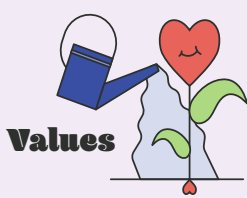


# Spatial team pays tribute to inspirational people

International Women's Day 2022

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April



**Values**

**Julie Zhuo**

**Co-founder of Sundial, author, former VP Design @ Facebook**

My first exposure to Julie Zhuo's work was from a UX newsletter that amalgamated the best of UX writings published in the past two weeks; it highlighted her Twitter post about what it means to be a relatable leader.

I'm currently reading her book, "The Making of a Manager," where she continues to inspire me with her candor, her humility, and her willingness to be vulnerable. Her experiential writings exemplify how I can bring my authentic self into the workplace, using my personal values as a basis to strengthen working relationships and create an environment that encourages others to do the same.

She's the kind of leader I aspire to be. I am incredibly grateful that she continues to share her experience, strength, and hope through her written works.

**Klaudia**



**Hermione Granger**

**Harry Potter character**

Growing up in the early 2000's there was a certain archetype of female characters. They were often portrayed as ditsy, weak, and in many stories, they existed as an object that needed to be saved. These tropes were hard to avoid at the time, but an anomaly to this was Hermione Granger from the Harry Potter series.

Hermione is independent, intelligent, logical, and brave. She is a loyal and kind friend that always has the courage to do the right thing, even when it might not be the easiest.

Because of her character, I was able to grow up thinking it was cool to value my education and intelligence and to take pride in being a good friend. I am fortunate to have had a character in a series that I loved so much that challenged ideas of what a girl could be!

**Elynn**



**Lee Miller (1907 to 1977)**

**Model, muse, artist/photographer, war correspondent and combat photographer**

I was given a book, "The Lives of Lee Miller", by a photographer friend many years ago, at a time when I was between jobs and not sure what I should do with my life.

Lee Miller started her journey as a model in New York, hung out with artists like Picasso in Paris in the 1920s, was a pupil of and muse to artist/photographer Man Ray, and was an amazing, yet uncelebrated, photographer in her own right. During WWII she became a war correspondent and combat photographer, bringing the atrocities of Dachau to light through her work.

Her story is one of a free spirit who followed her passion and lived an unconventional life. I was inspired, not just by her photography, but by how boldly she embraced life.

**Adele**



**Mr. O'Brian**

**English teacher in grades 8 and 12**

Mr. O'Brian was passionate about literature and encouraged the same in his students. He always encouraged us to think independently and seemed genuinely interested in our thoughts and interpretations. His feedback on my essays was always detailed and insightful. The direction I received from him helped me throughout my academic career.

The most memorable thing about Mr. O'Brian was how strong his principles were. He was always talked to us like we were adults and we respected him, not because he had authority over us, but because he respected us back.

He was also the first man I had ever heard declare that he was a feminist, which was eye opening for a high school kid who had a very narrow understanding of what a feminist was. He felt very strongly that women should never dumb themselves down, and it showed in the way that he regarded us.

**Kaiwen**



**My Mom**

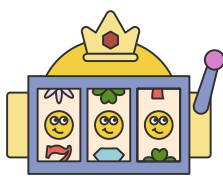
**Human rights lawyer fighting for the rights of minority ethnic groups in rural China**

My mother is a smart, ambitious, and strong woman who graduated from the top law school of our province. Her ambition was not to make as much money as she could, but to help as many people as she could, including going to Tibet to aid local attorneys in protecting Tibetan's language and religious rights.

I have no idea how many times she has been questioned and intimidated by the police and local authorities, but she always jokes about how strong she is as a woman, and she continues to help those in need to this day.

While she wasn't always there while I was growing up, she taught me to be strong and use my expertise to positively influence others, and the work I do today has been hugely influenced by my mother's story, and there are no words that can describe my gratitude towards her as my role model.

**Katja**



**Collaborative**

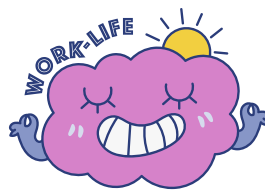
**Joy Johnson**

**President of SFU**

I once had the opportunity to work with Joy Johnston who is now the president at SFU. I was immediately drawn to her as a leadership role model during my short involvement with her on a project. She demonstrated strong, collaborative leadership, gave feedback in a clear, constructive and compassionate way and had a generally good energy.

She seemed to embody a fair, collaborative leader as well as being a woman who has had significant accomplishments throughout her career.

**Anushka**



**Payal Kadakia**

**Founder, unicorn, mother, inspiration**

Payal Kadakia is the co-founder of ClassPass, a flexible fitness-class booking company, that achieved a \$1 billion valuation in 2020. She's my role model because of her ability to champion the iterative design process and grow her company while still finding time for her passions and family.

She is able to maintain a strong work-life balance, which is something I strive to achieve in my life as well. In addition, I also see a lot of myself in her as an Indian woman in the tech industry. Seeing her be successful shows me that there is room in this field for women of color to be recognized.

**Hsinyu**



**Katherine Benjamin**

**Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Digital Services at the City of New York**

Katherine was my mentor when I was at Emily Carr, and she opened the door for me to get into the digital government. Her eyes are always sparkling with passion, and she truly cares about helping people succeed in their roles.

She really inspires me from many aspects, such as being supportive, understanding and creating a trustful relationship. I remember she said to me, "I open the door for you because I believe you will do the same when you are capable of doing so."

And, yes, I am trying my best to support people in my day job and as a content creator or design mentor for my side projects.

**Jackie**



**Sharon**

**Business owner, hair stylist, friend**

Sharon has been in business 35 years, creating an important presence in the community through the interesting and inspirational vibe of the shop, her kind, welcome manner and her impeccable personal style.

Since I've been a customer and friend, I've seen the steady growth of her business, her commitment to sustainability and the LGBTQ community, as well as her ability to bring people a bit of happiness in their day.

Her staff's commitment and admiration for her speaks volumes.

**Sheila**



**Alice**

**Dirt poor Irish immigrant builds the good life in Canada**

My mother, Alice, had to leave home at 17. There were few prospects for anyone in the early 1950s in Ireland. So she packed her bags to London, trained to become a nurse and hopped the steamer to Nova Scotia. She practised nursing in Toronto, met my Dad, moved out west and raised us. In her late 40s, she opened a business – a small lunch deli. I watched my Mom get up at 7 am every day to pick up the bread and make the soup of the day. She loved making good food for people and while the work was hard, she found it deeply satisfying.

I learned from her there is joy of being an entrepreneur, that it can be both financially and personally rewarding. I was lucky to have her as a role model as I became an entrepreneur myself.

**Amelia**



**Lucy Croysdill & Carla Smith, (Lulu and Bizzy)**

**Coaches, community contributors, entrepreneurs**

Lulu (aka Luludemon) and Bizzy (aka Business Time) were two of my coaches when I first joined the local roller derby league. From the very beginning, they were always welcoming and supportive of me and my journey. Lulu and Bizzy are also both female entrepreneurs who give back to their community in various ways and I now skate with them at their most recent endeavor, Rolla Skate Club.

The most important things I have learned from Lulu and Bizzy (aside from a lot of roller derby moves with funny names like 'The Pimple') is to set goals for myself (big hairy goals!), to create and follow plans to reach those goals, and most importantly to believe in myself and be proud of myself for my accomplishments.

**Lisa**



**Khan**

**Pug with personality and loving spirit**

I must admit, the thought of a pug made me giggle at first, they were a peculiar dog with no discernible nose. But after meeting the most adorable & curious male puppy, we knew he would be a great companion to our mature dog Gaby, and it only took a couple of days for Gaby to feel the same thing. She got her "spark" back, so joyful.

A few year later, after Gaby passed away, we adopted another pug. We had a small but sweet little family, until one day Khan got sick and needed immediate surgery. It was touch and go for a few months, he not only survived but brought our little family even closer.

Today, at 13 years of age he is happy to be my sidekick, my office dog & and my best friend. He has taught me to remember to keep it simple, not to stress about the little things, and to enjoy what we have now: love.

**Kavana**



**Tara**

**YouTube creator**

As a person growing up with Youtube, many of my role models are creators who feel like a friend or a person I aspire to be.

During the pandemic, Tara, of Youtube channel Tarmar, was a source of inspiration when I was isolated from so many of my real life community. She took the isolation and the anxiety of it one day at a time. She showed in her videos how you could grow and actually thrive rather than just barely survive the challenges of this time.

As a recent graduate searching for a path forward, the inspiration of her small daily rituals and practices seemed doable. She became my role model for how to learn about myself and be comfortable with being alone for the first time. Even through the screen, Tara inspired me to start writing poetry, taking care of my body, and exploring undiscovered parts of myself.