



Service Learning Project Report

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Entry 1: “Selection of the Service Learning Project”

For the first two weeks of the course, I was worried I wouldn't find any place to volunteer. There aren't any opportunities available to me locally, so I started searching on a website for online volunteer opportunities: volunteermatch.org.

Through my search, I applied to many places, but only two got back to me, and the one that had my interest was Artists Talk on Art, or ATOA. I chose Artists Talk on Art as the place I wanted to volunteer for because it is an organization that aligns with my interests and passions. I have always been fascinated by the intersection of technology and art. I believe that art has the power to inspire, educate and bring people together. I am eager to contribute my skills and expertise to an organization that promotes and supports the arts and artists. The opportunity to work with ATOA also aligns with my professional goals. As a web developer, I constantly seek new and innovative ways to use technology to create meaningful and impactful user experiences. I believe that the work ATOA will have me do will help showcase and improve my skills. I was given a rundown of some of the work that they wanted to have done. They seem to use a Content Management System to host their website, Squarespace, an unfamiliar program. Still, I was told it was similar to WordPress, which is something I am familiar with, so I look forward to learning another platform, and I hope to be useful for ATOA. Additionally, my talk with the program director, Douglas Sheer, further solidified my desire to volunteer with ATOA. 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. He was also very welcoming and open to discussing potential opportunities for me to get involved with the organization. I felt like my skills and interests would be a great fit for the organization, and I am excited to start working with Douglas and the rest of the team at ATOA.

In conclusion, my decision to volunteer at ATOA is based on my personal and professional interests and my belief that this organization is making a meaningful impact in the art world. I am excited about the opportunity to use my skills and expertise in computer science and web development to support the mission of ATOA and to work with the dedicated and passionate team of individuals at the organization.

Entry 2: “Service Learning Project Objectives”

Volunteering is an important aspect of today's society because it not only benefits individuals by providing them with opportunities to gain new skills and experiences but also helps strengthen and improve the community by addressing social issues and promoting civic engagement. While I have never volunteered before, it is apparent in "Bowling alone" by Robert Putnam that "Giving time and money to help others is a long and distinguished tradition in American society. Philanthropy and volunteering are roughly twice as common among Americans as other citizens of other countries." (Putnam, 2000).

During the Kirkpatrick Signature Series, we look at many topics, from analyzing the importance of justice, dissent, and equality to assessing our impact on our communities through engaged citizenship. Volunteering at Artists Talk on Art relates to at least two of the objectives mentioned in the syllabus, if not more. Volunteering at Artists Talk on Art relates to the first course objective of analyzing the importance of justice, dissent, and equality to the functioning of a republican government. The art world is not always a fair and equal space, with certain voices and perspectives often marginalized. By volunteering at Artists Talk on Art, I aim to actively work towards creating a more just and equal space within the art world. The organization aims to provide a platform for emerging artists, many of whom come from marginalized communities, to showcase their work and have their voices heard. This aligns

with the value of justice as it aims to provide equal opportunities for all artists, regardless of their background.

Additionally, the organization encourages dissent and critical thinking through its programming, which promotes the importance of diverse perspectives and ideas in shaping the art world. Secondly, it relates to the second course objective of finding the importance of the Constitution and the structure of the government it creates to preserve the rights of individuals. As a volunteer at Artists Talk on Art, I will be working to ensure that artists' rights are protected and upheld. The organization 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. Additionally, by supporting emerging artists and providing them with opportunities to showcase their work, Artists Talk on Art contributes to preserving individual rights by ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all individuals are heard and represented. Furthermore, volunteering at Artists Talk on Art will allow me to reflect on the relevance of these values to my work and personal life.

VolunteeringVolunteering at Artists Talk on Art will make me more aware of the importance of diversity and inclusion in all aspects of my life and teach me the importance of using my skills and resources to support the community around me. Keeley talks about Human Capital in "Human Capital: How what you know shapes your life," stating that it is "the knowledge, skills, competencies, and attributes that allow people to contribute to their personal and social well-being" (Keeley, 2007). Additionally, I hope this opportunity will help me learn more about the art world and the various challenges that artists face, which will allow me to understand better and appreciate the power of art to express dissent and promote social change.

In conclusion, volunteering at Artists Talk on Art relates to many course objectives listed in the syllabus, not just the ones I discussed in this entry. I am excited about this opportunity to be a part of the

team at Artists Talk on Art, and I look forward to applying what I learn in this course and what I learn at Artists Talk on Art in my everyday life.

Keeley, B. (2007). *Human capital: How what you know shapes your life*. OECD.

Putnam, R. (2000). Chapter 7: Altruism, Volunteering, and Philanthropy. In *Bowling alone* (pp. 124–124). essay, Simon & Schuster.

Entry 3: “Experiences on the Project” #1

This week I started my volunteering work at Artists Talk on Art. I was given a warm welcome from the team, and I had the opportunity to learn about some of the people I would be working with closely. I also met and talked to some of the other volunteers, which was nice.

Volunteering at Artists Talk on Art (ATOA) has been an enlightening experience. I was given a giant list of smaller tasks during my first week. Although daunting initially, I was determined to make the most of my time at ATOA and tackle the tasks head-on. My tasks mainly revolved around updating the ATOA website using Squarespace, a website-building platform I needed to familiarize myself with. Despite my initial hesitation, I was eager to learn and jumped right in. I spent a few hours reading up on Squarespace, watching videos, and playing around with the interface to get a feel for how it worked. With each small change I made, I felt more confident navigating the platform.

Squarespace was similar to WordPress, another content management system allowing users to create websites using templates and blocks, so it wasn't as challenging as I expected. However, Squarespace has more built-in features than WordPress, which has an entire library of plugins to help create unique sites. After having learned how to use Squarespace, I took the time to organize myself and put all of my tasks into a single document, so I could better keep track of what I did and what I needed to

do. Finally, it was time to get started, so I started at the top of the list, which was to add events to the calendar. I was given a list of events from February to June, so I input those into the calendar. While inputting, I realized it was making the homepage unpleasant, just infinitely making the page larger to fit all the calendar items. I took the initiative to create a new homepage. By adding categories to the events, I could hide events that weren't ready to be shown on the homepage, essentially cleaning it up. After I finished cleaning up the homepage and adding the new events, I fixed a few spacing issues that the previous webmaster left and made adjustments to the interns & volunteering section, which highlights current members who are volunteering, adding my name to the bottom under Website. After doing all of the tweakings, some of my final tasks were to create new pages. I started with the Contact page and was told I could do whatever I wanted, design-wise, so I kept the same style as the other pages and made a Contact page with a form, map, and address. Next, I was tasked with creating some future pages, a few under their "Legacy" dropdown and a "News" page. Looking back at the Website, I realized that the navigation could have been clearer with many items, so I made some suggestions on things we could improve about the Website, and I am awaiting a reply to see if they would like these changes to be made.

Throughout my first week at ATOA, I completed all of the tasks on the list and a few more. I felt a sense of accomplishment knowing I was meaningfully contributing to the organization. In addition to the satisfaction of completing the tasks, I gained valuable technical skills and knowledge about using Squarespace. The experience of volunteering at Artists Talk on Art has been enriching and has helped me grow both professionally and personally. I really feel like my "Human Capital" came in handy this week and that my "knowledge, skills, competencies, and attributes" allowed me to contribute to ATOA's "personal and social well-being" (Keeley, 2007). I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a dynamic and innovative organization. The friendly and supportive atmosphere has allowed me to feel

comfortable and confident in my role, and I am eager to see what other challenges and opportunities lie ahead in my time at ATOA.

In conclusion, my first week at Artists Talk on Art has been a thrilling and educational experience. While intimidating at first, the giant list of small tasks provided me with the opportunity to learn and grow in a supportive and inclusive environment. Week 3's reading of "I, Pencil" came to mind after this week, and I really feel the message that even though we are all a little different, we can come together to do something great through the division of labor. (Read, 2015) . I am excited to continue my journey at ATOA and see how I can further contribute to the organization and the art community.

Keeley, B. (2007). *Human capital: How what you know shapes your life*. OECD.

Read, L. E. (2015, March 3). *I, pencil by Leonard E. Read: Leonard E. Read*. FEE Freeman Article.

Retrieved January 21, 2023, from <https://fee.org/resources/i-pencil/>

Entry 4: "Experiences on the Project" #2

Volunteering at Artists Talk on Art for the second week has been a unique and enriching experience. During the week, I had a meeting with some of the other volunteers and people who manage the organization. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and I felt like I was part of a family right from the start.

Meeting the group of volunteers made me think of "I, Pencil" from week 3's reading. The group of volunteers was diverse, with some older individuals and some college students like myself. Despite our different ages and backgrounds, we all shared a common passion for art and a desire to make a difference in our communities, similar to "I, Pencil" 's message. It was immediately evident from our interactions and the energy on the call. During the meeting, I got to meet everyone, and it was

fascinating to hear about their experiences and perspectives on art. Some of the older volunteers had been involved with the organization for many years and had a wealth of knowledge and insignia to share. On the other hand, the college students brought a fresh perspective and enthusiasm to the group, which was invigorating. One of my main tasks for the week was to create an event page for their upcoming event for Black History Month. Being given the opportunity to develop their event page for Black History Month really made me think about Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech from week 2. It's incredible how things have changed since that speech was given. "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'" (King, 1963). I was thrilled to take on this challenge and felt honored to be a part of such an important and meaningful event. I got in contact with Dani Bodea, who was sort of the coordinator of events and requested the information for the event. She was quick to reply with the necessary images and text for the event page, along with the zoom link for the event and the time it would be held. After I had all the information that I needed, I started working on creating the event page, ensuring that all the necessary information was included. Once I finished working on the event page, I sent it up to Dani and Douglas to make sure everything was correct, something I do on a daily basis at my job. The more people who look at it, the better chance there are no spelling mistakes or anything. Overall, volunteering at Artists Talk on Art this week was a wonderful experience. I got to meet a great group of people, learn about art, and contribute to a worthy cause. I am already looking forward to my next opportunity and am grateful for the chance to be a part of this organization.

In conclusion, volunteering has been a rewarding and enriching experience, and I would highly recommend it to anyone looking to make a difference in their community while learning new skills and making new friends.

King, M. L. (1963, August 23). *Martin Luther King I have a dream speech - american rhetoric*.

American Rhetoric. Retrieved January 21, 2023, from

<https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkhaveadream.htm>

Read, L. E. (2015, March 3). *I, pencil by Leonard E. Read: Leonard E. Read*. FEE Freeman Article.

Retrieved January 21, 2023, from <https://fee.org/resources/i-pencil/>

Entry 5: “Experiences on the Project” #3

This week was the 3rd week I had the privilege of volunteering at Artists Talk on Art. Through my weeks of volunteering, I feel I have a better grasp on what AToA is, and it has been an interesting journey so far, and I can not wait to see what happens in the coming weeks.

One of my main responsibilities as a volunteer is to help with their website. This is where they post events, and with my arrival hope to have a news page and some more features. This week I was involved in updating the events page and ensuring that all the information was accurate and up-to-date. During this third week, I was tasked with importing new events to the website. This involved reaching out to the volunteer that gets the information from the organizers to gather details about the upcoming events. With the new information, I was able to update the website to reflect this information, and I was happy to contribute to the promotion of these events and help get the word out to the community. As I was working on updating the website, I was eagerly awaiting the delivery of a package from the previous website volunteer. This package is supposed to contain important information about the website and its setup, as well as new information and pages, and I was looking forward to learning more about it. Unfortunately, the package was delayed, and I had to wait a little while longer to receive it. Despite this setback, I was still able to complete my tasks for the week, and I was satisfied with the progress that I had made so far. The third week of volunteering at AtoA was relatively light, and there wasn't too much

work to do. This gave me the opportunity to sit in on some of the discussions and listen to the artists as they talked about their work and their approach to art, "Those who become experts, such as coaches, recognize things others don't" (Cdaniel, 2018). I was struck by the passion and dedication of these artists and how they were using their work to make a positive impact on the world. I was also impressed by the depth of knowledge and expertise of the attendees, and I was inspired by the many insightful discussions that took place during the event.

In conclusion, volunteering at Artists Talk on Art was a rewarding and enriching experience. Despite some setbacks in the delayed package, I was still able to make a meaningful contribution to the event and learn a lot from the art world. I can't help but think of "I, Pencil" again, as it truly represents what I have been doing for the last few weeks. I have become a part of a process of individuals coming together to create and host amazing events. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this community, and I look forward to continuing my volunteer work for AToA in the future.

Cdaniel, cdaniel. (2018, August 2). *When in doubt-and there's always doubt-be your best - santa clara law* -. Santa Clara Law. Retrieved February 3, 2023, from

<https://law.scu.edu/sports-law/when-in-doubt-and-theres-always-doubt-be-your-best/>

Read, L. E. (2015, March 3). *I, pencil by Leonard E. Read: Leonard E. Read*. FEE Freeman Article.

Retrieved January 21, 2023, from <https://fee.org/resources/i-pencil/>

Entry 6: "Experiences on the Project" #4

Entry 7: "Experiences on the Project" #5

Entry 8: "Experiences on the Project" #6

Entry 9: "Experiences on the Project" #7

Entry 10: "Conclusions"

1. The Service Learning Project helped me better understand the role that engaged citizenship has in affecting positive change in American society."
2. I was initially reluctant to participate in the Service Learning Project assignment.
3. Overall, I found the Service Learning Project assignment was a rewarding experience.