



Hannah Einhorn

Wesley Paine Internship
Summer 2022

Hello! My name is Hannah Einhorn and I am one of the first Wesley Paine Interns at the Parthenon. During the summer of 2022, I learned so much and gained a wealth of experience, which I will tell you about here! So, if you're interested in what goes on behind the scenes at one of Nashville's biggest landmarks, keep reading!

My first week at the Parthenon was the last week of installation for the *Looking Back* exhibit in the West Gallery. This exhibition features artifacts and information about the 1897 Tennessee Centennial Exposition, which celebrated Tennessee's statehood. Millions of Americans came during the few months the exposition was erected, and the original Parthenon built in Centennial Park was a main attraction. I started off strong, engineering the layout for the sound panels on the ceiling of the gallery that help keep echoes and volume to a minimum. Attending the opening reception for the exhibition was fulfilling. Even though I wasn't able to help until the last moment, I still felt appreciated and accomplished. Everyone who worked on it felt excited by the final product, and I got to be part of that.

In the following weeks, I learned a lot about what the Education Department does. I learned the activities for the different Art Carts, researched Athena, Medusa, and the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, and experienced several tours given by our amazing docents. My favorite educational program to lead is Sketching the Marbles. For this activity, the Parthenon volunteer/staff sets up multiple drawing benches, clip boards, and drawing kits in the Treasury in front of the marble casts. When I did this, I would sit and sketch for a couple of hours, shifting to different figures as I finished my drawings. Visitors would come up to me and ask about what I was doing or ask questions about the exhibits. A few people, mostly kids around twelve, would be curious enough to grab some supplies and try drawing a figure. I got to hear about their interests in art or Greek mythology and see their awesome sketches. This activity was relaxing and fun, and I think having someone sketching the marbles helps spark curiosity in many of the visitors.

Later, I worked on archiving the contents of one of our file cabinets. Most of the documents I was sifting through were dated in the late 1990s, before I was even alive. Finding small treasures and handwritten notes about planning events such as the Tennessee Centennial Festival and the symposia related to it was beyond interesting, as I feel like I was getting an even closer look at the detailed history of the museum!



Channel 2 News Crew filming
Jennifer Richardson

Curator Jennifer Richardson talks
to Channel 2 News about the
Looking Back exhibit at the
Parthenon.

One thing I had fun being a part of was a Channel 2 News feature of the Parthenon. I wasn't in the filming, but I did help research E. C. Lewis, one of the influential men behind the original Tennessee Centennial Exposition, plus aid the crew and Parthenon Curator Jennifer Richardson in the actual filming of the feature. It was very special to be involved in this because I feel that the word needs to be spread around the South about the amazing history of the Parthenon. I felt proud being able to help add to the museum's wealth of information.

In-between tasks, I helped our Registrar/Assistant Curator, Bonnie Seymour, with cataloguing the Parthenon's extensive archive of artwork and artifacts. I got to handle several old artifacts that related to the various stages of growth the Parthenon has gone through, but the most interesting collection I got to work with is our mysterious Pre-Columbian artwork. This collection is in the process of being repatriated to its rightful owners, and I got to be part of this process by helping with the cataloguing of each piece. The coolest pieces in the collection, in my opinion, are a series of small carved stone whistles in the shapes of various animals.

My favorite task has been helping Lisa Bachman Jones with her show in the East Gallery titled *The Odyssey: A Retelling*. During install, I learned a lot about her process, and that was inspiring for my own artistic practice. Her use of materials is remarkable and unique. I appreciate her series' focus on the behind-the-scenes work in the epic poem that made it possible for Odysseus to be sustained on his journey. She honed-in on chores like dish washing and laundry, and featured the beautiful sides of the feminine characters in the poem. Lisa based her specific exhibition on the most recent translation of *The Odyssey*, which is the first time it has been translated into English by a woman. Both Lisa and the translator mention the importance of language, such as the historical shying away of the word "slave" in favor of "servant" by previous translators. Both women value honest perspectives that refrain from sugarcoating or selectively leaving out information, which is important in each of our journeys toward inclusivity.



*Left to right: Hannah Einhorn, Lisa Bachman Jones
Hannah is helping Lisa map out where to hang artwork
on the East Gallery wall.*

Thank you for reading about my adventures as a Wesley Paine Intern at the Parthenon! If the things I participated in sound appealing or you're interested in learning more about diverse and inclusive practices in the art world, please consider applying. The more accessible art is, the better!