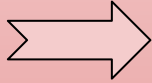
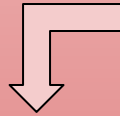


INTERNING AT JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

Anna Alvarez, Global Studies and English with Creative Writing Concentration, Class of '22



ABOUT: “The Japan America Society of Chicago creates and promotes Japanese and American friendships. We do this through business, social, educational and cultural activities. We are the only organization in Chicago that touches all of these areas in American and Japanese relationships.” - Japan America Society of Chicago Website



Characteristics of Japan America Society of Chicago (JASC)

BEFORE THE INTERNSHIP: My intention coming into the program was to understand how to build a network on global scale and to gain work experience in Chicago

Not-for-Profit: owners does not gain profit, **fosters relationship between American and Japanese culture, sponsors businesses, offers Japanese class to those living in Chicago** (currently operating virtually), **provides information on global affairs involving either the United States or Japan, and creates a safe space of Japanese Americans living within Chicago.**

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My Position: **Assistant
Events Coordinator**

During the internship, the first task I was assigned was to update JASC's solicitation list.

- I was advised to do so to help prepare of their 90th Anniversary Gala/Holiday Fundraiser.
- This was my first attempt at networking since this job required me to contact companies and organizations who have helped JASC before.

Nearing the Gala, I created their auction website in order to have an virtual auction.

- I listed over 90 items that were donated to JASC to the website I created.
- It was a learning experience because I have never created an website of this sort and to this scale.
- Still, I was able to get lots of support from my supervisor which made me feel less alone throughout the process.

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WHAT I LEARNED:

- The use of social media, like LinkedIn, is a good way to build a network and is something that students should prioritize in their college years.
- It is okay to ask for help - supervisors and coworkers are always available to support (which is important to create a healthy work environment).
- Time management is key, especially when doing independent work.



Acknowledgements:

All of my experiences were made at Japan America Society of Chicago with my supervisor, Erika Kono