Graduate Student Summer Internships in Public Scholarship

Overview:

The Arts of Citizenship Graduate Student Summer Internship provides Doctoral and MFA students in the arts, design, and humanities at the University of Michigan with the opportunity to participate in a full-time summer internship at leading community organizations, cultural institutions, government agencies, social enterprises, and nonprofits in southeast Michigan. Internships last three months, starting in mid-May, and require students to attend six professional development seminars for two hours every two weeks. The seminars take place in Ann Arbor and offer a space for students to share their experiences at their work site, explore connections with peers, hear from guest speakers, acquire new skills, and engage in personal reflection.

Goals:

The Graduate Student Summer Internship program is designed to allow Doctoral and MFA students to explore careers outside of the academy while simultaneously building the capacity of organizations throughout southeast Michigan to address pressing social issues. Structured learning opportunities and mentoring from seasoned professionals provide students with potentially transformative experiences in which they discover new ways of using their knowledge and skills to meet real-world challenges. Host organizations benefit from the energy and ideas of highly motivated individuals from a world-renowned university who can assist with new or existing projects.

Expectations of Host Organizations:

- Allow students to work on substantive projects that advance the mission of the host organization and provide meaningful learning opportunities. Each organization will differ, but past projects have utilized skills in analytic thinking, problem solving, research, writing, and data collection (e.g., exhibition and/or program development, curriculum development).
- Provide regular contact with a supervisor who is committed to the student’s learning (this may take the form of weekly meetings).
• Allow students to meet and build relationships with co-workers from different departments in order to learn more about the organization, as well as the field more broadly.
• Introduce students to external constituents as a way of helping them understand their work in context of the organization’s mission.
• Create a work plan that describes the project’s purpose, objectives, and deliverables.
• Provide clear instructions concerning the student’s project, as well as any orientation and training necessary to complete required tasks.
• Provide ongoing feedback on the student’s performance.
• Provide a suitable work space throughout the duration of the internship.
• Conduct a face-to-face review with the student at the end of the internship.
• Complete a final evaluation from Arts of Citizenship once the program has concluded.