

Final Report

Describe your tasks and your internship workplace environment.

All staffs are about 15-20 people including student interns, and they get along with each other like a family. They were very welcoming and friendly to me, new intern so I could feel like a bonding with them. More than half of staffs are over 35-40 years old and the Chief staffs are older than that. For these reason, they need new and young interns recently for the next generation of the CAC.

There is a big conference meeting at least once a week. Whenever they have critical issues, the conference is given and we share our thoughts and ideas. Of course, I always listened and keep my eye on what is going on the conference but some student interns who had an idea popped up sometimes spoke up, which means that it is very liberal. And also time management is liberal so I could control my time liberally.

My main duty was from my Korean language skill. The CAC wanted to get to know some Korean artists who could not speak English well. I contacted to them, interviewed with them. Because I worked underneath Mary Beth Barber, Communications Director, I wrote an article about them to promote them and the CAC's project that they participated in. And then, I kept contacting with other arts-related persons who are Korean, and wrote about them. I was mainly a communicator and a PR person like my boss. I often participated in conferences and listened what staffs were saying. And also, I participated in one of the council's big projects, the Poet Laureate as a visitor.

Did this experience make you more or less excited about a career in public or community service?

Before I start this interning, I always said, "I am very interested in arts and creative industries, and I want to get a job related to them." However, I did not know what arts management and creative industries are and what current crucial issues in those areas are exactly. As I worked here, I did news clipping about arts and cultures, participated in the conference meeting, and interviewed with arts-related people, such as Korean artists, Korean board member of the CAC, and a curator of Asian Arts Museum of SF. I wrote articles about them in English and Korean. English version is for eNewsletter page of the CAC web site and Korean version is for Korean Newspaper in California. In these processes, I got to know about the arts sectors area more clearly, and I could think what I will be able to do and want to do in the future more specifically than before. I have some knowledge about the mechanism of cultural policy, funding for the arts, and managing that.

Moreover, I learned as a journalist a lot. In fact, I have an experience as a journalist in Korea but I had never written news articles in English before this interning. I was nervous and awkward at the beginning. But as I got used to it as I did news clipping and got great feedback from my boss, I learned how to write an article in English, and interact with interviewees. It was a wonderful experience.

Were you able to develop particular skills and/or interests at your site?

As I mentioned it already, I could develop my news writing skills both of in Korean and English, the way to get along with co-workers and a boss at the office, and the strategy of spending time at my cubicle. Having my own cubicle and spending whole day all at the same spot was not easy at all for me at the first time. I was getting used to it; however.

My interests at my site were arts management at the beginning of interning. My interests were very vague, and I did not know what to do so my boss did not know what duties she let me do at the first time. As I interviewed with arts-related people and worked on my policy paper (my boss helped me a lot about the policy paper), I got to be interested in effective fundraising, arts market, management of entertainment industries, and cultural policy. I got to know the following facts. California has more arts and cultural resources than not only other states in the U.S. but also any other country in the world. Nevertheless, the general funding from the State government is the lowest level in the U.S. The California State puts very less effort on the arts sectors but lots of researches and the CAC's efforts was impressive to me. Korea's arts sectors are worse than the State of California, and I thought that I would want to contribute to developing the arts sectors in Korea in the future.

The arts environments between them are totally different but the things that are true are arts and creative industries will be much bigger parts of the world economy, and arts-oriented lives and economy will never be falling down. I was wonder about my future career. Because I love arts and culture things but my two majors are nothing going with arts and cultures directly, I was confused. Through the interning, I got to know some spots and careers related to arts and cultures for non-arts majored persons. When I go back to Korea and continue schooling, I could keep in mind and go for it.

Would you recommend this internship to a future Scholar Intern?

I would say absolutely yes. The CAC are always opening to new and young interns who are interested in arts and cultures. They will love friendly fellow workers and liberal environment. Plus, they can learn about arts management in public level. In my case, because my English is not perfect, what I could do was very limited but with a native level English skill, new interns could do more than that.

What were the exciting or challenging experiences you had as a UCCS Scholar Intern?

Overall, I enjoyed whole programme of UCCS. Interning, classes, living with people, everything was very exciting and fun to me. Reading in English and writing in English was very hard for me, of course. It was a challenging experience. I sometimes felt giving it up but I did think I would learn so much through this. Professors and Sheng helped me so much so I appreciate that. It is more than just "thank you." I was happy to grip this opportunity.