



Release

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National Gallery Internships Help Prepare Caymanians for Diverse Career Paths

A scheme aimed at giving young local arts enthusiasts the opportunity to learn more about working in the arts has helped Caymanian students pursue careers in a broad range of arts and creative sectors over the past ten years.

The Deutsche Bank National Gallery Internship scheme celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, with the graduation of its tenth intern Elena Fear last month. Former Interns also include Josephine Shibli, Jaime Doak, Letitia Davis-Eden, Ariana Eden, Anne-Marie Gray, Stephen Nickelson, Kerri-Anne Chisholm, Latrese Haylock and Joe Roberts.

To mark its anniversary, the NGCI got in touch with a number of past interns to see where they are now. Their experiences on the scheme have helped them undertake further arts-related studies and embark on careers in Cayman, the USA and the UK in fine art, graphic design, make-up artistry, non-profit administration, teaching and illustration.

The second ever intern, **Jaime Doak** (2004-2005), moved to Los Angeles after completing her internship to study a degree in Graphic Design at the Art Institute of California. Having created the logo for The Sustainable Quality Awards for the City of Santa Monica during her studies, Jaime graduated and began to freelance in Los Angeles. She since decided to move back home and she now works as a graphic designer for the DMS Organization.

After completing her internship, **Letitia David-Eden** (2005-2006) became the NGCI's Administrative Assistant. During her three years with the Gallery she continued to pursue her creative passion –

make-up artistry – attending US-based training programmes and regional fashion shows to gain experience. In 2009, Letitia left Cayman to pursue an internship in this field in New York. She has since returned and now works as a successful make-up artist in the Cayman Islands.

Having decided to move to study in the UK, **Anne Marie Gray** (2007 – 2008) graduated from Norwich University of the Arts in 2012. She returned to the Cayman Islands and worked at the Lighthouse School to further her experience in working with children with special needs. During this time she developed and ran the first ever Cayman Islands Down Syndrome Day. She has since moved back to the UK to pursue a Masters in Art Psychotherapy from the University of Roehampton. She plans to return to Cayman upon graduation.

Kerri-Anne Chisholm (2009-2010) spent her internship working on specific exhibitions, which inspired her to pursue a career as an artist. Upon completing her internship, she undertook a degree in fine art in the UK, which she successfully completed. She now intends to use her experience and knowledge as a foundation to pursue a career as a curator. She is also keen on returning to Cayman to help raise awareness of career options in the arts amongst high school students and graduates.

After graduating as an intern from the NGCI, **Latrese Haylock** (2010-2011) decided to use her new skills to pursue a career in non-profit administration and programming. She currently works at the Cayman Islands Red Cross as their Programme Support Officer.

Although before starting his internship he didn't have any specific aspirations to pursue a career in the arts, **Joe Roberts** (2011-2012) has just completed the first year of his studies for a Bachelor of Arts degree at St. John's College in Annapolis, USA, with a double major in history of mathematics and science/philosophy and minors in classical studies and comparative literature. His time at the NGCI has pushed him towards a career in public service, and his aspiration is to go into teaching at a tertiary level.

Over the course of their year-long internship, Deutsche Bank NGCI interns have the unique opportunity to work with exhibition curators and education facilitators on a variety of projects. The role covers numerous aspects of gallery and museum work including education, collections management, exhibition design, fundraising, public relations, membership, volunteer services and administration.

Former intern Kerri-Anne said: “This internship is the most valuable experience you can have in understanding how the world of art operates. It is important to wear your enthusiasm for art on your sleeve, and let your passion show. If you are interested in the arts, I can recommend the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands and Deutsche Bank as establishments in which your passion will be stirred and propelled.”

Natalie Urquhart, Director of the NGCI, commented: “It has been fascinating talking to past interns and seeing how their experience at the Gallery has impacted their careers. It’s encouraging that it has had a positive impact on them all, and the fact that they are taking their experiences to other parts of the globe and bringing back knowledge and expertise to Cayman is really exciting.”

Janet Hislop, Chief Country Officer of Deutsche Bank (Cayman) Limited, added: “What really comes across from past interns is their love of the arts and Cayman, so to be able to support the Gallery in nurturing that enthusiasm is fantastic. It is a pleasure to see not only how the scheme has benefited young Caymanian artists over the past ten years, but also how it continues to play such an important role in opening up exciting opportunities for local people. It underlines just how special Deutsche Bank’s long-term relationship with the Gallery is.”

Ends.