New York City Trip Proposal

University of Texas at Austin
College of Fine Arts
Department of Art and Art History
2013 Undergraduate Professional Development Travel Initiative
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Undergraduate Professional Development Travel Initiative 2013  
Proposal for research travel to New York, NY

We, [Name] and [Name], propose to travel to New York City during the dates of March 9-15, 2013, through the College of Fine Arts Undergraduate Professional Development Travel Initiative. [Name] is a junior at the Department of Art and Art History and in the process of obtaining her BA in Studio Art with a minor in Italian. [Name] is also a junior, currently working on obtaining her BFA in Studio Art with a minor in Business. While both of us are engrossed in producing art, we have a strong interest in continuing our education to the graduate level and pursuing a career in arts administration. We would like to visit galleries in New York and talk with the professionals handling the administrative aspects of art and to gain insight for future opportunities in the field.

[Name] main interests lie in clarifying the relationship between gallery and artist, and better understanding the logistics of administering a gallery that operates in an international landscape. As an artist who hopes to further her painting career in graduate school, [Name] is particularly interested in the gallery-artist relationship. The process of how an artist participates in the dialogue of representation is extremely important to her fulfillment of a career involved in creating art. We believe that it is critical for us to understand both the artists' motives and logic for making their way in such an art-filled city like New York City, as well as the process of being a successful gallery owner.

Having both participated in the Learning Tuscany study abroad program offered through the University of Texas, we have grown as lifelong colleagues, but have also developed into motivated, driven students craving for even more enriching experiences. Our goal from now until graduation is to gain the knowledge of what it takes to be successful in the art world. Because we are both extremely interested in the relationship between art administration and the production of art, we feel that it is essential that we travel together as a team. The process of managing a gallery and showcasing art coincide with one another; neither the gallery owner nor the artist can function without the other. By traveling as a team, our respective knowledge from both realms can intertwine, which will only strengthen what we take away from our experience. New York City is our desired location because it is not only the home to the largest concentration of art galleries, museums, and auction houses, but it is also one of the most inspiring places to study contemporary art and partake in this global art market.

We have confirmed appointments with several individuals who are involved in the arts in New York City. Our first contact, [Name], is the founder of an arts organization called [Name], with which [Name] currently has an internship. He has consented to being our host sponsor and will discuss the facilitation of his organization as well as the professional opportunities within the organization. Secondly, we have plans to meet with an alumnus from the University of Texas, [Name], an art history graduate who works at [Name] Gallery. She would like to show us around the gallery and discuss her knowledge regarding her work in gallery administration. Thirdly, we have confirmed a visit with another recent alumnus from the University of Texas, [Name], Kelly obtained her BA in History with a minor in Art History, and now holds a position at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. She offered to meet
with us to relay her experiences in obtaining this job, and could possibly introduce us to some of
the staff at the MoMa. [REDACTED], an artist residing in Austin, has contacted her art dealer,
[REDACTED] in New York, as well as her close artist colleague, [REDACTED] of Brooklyn, who
will potentially schedule a time to meet with us during our visit. Because of the devastation
caused by Hurricane Sandy, we are still waiting to hear back from University of Texas alumnus
[REDACTED] who is an artist residing in Brooklyn and former Austin resident [REDACTED]
who is also an artist working in Brooklyn. Both have been successful in obtaining representation
at acclaimed galleries around New York, and we would like the chance interview them about
their experiences in gaining gallery representation. If we receive notice from these two contacts,
we will follow up with a revised agenda for our proposed trip.

In addition to these personal visits, we have definite arrangements to tour the MFA
programs offered at Sotheby’s, Columbia University, and Hunter College. Also, On March 10th,
we plan on attending the SCOPE Art Fair, which features contemporary work from emerging and
young-career artists. We will be excited to observe the interaction between art buyers and art
auctioneers during this fair, and hope to become enlightened on current epoch of gallery-worthy
art. Lastly, we are in hopes of going to the Metropolitan Museum of Art as well as the Museum
of Modern Art on our last day to solidify a monumental trip in New York.

This opportunity is essential for us to understand the transition from an academic career
into a professional career. However, it is crucial that we go junior year rather than senior year
because we need this foundation to clarify the nature of our paths that remain unfinished in
undergraduate school. We are both interested in graduate schools, but feel the need to explore the
different types of graduate programs. This will provide us with a clearer understanding of the
additional requirements needed from our respective undergraduate careers. Visiting New York
well in advanced of graduation would provide us with the opportunity to finish our Bachelor
degrees on a strong note. Also, we would like to open up the chance of forming potential
connections that could lead to internships in our post-undergraduate futures. Furthermore, if we
were to be selected to partake on such an acclaimed opportunity, we would be able to facilitate
current undergraduate students at the University of Texas during the spring of our junior year and
all of our senior year. With the opportunity of being able to network and maneuver through the
art scene in New York, we will be able to bring back so much knowledge to UT and the city of
Austin. This chance could not only generate even more desire of being successful art affiliates in
any society, but it could allow us a once in a lifetime chance that will truly impact our future.

Ultimately, by encountering artists and gallery owners/dealers, we will have a better grasp
on what it takes to effectively become successful within the art world. Because we both want to
end up in New York City post graduation, we feel that it is vital to begin forming relationships
with others involved in the art world. In our desire to understand the interconnected realms of
how art is successfully produced and showcased, we feel that our combined efforts will be
worthwhile to not only ourselves, but to fellow peers and future students of UT.