

Forest Gregg

Unionist who creates technical systems to build worker power.

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EXPERIENCE

California Fast Food Workers Union, Remote — *Data Director*

2025 - Present

Established the foundational data systems for a campaign transitioning into a new, large SEIU local, including membership management, research, field operations, data warehousing, and reporting.

Mapped out the workflows for membership tracking and management migrated staff from a largely manual and spreadsheet-based practice to use the union's existing Salesforce instance. Automated data syncing across systems encouraged staff adoption as the new system both saved staff time and provided higher confidence in accuracy of the data.

Similarly transformed the location research and incident tracking functions of the research department, whose complex needs required custom programming to customize Salesforce to the researchers' needs.

To facilitate the digital transformation of union processes, set up a BigQuery data warehouse fed by serverless ETL scripts.

Set up reporting systems for the field operations data needs to be responsive to shifts in campaign strategies.

Datamade, Chicago — *Partner*

2013 - 2025

Co-led an award-winning civic technology company that transforms complex data into clear, appealing, and actionable websites and tools.

Grew the consulting business from two founders to seven employees and an annual revenue of over \$900,000.

Initiated the Circuit, a collaborative journalism project about injustice in the Cook County Circuit Courts with three news organizations with over \$300,000 in funding from the McCormick Foundation. Scraped millions of records from the Circuit Court's mainframe terminal system, and built a data warehouse for use by participating journalists. Trained journalists in SQL, R, and data analysis and served as data editor for multiple award-winning investigations

Established a Rooney Rule policy in our hiring practices that increased the racial and ethnic diversity of our company to 1/3 Black and Latine .

SKILLS

Data Governance

Data Engineering

Requirement Gathering

Data Policy

Extract / Transform / Load

Software Engineering

Technical Leadership

Staff Management and Development

User Research

Data Visualization

Data Reporting

Statistical Data Analysis

Languages: Python (Expert),
SQL (Expert), R (Expert),
Bash (Intermediate),
Javascript (Intermediate),

Visualization: Observable,
Ggplot

Backend: Django, Flask,
SQLAlchemy, Haystack,
sqlite, PostgreSQL,
PostGIS, Solr

Maintained the data processing standards for DataMade's data work which included web scraping, ETL, processing monitoring, logging, and validation, and reporting.

Used advanced OCR techniques to extract demographic information from thousands of scanned, paper applications for the Illinois Cannabis Regulation Oversight Office to enable an equity analysis of cannabis licensees.

Dedupe.io, Chicago — Co-founder

2018 - 2023

Co-founder and system architect Record linkage Software as a Service Product Company

Primary developer of the the most popular open-source record matching library, dedupe. Over 4,000+ stars on github, 500+ forks, and 2,000 downloads a day.

Established the security policies and processes to bring the service into compliance with FERPA standards.

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL — Masters in Sociology

2010 - 2012

Founded the Computational Social Science Workshop

University of Chicago, Chicago — B.A. in Sociology

2000 - 2004

VOLUNTEERING

Union Data and Technology Conference

2025 - Present

Co-organizer for the conference for the technology and data workers who build and maintain the technical systems of the labor movement. The conference gives this field of workers a venue to learn from one another and critically reflect on our own work within the labor movement.

labordata.bunkum.us

2021 - Present

Built labordata.bunkum.us, a publicly available data warehouse of labor-movement data. Powered by seven web scrapers running nightly, containing over 7.5 gigs of data, all for less than \$50 a month in operating costs. The data is heavily used by labor researchers and advocates.

Data Processing: Make, AirFlow, Datasette, Prefect, Scrapy, Google Sheets,

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Alumni-in-residence, 2023

The University of Chicago
Social Sciences Research
Center

Lisagor: Best Data Journalism, 2022

Chicago Headline Club

Lisagor: Best Data Journalism, 2021

Chicago Headline Club

Online Journalism Award – General Excellence (Small Newsroom), 2019

Online News Association

Vision Award for Large Lots, 2015

Urban Land Institute

Published in *The Best American Infographics* 2015