

Children's Museum, Canadian Museum of Civilization



I spent this summer working as an intern at Canadian Children's Museum (CCM) at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) learning a lot about museology and archives, and came out with a number of great experiences that will help me in my future career as a public historian. As an intern at the CCM, I had a number of different duties and responsibilities. The first thing I did was spend two weeks working with one of the CMC's archivists and catalogue unprocessed CCM documents. The boxes that I processed contained documents relating to previous permanent and temporary exhibits that the CCM had hosted which was interesting because I quickly became familiar with the everyday operations of the CCM and became especially familiar with the CCM's past exhibitions.

One of my main duties during my internship with the CCM was to select and research 12 artifacts in the CCM's collection to be showed online as an artifact of the month feature. I looked at various museum websites and decided what worked, and most importantly, what did not work when it came to highlighting artifacts in an online feature and outlined to my supervisor my vision for the online initiative. For this project I spent a lot of time in the CCM's collection storage, browsing through their artifacts to select twelve that I thought represented a wide variety of cultures and people. I researched the artifacts using online resources and the CMC's library, and wrote a report on each of them, and then arranged for pictures to be taken of them that will be featured on the CCM's website.

Another project that I was given was to inventory 1 room of the interpretive collection. The interpretive collection is a hands-on collection that is used by educators and programmers to teach children about the artifacts and people who used them. When I had completed the inventory, I digitized all the paper copies and printed out a copy of the newly digitized sheets and placed them into a binder that people could read when they look for an object.

In addition to my main duties, I assisted my supervisor in many of her daily duties as curator. Some of these things included attending various departmental meetings (on budget, planning, policies, etc.), collecting and packaging items from the collection to be sent to an artist who makes display cases for the museum using artifacts from the collection, attending an exhibit installation, and helping my supervisor shop for props to be used in the CCM.