



Diversity in Arts Leadership Internship Program 2016 Overview

This summer, twelve students descended upon New York City from all over the country for the Arts & Business Council of New York's *Diversity in Arts Leadership Internship Program*. Individuals from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in the arts field, gathered to meet their peers, arts host organizations, and business mentors at the program's opening ceremony at Con Edison on June 6th, 2016.

Interns were placed at multidisciplinary arts organizations across the city. As the students settled into their various organizations and departments, from development to programming to marketing, they not only relied on the support of their fellow peers, but also from a volunteer mentor from the New York business community. This relationship acts as another avenue of development and investment – one that provides guidance as each intern navigates a new role, a new city, and their future plans.

Beyond the responsibilities assigned by their host arts organizations, each intern hosted and led a site visit. These site visits served not only as an opportunity for the interns to showcase their summer role and organization, but also to learn about the diverse landscape of the arts administration field in New York City and develop their own leadership skills as each intern takes responsibility for their own visit.

Site Visits

Interns went on their first site visits to the **Louis Armstrong House Museum** for an intern-led tour of the historic house, ABC/NY offices where they heard about the national state of the arts from **Americans for the Arts** (AFTA) CEO, **Bob Lynch** and learned about the "behind-the-scenes" programming and development strategy at **The Moth**. July was the busiest month - interns got messy making prints at the **Brooklyn Arts Council**, learned about the intersection of disability, dance, and artistry at **Dance/NYCs** first Town Hall of the season, and were welcomed to the summer members' opening at **The Bronx Museum of the Arts**. Later in the month they learned about diversity and inclusion work at WNYC (and about some of our favorite podcasts), talked development and danced our hearts out at the **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre**, then witnessed and learned what it takes to put on an amazing youth performance at **TADA! Youth Theatre**. In August interns received a guided tour of **Socrates Sculpture Park** and stayed for their final jazz series of the summer, participated in work of **FreeArtsNYC** by making art supply bags for homeless youth, and participated in the **Asian American Arts Alliance** artist's pitch competition under the Manhattan Bridge.



Professional Development

The first professional development session was led by **Justin Kerr**, Chief Merchandising Officer & Director of Brand Marketing, at **Uniqlo**, who ensured interns that by "being early, accurate, and nice", they would be successful as creatives and executives at a young age. They practiced networking and at a July summer mixer with **DIAL intern alumni**, **Emerging Leaders of New York Arts (ELNYA)** members, and AFTA and DIAL interns over food and drinks in Williamsburg and heard from **Miguel Centeno**, Managing Director of Community Relations at **Aetna** on incorporating the arts into professional practice.



Mentorship

New this year were opportunities for mentors to connect with each other to share best practices in mentoring interns and an event where mentors and interns came together to "speed network" - all learning a little something about each other at the very start.



Cultural Activities

That's not it – to soak in more of the amazing summer arts scene in NYC, interns explored the **Judd Foundation's** historic SoHo house and gallery, attended a **MoMa** exhibition opening, **The Moth's GrandSlam Championship**, a **BRIC dance performance by Camille Brown** at the **Prospect Park Band Shell**, a live taping of **Full Frontal with Samantha Bee**, a **Shakespeare in the Park** performance of *Troilus and Cressida*, and a walking tour of the Lower East Side through the **Tenement Museum!**



Celebrations

The summer was bookended by opening and closing ceremonies where **Frances Resheske**, Vice President of Corporate Relations at **Con Edison** and **Eddie Torres** and **Kristin Sakoda**, Deputy Commissioners of the **Department of Cultural Affairs** welcomed interns. To finish out the program, staff and sponsors gave closing remarks and the class articulated ways in which they had grown personally and professionally during their time in the program, many with a clearer picture of future plans and aspirations.

If you would like to learn more about the Diversity in Arts Leadership Internship Program, visit www.artsandbusiness-ny.org or contact Emma Osore at eosore@artsandbusiness-ny.org.

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