

Ballet Spartanburg Internship Reflection (Final)

These past three months at Ballet Spartanburg have been worthwhile. Teresa Berline, Lona Gomez and Carlos Agudelo consistently show their heart and soul for Ballet Spartanburg. They have been encouraging and prove time and time again that this company means the world to them. If it was not for them, Ballet Spartanburg would not be afloat. During this time, I have learned how a non-profit organization runs, the importance of the background work that the public does not witness, and the impact that this organization has on the Spartanburg community. Teresa Berline has been and continues to be an absolute powerhouse. Her enthusiasm for the organization and her employees is unlike any other; you can tell she truly loves her job. She makes being an Executive Director of a non-profit organization seem to be like a cakewalk. I know and realize that there is a lot that goes into her job to make things happen. Teresa spends countless hours at Ballet Spartanburg making sure the organization runs smoothly, has made and continues to make connections, and puts her heart and soul into this organization. As I stated in my midterm reflection, in order to be a successful Executive Director, you must have a lot of knowledge on previous and present season members, donors, sponsors, students, company dancers, artistic directors, money management, people skills, and the ability to be able to write grants and ask for money properly to keep the organization afloat.

My workload consisted of running errands, decorating, working on the website, and large-scale projects. For example, one project I have been working on since almost the beginning is the creation of an excel document that dates back from 2014 to present day. In this document, I have been inputting names, addresses, and phone numbers of anyone who has been a season member of, donated to, or sponsored Ballet Spartanburg. This is important since a lot of these people give

annually, so you need to have contacts that you know you can trust and rely on to assist the organization! Teresa is also wanting to switch over databases and have a computerized version of their paper trail as well. In addition to this project, I have assisted with getting ready for ballet performances and a large fundraiser. The ballet preparations I have participated in are *La Cabaret Rouge*, *An Evening with Carlos Agudelo*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. I assisted in preparing for these ballets by decorating, hanging up posters around Spartanburg, serving champagne at an event, etc. Preparing for a fundraiser takes a lot of work. Not only did we spend a whole day physically preparing for the fundraiser event, but there was also a lot of planning that went into it. This fabulous fundraiser event was *Ballet at Bucko's* where Buck Brandt, a well-known artist in Spartanburg, allowed the fundraiser to be held at his house. Attendees enjoyed a nice candlelit dinner, performances by a few of Ballet Spartanburg's dancers, and took part in a silent auction. Alongside events such as these, I have updated their website, created a page on their website for their summer dance classes and camps, attended dance classes to view rehearsals, and I sat in on a state-wide non-profit organization zoom call that discussed upcoming grants that would be applied for.

Overall, my time here at Ballet Spartanburg has been educational, yet fun. I am not going to lie, it is a lot of computer work and can tend to get repetitive, but Teresa, Lona, Carlos, Eleanor, the company, and the patrons of Spartanburg make it all worth the while. Although this internship was intended for my minor, I believe it will also help me in the long run with my major as well. It all intertwines in some shape or form. I am truly grateful for this experience.