduled three workshops for public input on service district boundary adjustments.

You've seen those 'faster, safer' parking spots, now learn more about expanding to BART.

Leaving town on business or pleasure? Take BART to the Oakland or San Francisco International airports.

Revised...
**THE NORTH FACE**

In 1998 The North Face came to us to develop their first ever Web site. After extensive brand analysis and user testing, we developed a design and architecture that expressed The North Face’s powerful brand identity while allowing visitors to access extensive product information. We also implemented a customized database solution that allowed their non-technical staff to manage and update the site at will. We managed The North Face’s Web site and built additional internal and external sites for five years (the current site is managed by another firm – although it uses many of the graphical systems that we developed).

Note that we worked with TNF for 5 years post-launch but no longer maintain the site.
Recent Projects

Please contact our references for our three most recent projects.

**California Dance Network**
Wayne Hazzard, Executive Director
wayne@dancersgroup.org

**Heller Ehrman**
Catharine Mathews, Online Director
Catharine.Mathews@hellerehrman.com

**Kamala Harris for DA**
Jen Drake, President Stearns Consulting / Kamala Harris’ Media Team
jen.drake@stearnsconsulting.com