

THANKS TO GRANT, ALEXANDRIA LIBRARY CAN HIRE SUMMER INTERNS

The Youth Services Department at the Beatley Central Library received an “Inclusive Internship Initiative” grant from the Public Library Association (PLA). The initiative is a Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant enables the Library to support two paid summer internships.

The selected interns will work alongside mentors to create a connected learning project focused on civic engagement and the interns’ interests. The internship’s goal is to encourage teens to consider careers in libraries. Additionally, this internship aims to change the image of librarians and to bring diversity and inclusiveness to librarianship. The two interns chosen for the Alexandria Library are Josh Habib and Divine Tsasa Nzita.

Josh Habib – a rising freshman at the College of William and Mary – plans to study Biology, with the goal of becoming a doctor. Josh had volunteered in various Alexandria community organizations since a young age. Most recently, he volunteered with Alexandria



Courtesy photo

Teen Services Coordinator Isaiah West (center) with summer interns Josh Habib (left) and Divine Tsasa Nzita (right).

Library through his Senior Experience internship sponsored by Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). He enjoyed the work and people so much that he applied for the PLA internship.

Divine Tsasa Nzita – a rising junior at T.C. Williams High School has only lived in the U.S. for four years, but has volunteered every spare minute of it to help her community. She plans to study Family Counseling with a minor in Korean language and literature, and will use the library internship to improve her interpersonal skills.

“Alexandria Library is excited for the opportunity to provide our interns with on-the-job experience that can be used to further enhance the skills they already possess,” said Rose T. Dawson, Executive Director of Libraries. “We also recognize that being able to provide our future generation with a solid foundation that can be carried on for a lifetime is important for not only their success, but our growth, too.”

For more information on the “Inclusive Internship Initiative” grant, please contact Isaiah West at iwest@alexlibraryva.org.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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- **Angela Gallegos**, a 2016 graduate of Bryant Alternative High School, was a 2016 Valencourt Scholarship recipient. She will continue her studies at Northern Virginia Community College, where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while working full time during her first year. “I want to be a positive role model for my son, showing him that with hard work and an education, anything is possible,” she explains. Gallegos is on track to graduate next year with an Associate of Science degree in early childhood development.
- **Zulemy Loza** is a 2017 graduate of West Potomac High School and will pursue a degree in social work or criminology at George Mason University. She is a member of the Fairfax County Police Explorer’s program, where she was promoted to sergeant in 2016. Loza has been a UCM volunteer, stating: “UCM has helped me to learn that developing a connection with the people who you are helping is important.”
- **Keara V. Perez** is a 2017 graduate of West Potomac High School, where she earned a certification as a

Clinical Medical Assistant. She plans to pursue a nursing degree at Northern Virginia Community College. In addition to attending high school full time, she also completed a paid internship with Fairfax County Public Schools where she learned information technology and business skills.

• **Ana Villalobos** is a 2017 graduate of West Potomac High School. She will attend Virginia Commonwealth University to pursue her dream to become a dentist. She has been an active volunteer organizing various activities in her community. Villalobos is the first person in her family to graduate high school and attend college.

“Due to many happy years spent living in South America with her husband, Mrs. Valencourt was particularly interested in helping people of Hispanic descent,” says Harry Wood, attorney for the Lois Valencourt estate. “When she returned to the United States and settled in this area, she became involved in and supported many local organizations. Particularly dear to her was UCM and its work to educate and empower families. On her behalf, I congratulate each of the students receiving a scholarship and encourage them to be all that they can be.”

Free Ballet

THE METROPOLITAN ARTS COLLABORATIVE RETURNS TO T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

The Metropolitan Arts Collaborative (MetroArtsCo), in collaboration with T.C. Williams High School, will offer free ballet classes to T.C. Williams High School students for a second year as part of the after-school activities program. Ballet classes will be held in the T.C. Williams Dance Studio and students will be trained by Virginia Britton, Director, MetroArtsCo. In addition to learning ballet dance skills, students participating also will

gain increased concentration, balance, physical fitness, and self confidence, which transfers to other activities, such as sports, other dance forms, and artistic expression. Classes will begin September 13, 2017, Wednesdays 3:30 PM to 5:15 PM, through June 13, 2018. Students will be given an opportunity to sign up for class at the beginning of the 2017 school year.

Ms. Britton’s resume includes academic accomplishments,

extensive ballet training, experience as a professional dancer and choreographer, as well as business and teaching experience. She founded The Alexandria Ballet, school and company, and served as director from 1991 until it closed in 2012. She was one of the co-founders of The Metropolitan Arts Collaborative.

The Metropolitan Arts Collaborative is a fully tax-deductible nonprofit with the mission of “Building

communities through the arts”. MetroArtsCo fulfills the mission by collaborating with schools, churches and organizations to bring low cost or no cost art programs to young people and senior

citizens. To learn more about MetroArtsCo programs and staff and to support the mission of MetroArtsCo go to metroartsco.org.





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