

Being Human:  
My Summer at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

by  
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An Internship  
Approved by the Department of Museum Studies

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Kenneth Hafertepe, Ph.D., Chairperson

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of  
Baylor University in Partial Fulfillment of the  
Requirements for the Degree  
of  
Master of Arts

Approved by the Internship Chairperson

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Kenneth Hafertepe, Ph.D., Chairperson

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## ABSTRACT

Being Human: My Summer at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Emily Clark

Internship Chairperson: Kenneth Hafertepe, Ph.D.

In the summer of 2015, I worked as a Graduate Intern at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, TX. Two days per week, I worked with the School Programming department observing, teaching, and developing community outreach programs. Another two days each week, I worked with the Public Programs department, specifically the Gallery Experience team, who works within the galleries to help with crowd control, answer visitor questions, and interact with guests to help them learn about exhibit content. I was able to assist the Gallery Experience team in writing a staff training guide for the Being Human Hall. Lastly, one day per week, I spent time working with the Volunteer Services department at the Perot, which manages over 1300 active volunteers. Overall, my experience provided insight into the workings of a large and successful science museum.

Questions?



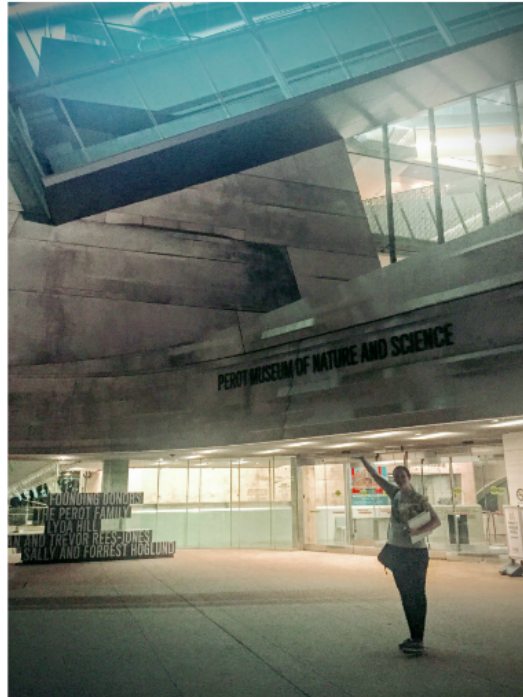
### Being Human: A Summer at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science



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# Institutional History

- Dallas has had a natural history museum since 1936
- In 2006, then CEO Nicole Small combined three museums.
- Bought land in 2002 for new location, Perot Museum of Nature and Science (PMNS) finished in 2012
- PMNS going on third year over 1 million visitors.







# My Internship

- 2 days per week working with the Outreach Team
- 2 days per week working with the Gallery Experience Team
- 1 day per week working with Volunteer Services

# Outreach

- Observation of in house programs
  - Fire and Ice
  - Superhero Science
  - Nature's Extremes
- Rainbow Days Summer Camp
  - Do Bugs Bug You?
  - Adapt to Survive
  - Amusement Park Physics
  - Lego Simple Machines
- Perot Museum at the Library
  - Oceans
  - Paleontology
  - Senses
  - Engineering and Robotics





# Gallery Experience



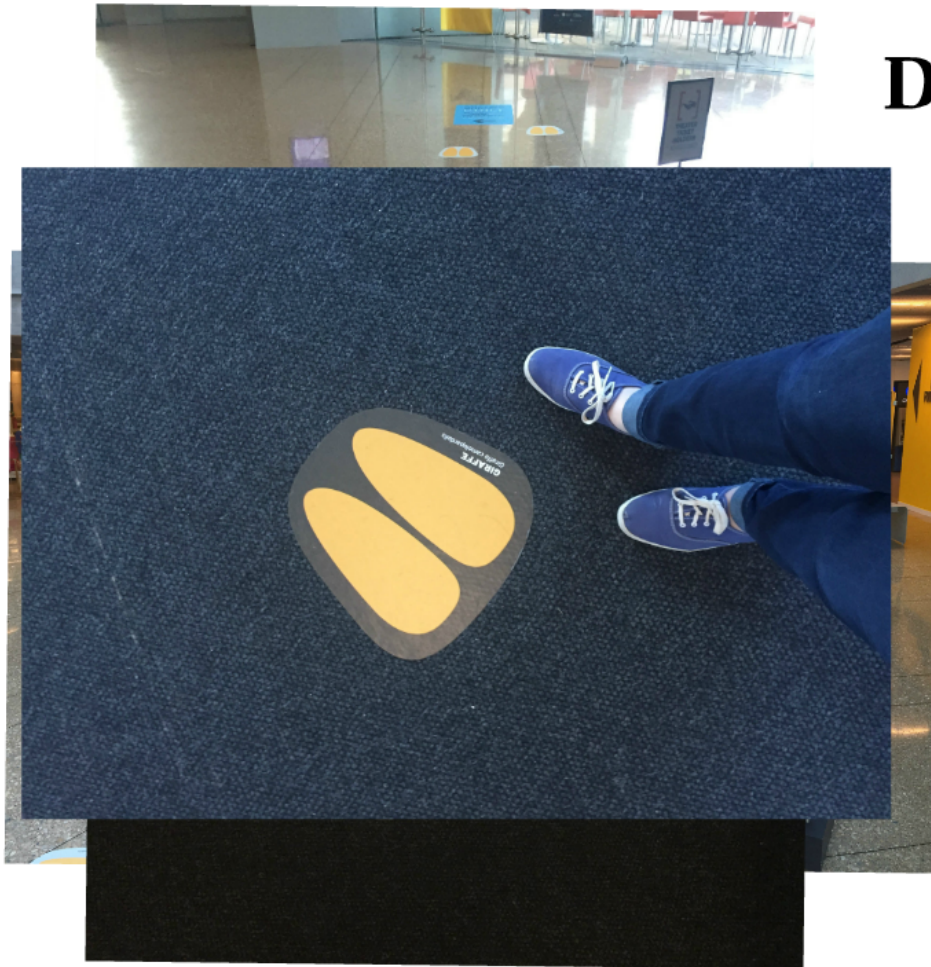
- Worked to edit, revise and write additional content for the Being Human Hall gallery guide
  - Used by part-time staff in the exhibit halls
  - Included questions to engage visitors, background information for each element of exhibit hall, and a 50-page appendix of further information.
  - Also completed Educator Guides for the cart activities in this hall.

# Volunteer Services

- Discovery Corps- high school volunteer program
  - helped to process applications
  - helped with training
- Volgistics
- Volunteered at Special Events
  - Sleepover
  - Social Science
  - First Thursday Late Night



## Shadowing Lucy Hale, Director of School Programs



- Tessitura Meeting
- Exhibitions Team Meeting
  - Discussed visitor attendance figures for current exhibit, Amazing Animals.
  - Increase in marketing materials and lobby advertisements for exhibit



# Being Human

- Perot has full-time staff of 110-- with part-time staff included, 178
- 1350 active volunteers
- 3rd year of 1 million+ visitors
- How do you sustain such a high level of success?

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## New CEO hopes to build on Perot Museum's success

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Matthew Busch/Staff Photographer

Colleen Walker faces a daunting task as CEO of Dallas' Perot Museum, but she's not easily daunted.

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Questions?

