



Princeton
Internships in
Civic
Service

PICS 2010 Internship Description

Organization Name: Slavic Village Development

Internship Location: Cleveland, Ohio

Required Dates: Yes No If yes, internship must start on: _____ and end on _____ or
must include the period:

Housing Will Be Available to Intern: Yes No If yes, housing will be free: or
housing will cost the student:

Expected working schedule for this internship:

Start Time 8:30am End Time:5:00 pm
Lunch break: 1 hour (duration) (specific time, if applicable)

Additional Information, if necessary: some evenings and weekends will be required

Organization Description

Please describe your organization briefly, including mission statement, activities, size etc. Please also explain the benefit that will be derived by your organization by sponsoring a Princeton intern.

Slavic Village Development (SVD), with over 25 years experience in community development was formed in 1998 when Broadway Area Housing Coalition and Slavic Village Broadway Development merged to strengthen their housing and commercial development activities in the neighborhood, enabling them to better carry out their shared mission:

Slavic Village Development's (SVD) mission is:

to preserve, empower, and advance Slavic Village as a thriving diverse neighborhood. Essential to our neighborhood is its unique identity with quality housing anchored by excellent recreational, educational, cultural, religious, and institutional anchors supported by a vibrant retail, commercial, and industrial base.

Slavic Village Development's vision for North and South Broadway (Slavic Village Neighborhood) is of an active, vibrant neighborhood with a strong sense of ownership and belonging. Its core values include: the neighborhood's unique identity; diversity; a clear sense of unity; active living; and empowerment. The organizational goals include: revitalizing the Broadway neighborhood through rehabilitation of existing housing, storefronts and buildings; construction of new homes; retention of existing buildings and recruitment of new ones; and provision of housing services and community organizing

Slavic Village Development is involved in all aspects of revitalization in the community, including housing, commercial development, property management, workforce development, HEAP and client services, and leadership development. Slavic

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Village Development, in pursuit of its mission, has been able to institute innovative programming and proactive strategies to address neighborhood needs. This is made possible by the expertise and commitment of its 16 person staff. Unlike many other community development corporations, SVD has been able to preserve an active community organizing program by supplementing full time staff with high quality interns and VISTA volunteers. Currently SVD has 1 full time organizer, 1 Part-time organizer, who oversees the department, 2 qualified AmeriCorps VISTAs members, and typically an intern or two, which enables the organization to maintain strong, deep connections with neighborhood residents and stakeholders.

Over the past years, the community organizing department has mobilized residents in the Slavic Village/Broadway neighborhood around quality of life issues. SVD's community organizing and community building work has produced 20 block clubs, issue committees, and civic associations and has been recognized locally, state-wide, and nationally as a model of empowerment and effective advocacy on social issues. Over the past year, 18 local block clubs or issues committees have received more than \$45,000 in small grants to help them improve their neighborhood and address quality-of-life issues.

Utilizing qualified interns and/ or volunteers is essential to the survival of the organizing department. In order to be able to provide the best service in tough economic times, we utilize the AmeriCorp VISTA Program, Interns and volunteers. Since we have utilized interns for years, we have the selection process down to science. With good premium prerequisites, highly qualified candidates and steady supervision, interns have proven extremely successful not only to our organization but to our residents. Additionally, young interns often bring with them new, fresh ideas and a passion to learn. We can make use of their education and classroom experience and put that into real world experience. In the reverse, we love to introduce our young leaders to community work. So often, community work gets overlooked to higher paying jobs, but if we can provide an excellent learning opportunity, we hope our young leaders will begin to explore the field more and hopefully one day, return to the communities where true change can occur.

The unique thing about our organization is the freedom and flexibility to explore different programs and projects. If the intern has a specific passion or interest that they feel would enhance the community or organizing, through guidance and supervision, the intern would have the opportunity to explore it further and possibly turn it into a full-fledged program. This includes researching, planning, fund-raising, implementation, and program evaluation.

Internship Description

Describe in detail the work or project will do; please be as specific as possible. Please also explain the benefit that a student will obtain by interning with your organization.

Sustainable Living in Slavic Village (Going Green in Slavic Village)

Problem Statement: The City of Cleveland hosted a Sustainability Summit in an effort to make Cleveland more sustainable and appealing by the year 2019. Through the leadership and vision of our Executive Director, we are going to make the Slavic Village community a green, sustainable neighborhood. In order to accomplish this all departments at Slavic Village Development will need to do their part to educate the residents and transform the neighborhood.

The Project: To increase sustainability and green living in the Slavic Village community. This can be accomplished through several measures, listed below as tasks.

Tasks:

- Working with the City of Cleveland's Office of Sustainability to recruit residents / distribute 50 + rain barrels to residents in the neighborhood

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- Work with residents to install the diverters for the rain barrels.
- Work with Property Management to conduct energy audits- which is an audit of a house detailing ways to make it more environmentally and energy efficient.
- Create a publication highlighting green tips that can be distributed to all Slavic Village Development managed houses as well as block clubs and residents.
- Work with economic development staff to implement a survey to learn about what local businesses are doing to be more sustainable. From this we can assist / encourage the local businesses to become greener.
- Work with development staff on grant oversight for city-wide land reutilization grants- made available via NSP money.

Through this project, interns will work in partnership with numerous departments at Slavic Village Development. This is a new project so the intern will have the flexibility to create a plan that will work in our community. Interns will receive guidance and supervision on all assigned tasks.

Connecting the Community through Active Programming

Problem Statement: Slavic Village has numerous pocket parks and a rails-to-trails multi-purpose path (Morgana Run Trail). Often times, the green spaces are underutilized because of unfounded fears. Additionally, overweight children continue to be the focus of local as well as national debate- we intend to address both problems through green space programming.

The Project: Create fun and meaningful programming at our green spaces and trail which will increase usage and dispel fears, build community, and increase physical activity for our youth and residents.

Tasks:

- Research programming options for green spaces.
- Plan, fundraise for, market, and implement events at Hyacinth Park, Barkwill Park, Mill Creek Falls Family Park, and Morgana Run Trail.

Through this project, interns will be able to see projects from start to finish: working with the residents on planning an activity and setting up the specifics, fund-raising to get money for the project, implementing, and evaluating the project. Interns will receive guidance and supervision on all assigned tasks.

Working with Block Clubs to improve Quality-of- Life Issues

Problem Statement: Slavic Village Development works with 15 + block clubs to address their quality-of-life issues. With such a large number of block clubs it is difficult to coordinate well implemented block activities with each club.

The Project: Work with block clubs to plan and implement projects they are interested in completing on their streets. Activities may include: street clean-ups, block parties, and recruiting events.

Tasks:

- Attend block club meetings
- Identify activities block clubs would like to complete on their streets (via small grants)
- Assist block club in implementing and evaluating the activities
- Act as liaison between residents and city hall, including informing residents of city hall meetings

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Throughout the project, intern will work in close partnership with all SVD staff including: housing development staff, experienced planners, community members, city officials, and the lead community organizer. Interns will receive guidance and supervision on all assigned tasks.

Intern Qualifications

Describe any particular skills, background, or qualities you are seeking in an intern.

Interns should have a strong interest, curiosity, and/or passion for cities, an appreciation for the urban environment, and must be comfortable working with low income predominately African American residents and youth. They would not have to have any direct experience with cities, nor be from an urban area, but should be passionate about urban living issues. The staff at Slavic Village Development is deeply committed to urban community and to their mission. Likewise, the intern should be willing to work as part of a team, lending a hand when called upon, and should expect in turn to get the same team support for his or her work.

These particular projects may appeal more to someone who has an interest/passion about the environment and is excited about the green movement occurring in our city. There is some flexibility to structure projects around other areas of community development/organizing, depending on passions/interests of the intern.

In addition to these projects, the intern would be welcomed into the life of the organization participating via Development Team meetings and staff meetings. Additionally, the intern would be required to assist with other department events and large scale activities. Through this, the intern would be fully exposed to all facets of community development work.

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