

Summer Internship Report 2017

Eliana Perozo, C'18

Hometown: Mobile, Alabama



Mayday Space
Brooklyn, New York

(Eliana is on the right)

Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.

During my time at Mayday I did a range of jobs. I was trained on how to facilitate the space for others, tasked with improving the building, expected to maintain upkeep, and my biggest project was the creation of Mayday's Radical Library.

During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?

Mayday provided an environment where I was able to make change and be apart of making a difference without ever having to partake in a "professional" lifestyle. My internship really allowed me to cultivate my own methods of giving and set my own standard of work. Through this freedom I was able to pick up where Mayday's last year interns, along with two years of previous staff members, had stopped working on the project to create a radical library for the community of Bushwick. With help from my to coworkers, we were able to see the project come into fruition and launch the library opening on my very last day working with Mayday.

Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?

Time management was a problem and having to be involved in Sewanee helped me sign up for certain tasks accordingly and not overload myself.

In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?

My team consisted of two coworkers and myself as an intern. I was actually present when the new coworkers were hired and to some extent I helped trained them. Dividing our jobs and learning together was a great teamwork skill we all fostered collectively.

How did your internship affect your career plans?

Because of this internship and the connections I was able to make in Brooklyn, I will be pursuing a future that allows me to live in Brooklyn. I will continue my work with Mayday after graduation and hope to go to grad school in the city.

In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?

To be honest most of my existence has revolved around spending time with people who have different backgrounds than me and this internship actually gave me the chance to be around people I have something in common with whether it be my traumatic childhood, our racism, or poverty, and it was so nice to have the opportunity to see other people with adversity living happy and successful lives.

Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?

Do more research on the city you are moving to before you get there. Don't be afraid to get a bike. Go outside, take chances.

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Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:

To whomever had a hand in funding my summer internship please know that because of you I not only know what I want to do with the rest of my life but I found a home and a family in Brooklyn. This opportunity is one that I would never have had the chance to take without your help. Mayday Space not only opened my eyes to a different way of living, but it also helped me understand my own life and the places I have come from. I don't know If I would have been able to come into Sewanee another year without having a place to fully fit into and because of this internship I have found that. Thank you so much.