



Christopher Edwards

May 3, 1974 - July 26, 2025

Christopher Taylor Edwards, "Zeke", 51, skilled product and UX Designer, of Chicago, passed away from natural causes after a lifelong battle with Neurofibromatosis Type 2.

Born in Coaldale, PA, Christopher graduated from Geneva Community High School before studying anthropology and architecture history at the University of Virginia. He completed his B.F.A. in Media Arts from California College of the Arts, and earned a certificate from Georgetown University in Museum Exhibit Design, and his M.F.A. in Transdisciplinary Design from Parsons School of Design at The New School in New York. He was a fellow at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation's inaugural urban prototyping lab with IDEO and Parsons.

A lover of film, design and nature, Christopher brought his creativity and impeccable taste to everything he did. Nonetheless, he had as much appreciation for a good breakfast sandwich as the world's most renowned works of art. Maybe more.

He was the loving son of Max Eugene Edwards and Pamela Kay Edwards (nee Taylor) and was preceded in death by brother Brandon John Edwards. Christopher leaves behind his partner of a decade, Alex Thornton, his former partner Naoki Osawa, and chosen family Brian Holmon-Wilson and Tevin

Glasper.

Open-casket visitation Sunday, August 3, 3pm (service begins 4pm) at Colvin House, 5940 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago, IL 60660. Reception 5-7pm. Parking is limited. Guests are encouraged to take public transportation or rideshare.

Livestream the event here: <https://www.asimplestreaming.com/cedwards/>

Burial Tuesday, August 5, 10:30am, Hillside Cemetery in State Center, Iowa.

Memorial donations may be made in his name to the Children's Tumor Foundation: <https://www.ctf.org/>, the Alzheimer's Association: <https://www.alz.org/>, or Howard Brown Health Center, <https://howardbrown.org/> in lieu of flowers.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Gathering and Reception

AUG 3. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Colvin House
5940 N Sheridan Rd
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 654-2999

3pm guest arrival for open-casket visitation; 4pm service begins; 5-7pm reception

Tribute Wall



“ *Inclusive Funeral Care created a Webcast in memory of Christopher Edwards*



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - July 29, 2025 at 11:02 PM

CH

“ *Blessed are those that know how to shine. Christopher - you were always so cheerful and kind. I will greatly miss your unforgettable love and LIGHT. I love you.*



Chisun - August 14, 2025 at 12:52 PM



“ Christopher and I met while working together in Dallas. He introduced me and others to assistive technologies that made our team more inclusive and egalitarian. Somewhere along the way, he taught us a lot about how to live a rich life, despite one's circumstances.

I still have the "Ava" app on my phone that he told me about and taught me how to use.

RIP Christopher. The world is better for you having lived in it.

Saleem Siddiqui - August 05, 2025 at 09:02 AM



“ Chris was one of my earliest friends. In fact, he might've been my very **first** friend. We met in pre-school and stayed friends through grade-school, junior high, (including being in Dr. Bakken's class together) and into high school. I lost touch with Chris around this time when I transferred to another school. Though he wasn't a part of my life anymore, his impact on my life remained. My wife and children all know about my childhood friend, Chris, because I often spoke of him. Please know that you will be missed, Chris, and you are remembered with love by one of your oldest friends.

Eric Quinn

Eric Quinn - August 03, 2025 at 09:35 PM



“ *Death is nothing at all.
It does not count.
I have only slipped away into the next room.
Nothing has happened.*

*Everything remains exactly as it was.
I am I, and you are you,
and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched,
unchanged.
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.*

*Call me by the old familiar name.
Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.
Put no difference into your tone.
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.*

*Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that we enjoyed
together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.
Let it be spoken without an effort, without the ghost of a shadow
upon it.*

*Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was.
There is absolute and unbroken continuity.
What is this death but a negligible accident?*

*Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am but waiting for you, for an interval,
somewhere very near,
just round the corner.*

*All is well.
Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.*

How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again!

Henry Scott-Holland. "Death Is Nothing At All." Family Friend Poems, <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/death-is-nothing-at-all-by-henry-scott-holland>

I was introduced to Christopher shortly before we started "sheltering in place" for the pandemic. We got to know each other through long texts back and forth in the next years. We got to know each other and our stories, and discovered so much in common. He was so kind to me at a time I really needed kindness, and I love him for that.

Travel on, my dear friend. I shall see you soon enough.

Kevin Key - August 03, 2025 at 05:22 PM

AG

“ Christopher had so many talents. He was an artist, an organizer, activist, friend, son, but his greatest gift was his boundless capacity for empathy.

When a mutual friend died recently, Christopher spent half an hour imagining everyone who knew our friend who might be suffering and how they might be suffering. He was slightly cheered up to see that our friend’s Instagram memorial was aesthetically pleasing. “He would love this,” Christopher said. “They included all of his youngest photos.” “Oh by the way,” he texted, nearly forgetting, “I’m still in the hospital. It’s been over a month now.”

Were it possible, Christopher would have organized his own memorial. He’d spring into action, invite everybody. The design would be minimalist, but playful. The memorial would be a big party, and somehow the theme would be: Brutalist architecture. He wouldn’t want you to be suffering. He’d be here, in the tux he wore to his wedding, in a hat he feels indecisive about. He’d take a deep breath, and he’d send you all his love.

We’ll miss you, friend.

Austin

Austin Guillen - August 03, 2025 at 04:10 AM

HB

“ My memories of Chris and the Edwards family derive from a much earlier time. Chris was in my sixth and seventh grade music classes in Geneva IL. Even at that age it was obvious he was a perceptive and forward-looking student. I regret not having followed his colorful career and varied life experiences.

Howard Bakken - August 02, 2025 at 08:42 PM

AB

“ My thoughts are with Xtopher's family right now. He was one of the funniest and smartest people I've known, always able to drill down to what was important.

My memories will be of laughing with him.

Anne Bidwell - August 01, 2025 at 04:37 PM

AB

“ Anne B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Edwards.

Anne B. - August 01, 2025 at 04:31 PM

RL

“ I wrote a blog entry about my primary interaction with Christopher when he lived in DC.

<https://urbanplacesandspaces.blogspot.com/2025/08/christopher-taylor-edwards-rest-in.html>

My condolences.

RICHARD LAYMAN - August 01, 2025 at 03:54 PM

JS

“ I was so shocked and sad to see this, and my condolences to Christoper's loved ones. I worked with him for many years, and loved his openess, his humor, and his kindness. I have so many fond memories from our time together, and will miss him.

John Spens - July 31, 2025 at 08:27 PM

LI

“ Thank you for your love in friendship, Christopher. I am only worldier because of you. Everything about you will be dearly missed - wisdom, wit, vulnerability, a heart of gold.



Here is a song you introduced me to that is now a favorite. I think of you whenever it plays.

<https://open.spotify.com/track/3Ai9IjVhRy5eMWFQ3luIG6?si=2MUCj9s5SxyoNaEBKx-ABg>

It is hard to accept we will not be able to eat and laugh together anymore. But you will forever be in our "there will always be Ohio" trio. Rest in peace, beautiful

Ling - July 31, 2025 at 11:32 AM

JA

“ Jeffrey A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Edwards.

Jeffrey A. - July 31, 2025 at 10:38 AM

LP

“ Lara P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Edwards.

Lara P. - July 31, 2025 at 10:32 AM

LP

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Lara Penin - July 31, 2025 at 10:29 AM

LP

Christopher was a brilliant designer, a passionate advocate for inclusion, and above all, such a wonderful human. He introduced me to disability rights and was a fierce champion for inclusive design. His work and thinking had a huge impact on me and on all of us in the TD community. I was lucky to have him as my student. I learned from him constantly. I will cherish the time I had with him, his insight, humor, and fierce dedication. I will miss him dearly.

Lara Penin - July 31, 2025 at 10:31 AM

KR

“ Love you and miss you already, my dear friend.



Kristi - July 30, 2025 at 05:43 PM

JH

“ My sympathies to Christopher's loved ones in this very sad moment. We lost a dear friend and cherished member of our Transdisciplinary Design community at Parsons in NYC. Christopher (class of 2015) was fierce, funny, wise and wonderful. He impacted so many of us in so many ways. I was program director at the time and I feel as though I learned more from Christopher than he did from me. He was a tireless advocate for justice and a leading voice in the design community for disability rights. But most of all, he was a blast to be around. He brightened every room and left an enduring impression on so many of us. Our community and our world is a less bright place without Christopher. But his spirit lives on in all of us that he impacted.

Jamer H - July 30, 2025 at 01:52 PM

JH

“ Jamer H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Edwards.

Jamer H. - July 30, 2025 at 01:33 PM

MF

“ Marshea F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Christopher Edwards.

Marshea F. - July 30, 2025 at 01:06 PM

RM

“ Christopher is so deeply missed by all who were lucky to meet him. To say he was passionate is an understatement - he was such a fiery advocate for people and inclusive design, brilliant in his thinking about our profession, and always generous with his time - helping me with my thesis and with work at our previous shared workplace. We shared some identities in common, and his perspectives on them and the future were always valuable, wise and full of joy. Our last chat was me joking about going to a punk show at my age and him giving me a LOL and a celebration emoji. Much love and sympathy to his family and friends at this most difficult time.

Rachel M. Murray - July 30, 2025 at 12:56 PM

KC

“ Christopher, my partner in crime, for the last in-person Global SD Jam in NY. You will be missed. Thank you for all the words of wisdom and fun you brought to us. RIP.



Kathleen C. - July 30, 2025 at 12:49 PM

ML

What an amazing memory. I'm so sad to hear of Christopher's passing.
-Madison

Madison Loew - July 30, 2025 at 04:22 PM

BS

“ Christopher, I miss you so much. You've touched so many people with your brilliance and humor. I just can't believe you're gone.

Rest in Peace, my friend.

Beyang Shi - July 30, 2025 at 11:43 AM

AM

“ I am very very sad to hear this news. I loved chatting with Chris and just always thought he would be around in Chicago to meet up. He was such a beautiful soul. And I will miss him very very dearly. We had these grand plans to create a design writing club and I will never forget him.

Amy - July 30, 2025 at 11:26 AM

NA

“ Oh my god, I'm so sorry. Xtopher, you were always a great guy and a positive light here in New York. I'm so sorry for all our loss.

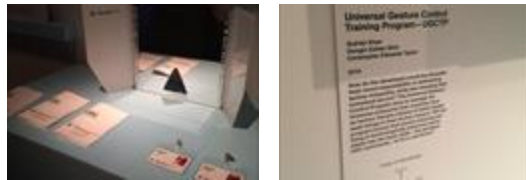
Nathan - July 30, 2025 at 11:21 AM

DS

“ It pains me to learn that I can't chat with you anymore and I can't touch you anymore. In the name of busy life, we didn't get to see as often - and I can't seem to find photo of us together despite of our 10+ years of friendship.

You truly inspired me on passion for great design and accessible future. All the fun we had together during our time at Parsons and continued relationship at ThoughtWorks and beyond as truly a gift to me.

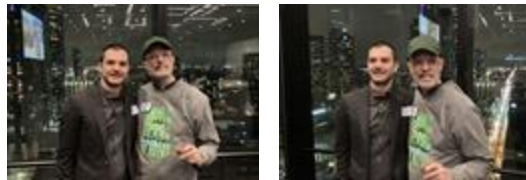
Rest in peace and free of any pains my friend. I miss you deeply.



Dongin Shin - July 30, 2025 at 10:59 AM



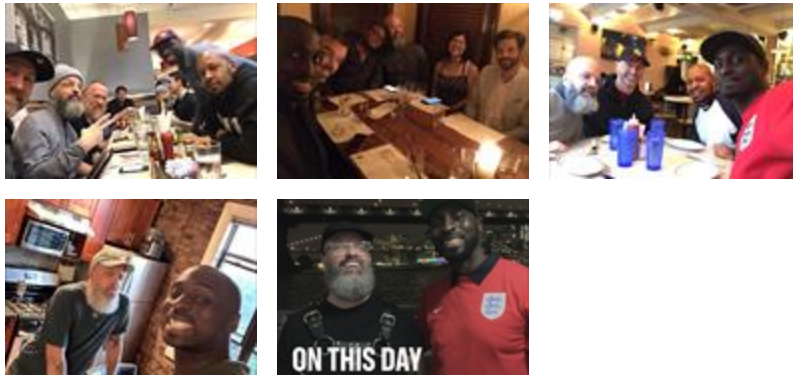
“ Trying to look as classy as possible at an Out in Tech event in early 2023.



Joe Jam - July 30, 2025 at 10:13 AM



“ Will miss you Xtopher. You enriched my life in so many ways.
Blessed to have been a close friend and confidant. Rest in peace!



Wiafe Mensah-Bonsu - July 30, 2025 at 09:42 AM



“ Christopher was so kind and loving and he will be missed



Brian Holmon-Wilson - July 30, 2025 at 07:30 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Team Inclusive Funeral Care - July 28, 2025 at 05:20 PM