

September 27, 2023

Halton Black History Awareness Society
Burlington, Ontario, CA

Re: Internship Testimonial

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Barbara Bruce, and I am the Experiential Learning (EL) Coordinator for the School of Advanced Studies in the Art & Humanities (SASAH) at Western University.

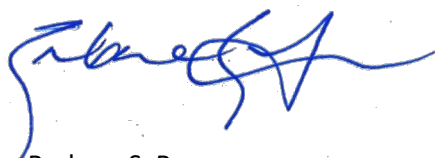
In the summer of 2022, one of our students contacted me about a possible internship for a SASAH student with the Halton Black History Awareness Society (HBHAS). I was excited at the prospect because many of our students are interested in pursuing careers in the arts and culture industries, engaging with local artist communities, and learning about local histories. I contacted Francesca Durham, curator of the HBHAS's Emancipation Art Exhibition (EAE), and we developed a curatorial assistant internship.

Second-year student Grace Dilawri began the internship in January 2023 and worked through the winter, spring, and summer on the EAE. In addition to academic credit, Grace gained invaluable experience in curating an exhibition and developed such skills as communication, organization, project management, and public speaking. Grace also learned about local Black history and created a video about her experience. The HBHAS excelled in providing Grace with an experience that has been both educational and enriching.

As SASAH's EL Coordinator, I look for opportunities for our students with organizations whose missions and goals align with our own. The HBHAS clearly cares about providing opportunities to young people to grow and develop their skills, engage with local communities, and learn about the career opportunities open to them. SASAH and the HBHAS also share a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and the decolonization of the educational system and creation of diverse knowledge systems. In SASAH, we value a progressive partnership like the one we have with the HBHAS.

It is gratifying to see a student excel and gain confidence in themselves and their abilities in an internship with such a dedicated and successful cultural organization. I thank the HBHAS for the wonderful opportunity they've given Grace and look forward to working with them again soon.

Sincerely,



Dr. Barbara S. Bruce
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