

# Michael Collins

I'm passionate about building great brands and growing businesses

## QUALITIES



CREATIVE



ANALYTICAL



RESULTS-ORIENTED

## WORK HISTORY

### Creative Manager ThinkGeek

Jan 2018 – Present

- I lead the close-knit, versatile team of creatives responsible for telling the world about ThinkGeek and the cool and unique products we sell.
- Manage team producing copy, video, photography, and graphics for marketing and site merchandising. Manage pool of freelancers to supplement internal resources.
- Cultivator and guardian of the ThinkGeek brand and voice.
- Oversee a fast-paced and highly seasonal product studio, responsible for launching 1,500+ consumer products a year.
- Automated daily data processing tasks, freeing up time and mental space for more effective management and creative leadership.
- Manage relationships with external partners and licensors (NBC Universal, Marvel, Lucasfilm, CBS, Microsoft).
- Form and lead cross-functional teams to execute large-scale projects.
- Oversee budget and track key metrics related to department's work.

### Senior Photographer ThinkGeek

2013 – 2017

### Photographer ThinkGeek

2008 – 2013

- Created e-commerce photos and videos to generate buzz and drive sales for ThinkGeek, an Internet Retailer Top-200 ecommerce site (#175 on IR500).
- Realized a 12-day improvement (41%) in time-to-market from product arriving in warehouse (2011-2014). In 2017, 27% of products were photographed before they arrived in the warehouse.
- Grew the company's Instagram following from 12k to 240k in three years.
- Trained and mentored interns and other photographers. Authored photo style guide.

### Media Producer HomeSat

1997 – 2005

- Edited educational video packages and produced onscreen graphics for a satellite distance-learning network.
- Conducted extensive R&D to transfer more than five thousand hours of video content to DVD. Tracked and analyzed compatibility for the rollout of the retail DVDs.
- Acted as studio technician for live, multi-camera distance learning classes.

## OTHER EXPERIENCE & INTERESTS

- Startup Experience: Portland Studios (cofounder); ThinkGeek (employee #21); Guerrilla Lights (cofounder)
- Training in political journalism and background in photo-journalism; published in *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *WIRED*
- DC Startup Weekend + Lean Startup methodology
- Experience living in Africa, Asia, and Europe

## EDUCATION

**B.S., MARKETING MANAGEMENT** 1st in class of 575

Bob Jones University

**B.A., HISTORY**

Bob Jones University

*Additional Coursework:*

Georgetown University, Charles University (Prague), George Mason University.



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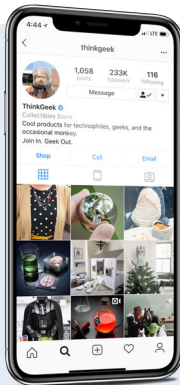


@collinspics

# SELECTED PROJECTS

## UNIFYING A GROWING BRAND

In 2015, ThinkGeek was acquired by GameStop and in a matter of months we began to open physical retail stores. I proposed that we create a brand book to ensure a consistent brand experience online and in stores. We formed a team and created a document that is now used to train employees across the organization.



## BUILDING COMMUNITY ON INSTAGRAM

After several years of seeing ThinkGeek's Instagram account go virtually unused, a coworker and I asked if we could take over the account. In three years we took it from 11,600 followers to 240,000. We increased engagement at an even faster pace, achieving more than 1,000% growth. We were able to take advantage of a fast-growing platform to build community and meaningfully connect with our fans.



## KICKSTARTING A PASSION PROJECT

I was a member of the marketing team that helped a friend launch the MiniMuseum Kickstarter project. The project raised \$1.2 million (goal: \$38k), making it one of the top 50 Kickstarter projects to that point. The project attracted press from dozens of news outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *Gizmodo*, and *Fast Company*. With two subsequent releases, we raised a total of \$3.6 million on Kickstarter.

## DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

While leading the creative team at ThinkGeek, I have built tools to provide real-time insight into my department's work. Dynamic workload dashboards help us to optimize our workflows and give us an accurate picture of projects currently in the pipeline. During my time on the photo team, I took the initiative to send monthly and annual reports to stakeholders highlighting major projects and quantifying the volume and velocity of my team's work.

