Tacoma Historical Society Internship

Site supervisor(s): Michael Lafreniere, director@tacomahistory.org

Academic supervisor: Libi Sundermann, Senior Lecturer, History, SIAS, UW Tacoma (other history faculty may also be available if a student wishes)

The Tacoma Historical Society in cooperation with the UWT history major is pleased to offer internship opportunities to UWT SIAS students in history (or closely related fields). This internship will give students a well-rounded experience (see objectives below) in a small museum environment and provide THS with the type of volunteer support they could most use from students.

If you are interested in applying for a THS internship, please send a resume and letter of interest to:
Michael Lafreniere, director@tacomahistory.org

Objective #1: Collection Maintenance
Tacoma Historical Society maintains a growing collection of artifacts relating to Tacoma history. Interns will learn about the maintenance of such a collection by assisting with: finding and pulling artifacts for use by researchers or placement in exhibits; locating missing artifacts; returning artifacts to storage after they are pulled for research or exhibit; moving artifacts as necessary to make room for new additions to the collection.

Objective #2: Accessioning
Tacoma Historical Society regularly accepts donations of new artifacts for the collection. Interns will learn about the accessioning process by assisting with: entry of artifacts into PastPerfect museum database; packaging artifacts appropriately in archival boxes; scanning images of artifacts; writing appropriate identifying descriptions of artifacts to facilitate later research.

Objective #3: Museum Docent
Tacoma Historical Society Museum is open to the public Wednesday-Saturday, 11am-4pm, with 2-3 exhibits per year and a small retail store containing items related to Tacoma history. Interns will gain experience as museum docents by assisting visitors to the museum, which can include: providing an overview of the current exhibit; answering questions about the exhibit; selling merchandise in the retail store.

SIAS also has Academic Requirements¹ for earning internship credits:

1. Weekly Meetings with academic advisor and site supervisor
2. Weekly Work Log
3. Final Paper or Project: Length and format may vary
4. Self-Evaluation

See the SIAS internships webpage for more details: https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sias/internships

¹ Academic Requirements listed from University of Washington Tacoma School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Internship Program Guidebook, https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/sites/default/files/sections/InterdisciplinaryArtsandSciences/documents/180402SIASInternshipProgramGuidebook.pdf