Lenny Kidavi



I design and build products end to end, and I'm working toward machine learning engineering.

Lang'ata, Nairobi, Kenya

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Summary

Computer Science student and developer in Nairobi. I design and build web products end to end, and I am working toward machine learning engineering.

Experience

Independent software developer Self-employed · Nairobi, Kenya 2025 – present

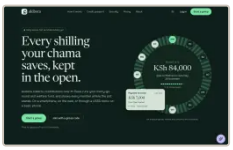
- Built SmartChama with a team of four, winning Red, White & Build 2026, then relaunched it as Akibora: chama savings over M-Pesa with a credit passport, rebuilt for web and Android on one shared database.
- Main founder of Saka, a team of five building a marketplace for verified local professionals and businesses in Nairobi: rebuilt its database with trust rules enforced in Postgres, launched sakahapa.app, and building its Android app.
- Built Dogear, a Spotify companion that keeps a fixed shuffle per playlist and resumes at the exact song and second.
- Client work: full rebrand and website for Allenet Bakers; websites for Oppolia Woodworths Kenya and Sucre Bushworks; led the NeuroGrowth Tech website upgrade.

Education

Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) 2025–2028 (expected)

BSc Computer Science · Lang'ata, Nairobi, Kenya

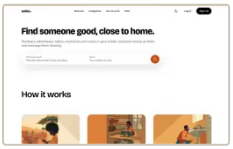
Projects



Akibora Product · 2026 www.smartchama.tech

Chama software that collects contributions over M-Pesa, runs the merry-go-round, welfare fund, loans and withdrawals in the open, and turns on-time saving into a downloadable credit passport. Won the Red, White & Build hackathon as SmartChama.

Stack: Next.js 16, React 19, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS v4, Supabase (Postgres, Auth, Storage, Realtime), M-Pesa Daraja, Expo (Android app), Resend, Solidity, Vercel



Saka Product · 2025 sakahapa.app

Inquiry-first marketplace connecting Nairobi customers with verified tradespeople, service providers and businesses, with zero commission and direct M-Pesa payments.

Role: Main founder and full-stack developer

Stack: Next.js 14, TypeScript, Supabase (Postgres, PostGIS, RLS, Realtime), Cloudinary, MapLibre + OpenFreeMap, Zustand, TanStack Query, next-pwa, Web Push, Upstash Redis, Android (Trusted Web Activity), Vercel



Dogear Experiment · 2026 dogear-nine.vercel.app

A companion app for Spotify that shuffles each playlist once, remembers exactly where you stopped, and resumes there, with listening insights and skip tracking.

Role: Designer and developer
Stack: Next.js 14, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS, shadcn/ui, Supabase (Postgres, Cron), Spotify Web API, Vitest, Vercel



NeuroGrowth Client work · 2026 www.neurogrowthtech.com

AI engineering studio in Nairobi building automation, chatbots and prediction systems for African businesses.

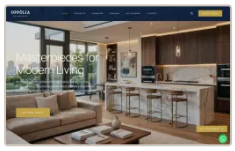
Role: Marketing Engineering
Stack: Next.js, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS



Allenet Bakers Client work · 2026 allenetbakers.vercel.app

A full rebrand and website for a family custom-cake bakery: a gallery of real cakes, an honest price list, and a cake builder that sends the order straight to WhatsApp.

Role: Brand and web designer, developer
Stack: Next.js 16, React 19, TypeScript, Tailwind CSS v4, Vitest, Playwright, Vercel



Oppolia Woodworths Kenya Client work · 2026 www.oppoliakenya.co.ke

High-end brand and showcase website for Oppolia Woodworths Kenya, displaying custom luxury cabinetry, wardrobes, and architectural interior fittings.

Role: Full-stack developer
Stack: Next.js, Tailwind CSS, TypeScript

Hackathons

Winner · Red, White & Build US–Kenya Hackathon (AI & Tech) 19 February 2026 · Nairobi, Kenya

First place with SmartChama at the U.S. Embassy Kenya AI & Tech hackathon.

Organised by: U.S. Embassy Kenya · **Prize:** $1,000 · **Team:** Lenny Kidavi, Rachael, Shilla, Nanjoli

Second place · Beorchild Hackathon 2026 · Online

Second place finish with SmartChama at the online Beorchild hackathon.

Organised by: Beorchild · **Team:** Lenny Kidavi, Rachael, Shilla

Skills

Shipped with: TypeScript, JavaScript, Next.js (App Router), React, Tailwind CSS, Node.js, Supabase, PostgreSQL, Solidity, Vercel, Zustand, TanStack Query

Used in coursework and experiments: Python, Java, C, C++, FastAPI, Web3, Git & GitHub, Docker, REST APIs

Currently learning: PyTorch, Machine Learning Systems, Applied Mathematics for ML, Model Optimization

Links

Portfolio: kidavi.me GitHub: github.com/chillyreward

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/lenny-kidavi-4693ba355 Fiverr: www.fiverr.com/lennynavwani