

Juliet Russo: The Curatorial Intern Experience

During the summer of 2024, I had the privilege of interning at the Swedish American Museum as a Curatorial Intern, creating the Museum's online exhibit for *We Are America*. My role involved using CatalogIt, the Museum's Collections Management Software, to create an engaging online version of this exhibit. This project required me to select and highlight key archives and artifacts, condense, write text, and format the exhibit for the web.

Throughout the internship, I had the chance to gain familiarity with museum tasks and I had the opportunity to enhance my research and documentation skills by using databases, archives, and online resources to ensure that everything was properly documented. I also gained insight into curatorial work and exhibit development. This was a great learning experience for developing a broader understanding of museum studies and exhibit design. I was fascinated by the process of using artifacts to tell a story. Each item, from old photographs to handcrafted tools, had a unique story to tell. I was also able to go on a tour of Andersonville and learn more about the history of the neighborhood and its relationship to the Swedish heritage.

This internship highlighted my appreciation for cultural organizations and their importance for our community. It is a place to bring people of all backgrounds together, through diverse arts and cultural programming. Lastly, it opened my eyes to various museum career paths I had not previously considered such as digital curation and archival documentation.

Overall, my internship at the Swedish American Museum was a fructuous experience. My supervisors and colleagues were incredibly supportive. I am grateful for the opportunity I had to contribute to this wonderful museum, and I look forward to applying what I have learned in my future endeavors.