I want to be a . . . Website Designer

VSA
The State Organization on Arts and Disability
TEXAS

Initial Career Steps:

- There are many online tutorials that can assist you in learning the intricacies of website design, as well as numerous books you can purchase. You will also need to have a computer capable of doing this type of work. If you decide that you will be using a web page editing program, keep in mind that it should produce CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) in order to produce a truly professional page.

- Create a business plan. It should detail specifics about your career plans: customers and potential customers, competition and their rates, your rates, your advantages over the competition, taxes and salary, and expenses.

- Polish up all your skills, not just the ones you use the most for your web design hobby. You should be able to create graphics with Photoshop, be able to write and read HTML codes, have decent writing skills, know at least one type of programming like PHP or Perl, and have knowledge of the principals of design.

- Build an impressive website for yourself. How can you expect others to pay you to design web pages for them, if you can't create a professional one for yourself?

- Stack your resume and portfolio. Keep track of all the hobby websites and designs you've created and have them available for future clients to reference. Ensure you have a variety of options to meet the different interests of your potential clients. Do a little graphic design, some web page building, some technical writing, or all of the above to show you are a well-rounded designer.

- Practice. Do jobs for friends and relatives for a discount. Non-profits could use your services as well, but always charge something for your work. Giving it away for free will only lead to frustration. If you don't have confidence that your work is worthy, you're going to have a hard time landing that big gig later on.

-- Texas Web Design Network:
http://texaswebdesignnetwork.com/

--Webgrrls International:
https://www.webgrrls.com

--Learn how to create accessible websites through Knowbility:
http://www.knowbility.org/

Local Resources:

TEXAS COUNCIL for DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES