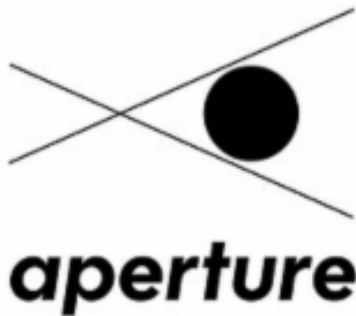


Samantha Walla: Aperture Foundation, Special Events and Membership Intern

by Katie Heneghan

The Aperture Foundation, a non-profit photography publisher, has provided junior Sam Walla with a unique opportunity synthesizing art, writing, and publishing. As an intern on the development team at Aperture, Walla focuses on communicating with members through various platforms and maintaining meaningful relationships.

This experience has been essential in preparing Walla for the workforce, as she has had to find a balance between a full course load, her extracurricular activities like involvement in the Lotus Magazine, The Quadrangle and WRCM Radio, and working a nine to five internship in New York City.



Walla has gathered much of her skills in writing and communication from her courses at Manhattan College. Writing for communication has been an important skill that Walla has been able to apply to her work experience.

“Writing is by far the most important skill that I utilize, whether I’m writing an event recap for the Aperture blog, an acknowledgment letter, or just an email. Attention to detail is also very important, as I deal with a lot of numbers and transcription. Misplacing one zero can make a huge difference when inputting someone’s contribution! I have also had the opportunity to bring communication and leadership skills back to the different clubs I’m a part of, such as WRCM and Lotus Magazine,” said Walla.

While Walla has now been able to work for Aperture remotely, she is able to participate in weekly meetings with the board of trustees, and maintain relationships with current members.

The most important skill that she has gathered from this experience is the ability to be diverse and adaptable to different work environments. Walla originally applied to work in a different department, but was placed with the development team. From this, she has learned how to be flexible and versatile in her work.

“Beyond all of the skills in different programs, I’m learning how to function within a multifaceted organization that has a lot of moving parts,” said Walla.