

TAM Scholarship Blog 2019

I would like to begin by thanking the Scholarship Committee for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. Upon arrival, the Board Members were very welcoming and made me feel a part of the TAM group which is a new adventure for me.

The Conference was full of various sessions and activities. Sometimes I had trouble deciding which session I wanted to attend; there were so many that I needed to hear. I was especially excited to see Tennessee Tourism as a session. The position and building where I am located provides the visitor center for our city as well as the museum. I feel that it is important for me to plug into the tourism in the area as any museum should. This session allowed me to network with the presenters that I need to know in the Tennessee Tourism office.

Other presenters gave me ideas to use to draw the public to the museum. I really enjoyed the presentation from The Pink Palace about the large scale project they did for the anniversary for the city of Memphis. I learned that some projects involve taking time for the project to come together, getting the community involved and checking for what grants may help you in the process.

I am considering using a Lego idea that was presented by Discovery Park. I like the partnership they presented with local libraries for this project. Building those partnerships and forming those relationships with the neighbors in the community is always an asset to the museum and to the city's quality of life for its citizens.

I also enjoyed attending some of the additional activities like visiting Fort Defiance Civil War Park which was not at all what I expected a fort to look like. It was very interesting to see how mounds of dirt were used as the walls as opposed to an actual fence like one would expect. Additionally, I attended a visit to the College of Art at Austin Peay University. The department was fascinating to see all the different platforms of art that were being taught. I even got to see a dark room for developing photographs for the first time.

The TAM Conference was a fun learning experience for me, and I am very excited about attending again and seeing my new colleagues and friends again as well as meeting many more. Thank you for this opportunity. See everyone in the spring.

Susan Holcraft
White House Inn Museum