Shop Around! 3 Steps to Finding the Perfect Designer/Developer

Find out how these three easy steps will get you the perfect fit for your project and budget!

- a. Use reliable organizations to find your candidates.
- b. Get at least three estimates before starting your project.
- Focus on finding a fit with your project's team and work-style rather than just the budget.

Where to find these people? We suggest you use AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) and the Freelancer's Union. Their membership directories are easy to sort through using the specific skill sets you're looking for.

Anyone can post to most job sites and say they're a designer or developer, but who knows? These two organizations have application processes and requirements which must be met in order to become members and use their online directories.

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The AIGA is a graphic professional's organization. It has been around for over 90 years. Its members agree to adhere to its strict Standards of Professional Practice. The Freelancer's Union, founded in 1995, provides advocacy and health insurance to its members.

They have an extensive application and qualification process which members must meet, proving they are legitimate freelancers in the New York area.

In short, with these sites you can rest assured, you are speaking to people who are and do, what they say they are and do. These organizations provide invaluable resources which you and the member can use to help you both resolve questions regarding things such as; copyright legalities, fair practice and/or find amicable solutions to unexpected situations which can arise, even in the best-planned projects.

Talk to as many designers and/or developers as possible in order to narrow down people who fall into your general budget, but get at least three written quotes/estimates/proposals for

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your project before you start. Then, use your gut to assess the phone/email interactions you have with each candidate and the vibe you get from their presented documents. The person who's interaction and document seems most "on your level" is the person you want for the job.

You will find someone within your budget. Focusing on getting someone who "fits" you or your project's team, work-style and personality ensures the work will come out quickly, cleanly and on target. This means less time and cost for revisions, change orders, scope-creep and other complications which happen when project members aren't all "on the same page".

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