



Parris Robertson

Wesley Paine Internship
Summer 2022

This summer I had the pleasure of working with the Parthenon's team as a Wesley Paine Intern and in that time, I had the amazing opportunity to work across the education, curatorial, and registrar departments assisting in multiple projects related to Tennessee history, art history, and Greek mythology. I have been interested in working with museums since middle school and for years I believed in a common misconception that the only available option for museum workers was the role of Curator. Although I am interested in becoming a museum curator in the future, I also wanted to learn more about the other careers museums could offer. After graduating with a degree in history and spending the summer with a museum I learned about the various roles that are necessary to operate a successful museum. My most valuable takeaway from the Wesley Paine Internship was the experience I gained from working across several departments which helped narrow down the path I want to pursue for graduate school and my future career in the museum field.

During this internship I assisted in multiple projects which taught me important research and hands-on skills, here are some of my favorite memories. During my time with Katie in Education, I assisted in creating an Art Cart education program called "Weaving Like Athena". By building upon previous research, I was able to write a public program that engaged visitors about Athena's role as the goddess of skill by discussing the mythology of Athena and Arachne's weaving contest while teaching visitors how to weave their project on a square loom.

Working in curation with Jennifer, I tackled scanning projects, researched paintings, and even assisted Jennifer when a local news channel interviewed her for a story on the Parthenon (that was a fun day!). I also learned the process of de-installation and installation of exhibits while working closely with local Nashville Artist Lisa Bachman Jones to install her art exhibit *The Odyssey: A Retelling* which is currently located in the East Gallery.

During the four weeks I worked with the Registrar/Assistant Curator, Bonnie, I completed multiple projects that included archival work, copy cataloging the research library, cleaning and completing condition reports on the Cowan Gallery, and cataloging the Fine Arts Collection. Some of my favorite projects involved photographing some of the



Parris Robertson dusts the Parthenon Marbles casts on display in the Treasury.

collections and cleaning the Parthenon's casts of the Elgin Marbles which are in the Treasury. This project involved maneuvering around the plaster casts' display, dusting, and vacuuming while visitors looked on. Although a very dusty and sweaty process, it was a lot of fun!

Overall, the Wesley Paine Internship was a fun and educational time well spent, while I'm sad to go, I highly recommend anyone interested in working in art or history museums apply to the internship or check out the Parthenon's Docent Program.