



Service Learning Project

Artists Talk on Art

ATOA

By Jason Palmeri

Opening Comments

When I first read through the course syllabus and saw that we were required to do volunteer work, I got a little nervous. Firstly, I live in New Hampshire, and there are basically no volunteer options near me, and secondly I am an Introvert, so going around and talking to people is not my forte. I was lucky enough to find an online volunteering opportunity at Artists Talk on Art as their webmaster.

My weeks volunteering at AToA have been fun and exciting, and they wanted me to stay as their webmaster even after the semester.



Entry 1 Discussion

I've never volunteered before, and trying to find a local place to volunteer at was difficult. I searched online for remote opportunities and stumbled upon volunteermatch.org, which had a plethora of online volunteering opportunities for peoples of all skills. From here I searched for more computer focused roles, specifically web development/design roles. After signing up at many organizations, I received a reply back from Douglas Sheer, the head of Artists Talk on Art (AToA). We discussed many things during our first phone call, and right away he was impressed with the skills I could bring to AToA's web presence. Douglas was very knowledgeable about the organization and its mission, and I was impressed with his passion for the arts and his dedication to supporting emerging artists. After our initial phone call I was in as a volunteer for AToA, and I couldn't wait to get started.



Douglas Sheer

WEBSITE

Jason Palmeri

Entry 2 Discussion: Objective One



We look at many topics during the Kirkpatrick Signature Series, from analyzing the importance of justice, dissent, and equality to assessing our impact on our communities through engaged citizenship. The first Objective I hoped to display during my volunteer work at Artists Talk on Art was Analyzing the importance of justice, dissent, and equality to the functioning of a republican government.

By volunteering at AToA, I wanted to actively work towards creating a more just and equal space within the art world. AToA aims to provide a platform for emerging artists, many of whom come from marginalized communities.

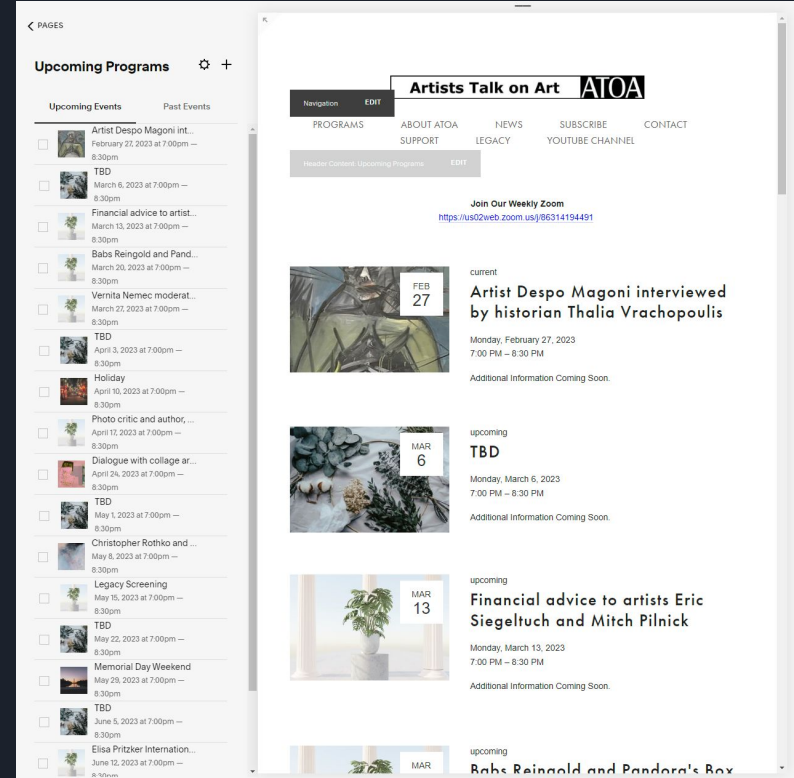
Entry 2 Discussion: Objective Two

Volunteering at Artists Talk on Art relates to many of the objectives mentioned in the syllabus. For the second objective I wanted to display the importance of the Constitution and the structure of the government it creates for individual rights. As a volunteer of AToA, I worked to ensure that artists rights are protected and upheld. AToA aims to provide a platform for artists to express themselves freely and without fear of censorship. This aligns with the principles of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to free speech and freedom of expression.



Volunteer Work to Date

When I first talked to Douglas about the work I would be doing at Artists Talk on Art, he described it as a weekly “check-in”. Since the First week I have been on a schedule to upload new event details, typically before tuesday morning. AToA hosts all their events on Mondays, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM, and after these events they send out a newsletter detailing the next weeks monday night event, and It is my job to post this next event on the website. So for the past few weeks, every monday night, I look out for the newsletter and get to work uploading it to the web. My other duties have included cleaning up the website, adjusting links, fixing bugs, and adding new content to the menu bars, and static pages. AToA uses Squarespace to host their website, and while it was new to me, I quickly picked it up, and have been having a great time using it as a content management system.





Citations

Sheer, D. (1974). *Artists Talk on Art Logo*. Artists Talk on Art. Retrieved February 24, 2023, from <https://www.atoanyc.org/>.

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