

2017 Anthropology Summer Internship

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*Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum*

Thanks to the Department of Anthropology, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work as an intern at Dr. Sun Yat-sen Museum from Jun to late July. The internship has given me valuable insights in the operations of the museum. By observing and participating in the daily operations, I have had a glimpse into the daily life of a Museum officer. I have learnt a lot during my internship. Not only did I learn through the tremendous amount of time that need to be spent on preparing a museum event, I also have learnt more on the visiting patterns of the museum and how relative decisions are made to improve on the no. of visits.

Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum is one of the governmental museum under the operation of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD). It is located at Kom Tong Hall, a monument declared since 2010. Kom Tong Hall was once the residence of the local famous businessman Ho Kom-tong. The monument was built in 1914 and was one of the largest residential buildings constructed with reinforced concrete structure, as well as fitted concealed electrical wiring in Hong Kong.

It has been overwhelming to work inside a monument with hundreds of years of history. The working environment has been inspiring me to reevaluate my ideas on how to strike a balance between preservation and public use of places with such historic value. While I understand the importance of preservation, I also gained first hand

experience in facing the challenges we encountered in maintaining the building and organizing exhibitions in it.

My duties at the museum mainly is to assist in organizing education and public activities. It could be categorized into four main tasks.

First, my task is to prepare PowerPoint presentation based on the assigned topics. During my time at the museum, I have spent quite some time on doing research, putting together an informative and coherent presentation for my senior to review. The presentation was later put to use in one of the education programme.

Second task is rather new to me. I was assigned to work on the docent recruitment. For this task, my focus was to look for possible organizations that would give us a chance in coming across suitable docents, including but not limited to the following groups: 1. Teachers 2. Sign language users (Sign interpretation guided tours are provided at Dr Sun Yat-sen museum) 3. Students/ Faculty members from Universities. I drafted a contact list of these organizations. Besides, I also help updated some of the information on the permanent exhibition, including changes on the descriptions of the displayed artifacts and such.



*Fireboat*

And I had the experience to help at the fun day of Fireboat Alexander Gratham Exhibition Gallery. I drafted the questionnaire for feedback and future activities for the programme. I also participated in one of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary specials, the Fireboat Visit: Fireboat Alexander Grantham and Fireboat Elite in mid July. During which, I came

close to the possible difficulties before and during the event, and really understand how contingency plan is a must to be included during the planning stage.

Fun day aside, I also had to come up with ideas on lecture topics, video sharing and hand-on activities that relates to Dr Sun Yat-sen, Kom Tong Hall or Central West district in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. I was lucky to be able to get in touch with the records of the past lectures, ranging from the topics and notes to the number of participants in such events, to better prepare the materials for the upcoming lectures and exhibitions.

By doing this, I grow more familiar with the preparation work needed to execute museum programme and has assisted in the forthcoming exhibition. The museum was preparing a new exhibition with Second Historical Archives of China based on documents about Dr Sun Yat-sen and his political life at that time. I once again picked up the duty of researching for background information on the exhibits and designed a draft of the worksheet on the exhibition. This time, I have a fuller picture on an exhibition is organized, and learnt how artifacts are selected and presented.

Translation work was also a big project during my time at the museum. As we all know, multiple translation differences due to Putonghua pinyu and Cantonese Romanization are common for Chinese name during Dr Sun Yat-sen era. I was tasked to mark the differences among the description on the artifacts as well as the phamlet and catalog of the exhibition to facilitate the unification of the names, so as to unified the differences

To sum up my time at Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, it has definitely given me a clearer picture on the operations of the museum, the job as a curator and strengthen my interest in pursuing a career in the museum sector. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the welcoming and supportive colleagues I have at the museum. With their guidance and support, I have taken a lot more than I have expected from this internship with me. Last but not least, I would also like to thank the Anthropology department again in securing this internship for me. With their great support, I hope there are more of these opportunities for the student body to learn through experiencing.