

PRESS RELEASE

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The Value of An Arts Internship According to An AWI Awardee

Shelton, CT — Arts administration internships are valuable, without a doubt. For emerging creative, Conor Burke, who was awarded an Arts Workforce Initiative (AWI) Apprenticeship through the Connecticut Office of the Arts, this could not be more true.

Conor is a recent graduate from Western Connecticut State University with a Bachelor's in Illustration. Conor applied to the AWI program to gain intensive, professional work experience with a non-profit arts and cultural organization in Connecticut. Having grown up in Connecticut, and pursuing a career within the arts, Conor is very excited by the opportunity to work with a non-profit inspiring children all around the state with art.

The AWI program focuses on emerging creatives and encourages them in the direction of future, fulfilling and successful professional lives in the arts. Ultimately, the AWI program contributes to an increased arts and cultural landscape in Connecticut. As part of the AWI model, apprentices are paired with competitively-selected non-profit arts organizations across the state for the duration of their apprenticeship. Given Conor's interest in grant-writing, fundraising, exhibition design, and leadership skill-building, Conor was placed with local arts education non-profit, cARTie.

cARTie's Co-Founder and Executive Director, Clare Murray, shares: "We're grateful to be selected as a Host Organization by the Arts Workforce Initiative, and to be in a position to mentor and pay a summer intern as wonderful and ready to extend his learning as Conor."

To learn more about the Connecticut Office of the Arts' Arts Workforce Initiative, please visit www.portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Arts-and-Culture.

About cARTie

cARTie is a 'reimagined museum' that brings the museum field trip to schools; it deconstructs the traditional White, eurocentric model of what an art museum is by making sure all Connecticut youth see themselves represented in the works of art on display, featured artists, and experiences they have while visiting. cARTie activities are two-fold: (1) to offer inclusive internship and exhibition opportunities to a diverse population of high school arts students and (2) to provide critical museum-based learning opportunities that enrich and deepen early education, while meeting core standards, to PreK-2 students who otherwise may not have access to robust arts programming. To learn more about cARTie, please visit www.cartie.org. Follow cARTie on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @CTcARTie!

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[PHOTO ATTACHED]

A Visual Reflection on the Value of An Arts Internship by Conor Burke.