

This summer I had the incredible opportunity to work at the Brattle Theater in Cambridge. Due to the extenuating circumstances of the global pandemic, most of my work was conducted remotely. However, this did not devalue my work, and I am happy to say that I gained a lot of insights from the online format. I learned about the back-end work that goes into the management of nonprofits and cultural institutions. Through the projects that I was tasked with, the one-on-one meetings I had with the executive director, Ivy Moylan, and the general staff meetings, I believe that I got a well-rounded view of how a humanities-based organization shifts and handles their priorities during a time of national uncertainty. I am very grateful that I was able to make the occasional visit to the Brattle Theater in order to complete in-person work as well. My internship at the Brattle gave me a better idea of what to expect from the post-graduate world of humanities, satisfied my personal passion for film and cultural archives, and taught me how to work more efficiently in a digital environment.

The majority of the work that I did for the Brattle was through online projects. My first project was to catalogue the movie listings in *The Boston Globe* archive. The Brattle archive did not include any show times from the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, so I was tasked with filling in the gap during one of the most important times in American film history. This consisted of paging through each week, sometimes each day, of *The Boston Globe*, searching for the film advertisement pages, and then marking down the movies that were playing at the Brattle in a spreadsheet. Each listing had some minor descriptive information, such as release year, director, and title, with the occasional film festival category such as “The Contemporary French Film Festival” and “The Humphrey Bogart Film Festival”. While there were some discrepancies in *The Boston Globe* archive, I was able to catalogue the film listings from 1963 to 1978. The task was tedious at times, but as someone with a deep interest in film history, I never got tired of it. I enjoyed seeing the evolution of film through an arthouse cinema like the Brattle, who always had a great selection of independent films, foreign films, and documentaries. I loved cataloguing the French, Italian, and Japanese New Wave films of the 1960s, and then seeing the influence of those movements in the American directors of the 1970s. There were dozens of films that I had never even heard of, and I am excited to look more into the Czech, Polish, and Russian cinema that the Brattle showed. My work cataloguing the films the Brattle showed gave me an archival perspective on the history of modern film and a better understanding of the types of tasks that make up the work done by humanities organizations.

I also assisted the Brattle with their grant finding efforts. My long term plan with Ivy was to get started on a project for the Brattle to assess and digitize their entire collection. This requires quite a bit of funding, so I was tasked with researching the right foundation to fund the theater’s efforts. I spent a few weeks searching through Guidestar and Foundation Directory Online to find foundations who have funded similar projects. I then compiled a list of foundations who have given to similar small to medium sized cultural and archival institutions, such as theaters, libraries, house museums, and historical societies. I discussed my findings with Ivy, and we got to the preliminary stages of applying for funding. Most of our focus was on the National Endowment for the Humanities’ grant for small collections assessment, and we were planning on using that application as a base for our other grant applications. While we did not have time to complete the form during the internship period, I am grateful for the experience I gained researching grant funders, as I am sure that those skills will come in handy when working for other humanities organizations. I also am very excited for the Brattle, and I hope that they receive funding from the NEH or another foundation, as they have an incredible collection that is worth preserving.

One regret I have about my time with the Brattle is that I did not communicate as much as I would have liked. Due to the digital circumstances, I had trouble reaching out to the other members of the Brattle organization, and I did not start regularly attending the general staff meetings until the second half of the internship. I had only positive interactions with the rest of the Brattle staff, and I am glad that I got to at least meet all of them before the end of the summer. When I started more frequently meeting with them, I instantly felt comfortable and welcome at the Brattle meetings. I appreciated hearing the daily tasks of each person at such a small company, as it helped me understand the inner workings of such an organization, and how important each person is to its operations.

At the end of my internship, I went into the Brattle theater to do some more work cataloguing collections. In order to apply for the previously mentioned grants, the Brattle would have to catalogue their entire collection. So, I took this last part of the summer to fold and file the movie posters that the Brattle hadn't put into their system yet. This work was similar to the advertisements in *The Boston Globe*, but I was glad that I got to go into the theater to do it. I also got to meet with creative director Ned Hinkle when I was there, which I appreciated. Even though the work I did in person was similar to my digital tasks, I found that I was able to be more efficient with my time while at the theater.

My internship at the Brattle Theater was an incredible experience. I am very grateful to have met and worked with the staff there, as they were always there to help and answer any of my questions. Despite the digital nature of the work this summer, I still feel that it was a rewarding experience that taught me a lot about working at nonprofits and cultural institutions. I am proud of the projects that I worked on, and I have become a much more well-rounded scholar of the humanities thanks to the Brattle.