

During the summer of 2019, I was fortunate to have a chance to be an intern in the Festival Office of the Leisure and Cultural Service Department. I would like to express my gratitude to the Festival Office and the Anthropology Department.

In the 220-hours internship, I worked as an assistant to the International Arts Carnival 2019. The duties could be divided into two parts: office work and outing to the performances. In the first two weeks, which was the preparation period of IAC, my intern partner and I stayed in the office to assist the general administrative work, such as preparing the name tags and guidebooks for the foreign artists. Also, helped with the transcription of the subtitles of the drama performance. Other than job related to particular performance, the most impressive and nervous duty was that, calling to various parties, including the General Consul of different countries, reporters, and people who work in the industry, for the invitation of the Opening Ceremony. We experienced the situation of being hang-up or no reply, the obstacle to deal with a great variety of accents. Though it was a tiring work, unforgettable too.

And when it comes to the start of IAC, all of us were separated to follow different performances in diverse venues. I personally assisted with four performances: The Heart of Robin Hood, which was the opening performance of the Carnival, it was a drama about the Robin Hood and Lady Marion performed by the artists from Iceland. The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favourites, a blacklight puppetry show brought by a theatre from Canada. They made the characters from the storybook alive on the stage. À Ố Làng Phố, an acrobatic show mixed with music, martial arts, dances, etc. It was an eye-catching performance about the old and traditional Vietnam. Lastly, Monsieur Croche: The Dreams of Composer Claude Debussy, a beautiful Spanish music theatre interpreting the melodies written by Claude Debussy. It was definitely a precious opportunity to work with artists from all around the world. I have learned a lot from the experience of how the backstage was liked when it came to distinct types of performances. Besides,

we also helped with the workshops cooperated with the artists which provided a space for audience to interact with them.

All in all, I gained so much from this internship. Not only about practical experience of working, but also the confidence trained to face people from different countries and ages. Nevertheless, it offered me chances to get into the behind-the-scene of an art carnival/ art festival. This experience made me more interested to know more about the organizing of events and I believed what I learned here would equip me to get into the relevant jobs. Finally, I would like to thank the Department of Anthropology for giving me a rare internship opportunity and the patient teaching of the staff from the Festival Office again.



*Photo taken with the artist and his puppet*