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Arts Scholar Fourth-Year Award Application

### **Dramaturgy and Community Engagement at a Professional Theatre**

In my past three years as a drama student at UVA, I have tried my hand at various positions on and behind the stage. I've grown to understand myself as an interdisciplinary and illimitable artist, and am now on the quest to figure out what that might look for me as I will soon be embarking on my next chapter of life. For the past year, I have been very interested in dramaturgical work, as it is a broadly-defined practice that encompasses many aspects of theatre that I enjoy – directing, writing, public programming, etc. Dramaturgs are involved in playwrighting through researching, adapting, interpreting, and editing scripts, they are involved with directing by acting as research and playwright consultants, and they also help theatre companies apply societal context to their chosen seasons, which I believe is a necessary component of all contemporary theatrical work. By having theatres be invested in their community, companies will keep their communities invested in the theatre.

Since dramaturgy and community engagement encompass most of my many interests, I am planning to eventually go to graduate school for dramaturgy-related studies – after I am able to get some more work experience. I intend on working in a dramaturgy or community engagement-related internship this summer, so that I can gain real-world experience with dramaturgical work in the professional world, and hope to use funding from the Miller Arts Scholars to support this endeavor

I am currently in the process of applying to full-time (40+ hours per week) internships located in various cities across the United States. Since many theatres do not have a dramaturgy-specific internship available, there are three types of dramaturgy-related internships that I am applying for: Literary Intern, Community Engagement Intern, and Education Intern. Every theatre defines these positions differently, but each position is similar in that it encompasses primarily dramaturgical elements.

As a Literary Intern at most theatres, I would be reading and evaluating scripts, facilitating play readings and play reviews, compiling dramatic research, and assisting in the administrative aspects of the theatre's literary department. As a Community Engagement Intern, I would be facilitating community outreach-related workshops, helping to link the theatre's work to their local community, and developing season-specific engagement projects. As an Education Intern, I would be either directly teaching or working in an administrative position – working with school programs, facilitating outreach to youth, and helping facilitate the theatre's educational events. As a general theatre artist, I believe that any of these positions will benefit whatever work I choose to do – whether it be directing, writing, acting, teaching, or directly working as a dramaturg.

I am applying for funding from the Miller Arts Scholars because almost all of the internships I am applying to are unpaid, and of the few that are paid, the pay is not nearly enough to live off of for two months in a large metropolitan area. The internships I am currently applying to are located in Chicago, New York, D.C., Seattle, Boston, San Diego, and San Francisco. I am applying for the maximum award amount of \$3,000 because no matter what city I end up working in, the costs of living and working will likely exceed this amount. By not having to

worry about paying out of pocket for food and rent, I can focus on the work that I will be doing and immerse myself in the theatre of whatever city I end up in.

### Timeline

Spring 2019:

- Apply for internships:
  - o I have already applied for the Education Programs Administration Internship at Arena Stage and the Drama School Internship at Seattle Children’s Theatre.
  - o I am planning to apply for internships at La Jolla Playhouse, Manhattan Theatre Club, Signature Theatre (NYC), The Goodman Theatre, Victory Garden Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, San Francisco Playhouse, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, and American Conservatory Theatre.

Summer 2019:

- Work as an intern for approximately two months (June-August)

Fall 2019:

- Bring dramaturgical experience back to UVA and Charlottesville. Embed it in my work as a student dramaturg, director, writer, actor, and as President of the Virginia Players.

Spring 2020:

- Present at the Arts Scholar Award Outcome Presentations.

### Budget\*

Expenses	Details	Amount
Housing	Approximate cost of rent in Manhattan for eight weeks.	\$2,000
Meals	\$100 a week, for eight weeks, for all meals.	\$800
Local transportation	\$20 per week for NYC Transit MetroCard.	\$160
Travel to/from destination	The lower price represents a train ticket to D.C., the highest price represents the average cost of a plane to the West Coast.	\$40-300
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,000-3,300**a</b>

\*Since my options are so varied, the budget is based on two months of living expenses in Manhattan – one of the more expensive cities to live in.

\*\*I plan to cover the costs exceeding the award amount with my personal savings that I have accrued from working part-time during the school year.