

Uncharted Waters: Navigating a Summer of Transitions

My Summer Internship at the Mayborn Museum

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Institutional History

- Mayborn Museum Complex brings together in one location the resources of hands-on discovery rooms and interactive natural science and cultural history galleries, including outdoor exhibits.
- The Mayborn opened in its current state in 2004.



Duties as an Intern

- Coordinating birthday parties
- Providing customer service
- Training and supervising student workers
- Performing other duties as assigned

A hand-drawn calendar for the month of August. The calendar is organized by days of the week (Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat) and dates (1-31). The word "August" is written in a decorative font at the top, accompanied by a colorful illustration of Mickey Mouse and his friends. The calendar includes handwritten notes and symbols indicating employee schedules and school events.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Handwritten notes and symbols in the calendar:

- Top right (Sat): X (no work)
- Wed 5: "Colby's last day" with a sad face symbol.
- Mon 9: "Colt ② 2-4 ↓" (down arrow)
- Mon 16: "Anna ③ 2-4 ↓" (down arrow)
- Mon 17: "Carsyn ③ 2-4 ↑" (up arrow)
- Mon 23: "Kylie ⑥ 2-4 ↓" (down arrow)
- Mon 24: "Emilie ① 2-4 ↑" (up arrow)
- Mon 30: "Cara ⑤ 2-4 ↓" (down arrow)
- Mon 31: "Kole ② 2-4 ↑" (up arrow)
- Mon 17: "> Full" (written vertically)
- Mon 24: "Full BU classes start" (written in a box)
- Mon 31: "> Full" (written vertically)
- Mon 22: "Summer students stop" (written diagonally)

Summer of Transitions

- Recent staff reorganization within my department
- Trained as a student worker
- Trained as staff
- Trained new student workers
- Supervisor goes on maternity leave
- Trained replacement on birthday party procedures
- New museum director, Charlie Walter is hired
- Dr. Caston retires and Mr. Walter begins

Birthday Parties

- Worked with birthday parties all summer in different roles
- Trained to temporarily assume coordinating duties
- Took over earlier than expected
- Trained new employee to assume coordinating duties upon my departure
- Handed it all off



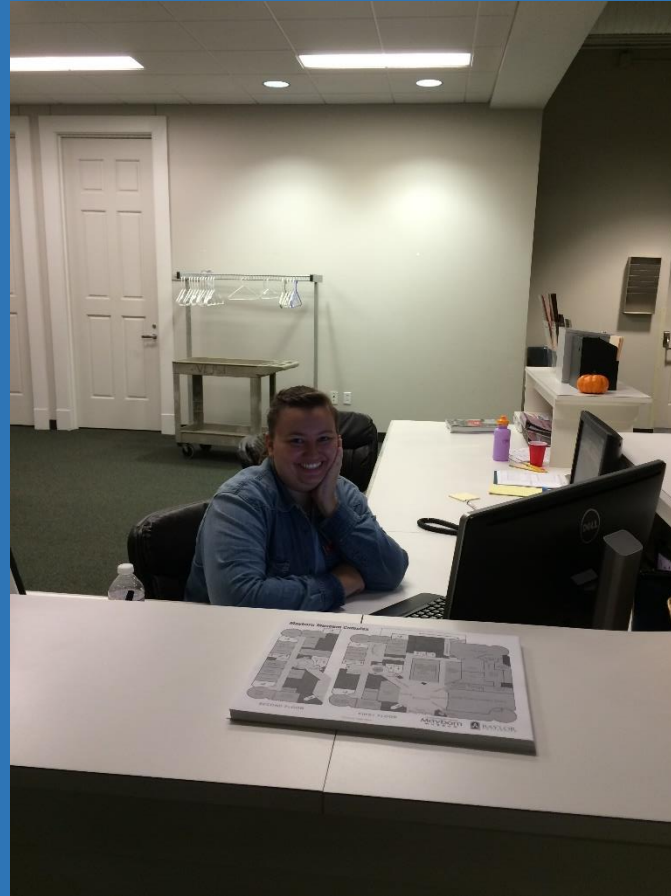
Customer Service

Mom says, “Peter I told you we have to use our big boy hands not our t-rex hands.”

Visitor asked me, “well why do you work here if you can’t even flip over a turtle over?”

Student Workers

- Assisted in training
- Prepared the weekend student worker schedules
- Enlisted assistance from student workers to field test a project















Other Duties As Assigned

- Greeting visitors on my weekly exhibit shifts
- Helping the VE Pod with summer groups
- Exhibit troubleshooting
- Keeping the museum clean
- Created birthday party scavenger hunt
- Helped with free Sunday

Can you find me?

Welcome to the Mayborn Museum scavenger hunt. Take this paper around and find each of these objects. When you find the object mark the box and have an adult take your picture next to the object. When you have found all of the objects take your scavenger hunt back to the room the birthday party is in. Kids remember to take an adult with you on this hunt! Good luck!

What I Learned

- Museums are people oriented and flexibility and diplomacy are essential.
- We are an educational institution not just for the public but for staff and student workers.
- Questioning is okay but do so respectfully.
- Teamwork is what keeps the museum going.
- I learned a lot by listening.
- Communication is key but always a challenge.
- When a situation occurs sometimes the only control we have is our own reaction.
- Transitions are a part of all successful organizations. You can resist change or you can learn from it.

“ While I am exhausted after working eight days in a row, I would not have ended my internship any other way. I feel as if I have learned so much and maybe even figured out what I want to do in a museum once I am finally in the “real world.”

Special thanks to: Drew Triplett, Kailyn Maldonado, Rebecca Tucker-Nall, Karisa Garner, Matt Wiesehan, Lesa Bush, Dr. Caston, all of our wonderful student workers and the many Mayborn Museum staff members who encouraged me throughout my internship.

Questions?