

I participated in a variety of projects and activities this semester at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. In many ways, my contribution has been in smaller, less noticeable ways; yet, this has been an interesting lesson for me in the world of museums. Much of what I completed this summer involved ongoing tasks, such as database entry, research, and exhibit assistance. In this sense, I did not complete these tasks at the Kelsey. The researchers I helped are still conducting work and the exhibits I handled objects for have not opened yet. Realizing this has changed how I think about museum work. I have come to see that it is a very fluid institution, with projects that often intertwine and are revisited over and over again. Previously, it was easier to consider museum work as set of exhibits following one after the other, start to finish. Now I see that the behind-the-scenes work is usually jumping between focuses that require work from every position in the institution.

However, there are some things I completed that I believe have made a difference in the Kelsey. Under Sebastian's guidance, I organized and complete a project involving the museum's collection of marble funerary inscriptions. The majority of this large collection has remained untouched in storage since the new wing opened about ten years ago. Through research, organization, and measurement, I created a plan to reorder and distribute the collection in a more comprehensive and accessible design. I was able to begin moving some of the inscriptions, but have largely left the completed plan as an endeavor for future interns. I believe this work will continue to help the collections team, as well as future researchers, by making the inscriptions easier to access.

Working with Sebastian and collections management at the Kelsey this summer - though challenged my perceptions - has reinforced my enjoyment of museum work. I believe I would greatly enjoy continuing work with collections in the future and look forward to how this experience with shape my professional decisions to come.