

Final Essay

After the completion of my hours at my internship site, Upstairs Artspace, I have learned many things that will aid my future in a personal way and a professional way. In my original essay, I discussed what I had learned in the weeks I had worked onsite. In this essay, I want to discuss how it could potentially impact my future and how it impacts my majors, especially art history.

As an art history major, there are many different career paths to take. Something I struggle with is deciding what to do in my career. Some careers include gallery curation and reception, two things in which I now have experience. It is important for me that I was able to connect with contemporary art and artists. While I don't necessarily know if being a gallery curator is what I will do in the future, it was a good way to get a behind the scenes look into the operation of an art gallery. It requires a lot of constant communication with the artists, constant planning ahead, monetary decisions like fundraising, marketing, researching, and collaboration with a diverse range of people and skillsets.

Interning can be an important tool in your major. It is experience that you can gain before you enter the workforce, and for some people, can change the trajectory of a career. For me, I think this internship does this in a positive way. In my last few weeks of the internship I was given the opportunity to create a mockup for a poster and postcard for an event to happen this winter. Graphic design is one of my passions, and being able to express myself to help the gallery was amazing. Galleries like the Upstairs need marketing materials like posters, business cards, and more to connect with the community and beyond. I really enjoyed making mockups in

collaboration with Merry Beth Noble, the gallery manager. It was great that she gave me guidance and suggestions for my designs. Critiques are a very important part of making a design.

In conclusion, my experience at the gallery was overwhelmingly positive. I received professional experience and learned so much from experienced artists. I liked being able to have a bit of freedom in creativity and collaborate as a group. Group work was essential here and something I really enjoyed. I recommend experiential learning to every art major; it is invaluable.