

Evan Binkley

Activities Report - Freer|Sackler Public Programs and Curatorial Internship
Summer 2017

May-June

Public Programs Department

- Attended and took notes for several meetings within the Public and Scholarly Engagement Department regarding this summer's Smithsonian Folklife Festival and the October 2017 reopening celebration for the museum
- Researched traditional Asian board games and contacted teachers who could possibly help teach these games to the public during the reopening celebration
- Researched and contacted a number of potential candidates to serve as storytellers for three Sunday performances during the reopening weekend
- Began to develop and plan a registered family workshop that will be offered twice in November 2017
 - Met with Freer|Sackler staff members to discuss objectives, background information, and the creation of a lesson plan for each workshop
 - Worked to develop a list of outside partners and activities for the family workshop
 - Collaborated with other interns and staff members to determine the timing, target audience size, and space required for the workshop
- Wrote a family activity card guide for a 4th century Parthian period spouted vessel with a lynx protome in relationship to the Freer's reopening programs
 - Researched the object using the Freer|Sackler's Ancient Near Eastern Art Collection database
 - Adapted the object's description to fit the appropriate tone and audience for the event
- Created and advocated for family workshop programming related to an upcoming exhibition on ancient Chinese bronze bells
- Designed and coordinated family workshop and open studio events related to exhibitions on:
 - 11th century Japanese Buddhist sutras
 - 17th century Japanese ceramics
 - 7th century BCE Chinese bronze bells
 - 5th century BCE Chinese bronze vessels
- Researched and consulted a number of potential external partners related to each workshop and open studio
- Created programming related to a Diwali bookmaking activity workshop.

- Created children's resource page with object descriptions for two permanent collection objects related to an upcoming exhibition:
 - 2nd century stone frieze depicting scenes from the Life of the Buddha
 - 11th century wood Kamakura period Guardian figure
- Assisted in interviewing 28 potential storytelling candidates for the Freer|Sackler Reopening Weekend Event
 - Personally interviewed 13 storytellers, typed up evaluation reports, and provided input leading to the eventual selection of a storyteller
- Input months of event attendance tracking information into EDGE computing tracking system
 - Created an instructional template for EDGE attendance computing for use by future interns

Curatorial Department

- Discussed a number of possible projects related to the Galleries' permanent Japanese woodblock print collection with the Senior Curator of Japanese art
- Researched the Freer|Sackler collection of 4,000 Japanese prints, focusing on a period of dramatic change in production and style between 1870 and 1930
 - Utilized the Freer|Sackler online collection, TMS database, and a number of other sources

July-August

Public Programs Department

- Wrote the introduction text for a children's resource page with interactive activities for an exhibition entitled "Encountering the Buddha"
- Facilitated a curator-led lecture featuring a master Cambodian ceramic artist
 - Wrote paragraph biographies for the presenters and artists involved
 - Assisted with setup, wayfinding, and the logistics of the lecture and reception
- Wrote a program proposal for a family workshop centered around an exhibition on Ikats, ornately decorated fabrics made using a technique in which threads are tie-dyed before weaving
- Filled in for the Freer Sackler film curator for three film screenings over two weekends at the Warner Brothers Theater in the National Museum of American History
 - Hung up flyers, coordinated with museum ushers, notified the museum projectionist of potential issues, and kept track of attendance using a clicker.
- Developed open studio activities for a Buddhist Journeys day related to the upcoming *Encountering the Buddha* exhibit

- Continued to type up notes for weekly implementation team meetings regarding the reopening festival
- Compiled a list of 30 potential storytellers for the Buddhist Journeys day and personally interviewed the top candidates after receiving feedback from my supervisors
- Continued to retrieve information from The Museum System (TMS) for various exhibition-related programming
 - Created a 'Getting Started Guide' for TMS for use by future interns
- Took notes for a planning and logistics meeting for the reopening festival with Folklife staff members
- Created an Onboarding Guide for future incoming interns
- Wrote the master content guide submission for a Diwali bookmaking family workshop
 - Collaborated with a partner outside artist to best develop activity description

Curatorial Department

- Further researched the woodblock prints of Kobayashi Kiyochika using the Freer|Sackler online collection, The Museum System (TMS) database, and an archived exhibition binder from an exhibition from 2004 at the Freer|Sackler.
- Wrote a 4-page entry for the Senior Curator of Japanese Art discussing my personal discovery of the work of Kobayashi Kiyochika. This entry included a visual analysis of Kiyochika use of light and shadow and drew upon a number of sources for research.
 - This entry was also submitted on the Freer|Sackler blog site and will be used by the Curatorial Department to attract visitors and the museum teen council members to access to the museum's online open collections website