

Summer Review - Alicia Neptune

Metro Vancouver Alliance Outreach Organizer

May-August 2016

This summer, with support from mentor Deborah Littman, I have worked as an Outreach Organizer for the Metro Vancouver Alliance, learning the fundamentals of community organizing and applying these skills to my work in the community. I have built relationships with various community organizations and had one-to-one meetings with leaders. I organized a listening session with a group of youth to identify challenges they face. With the help of the MVA communications officer, I have also developed skills with NationBuilder software, composing blog posts and becoming more familiar with SEO techniques.

The skills I have developed over the summer directly tie into my area of study, communications. In particular, the face-to-face nature of relational organizing has enhanced my interpersonal communication skills. Additionally, developing materials like brochures, introductory messages, and campaign overviews has allowed me to practice writing and editing for specific audiences, as well as for the general public.

Overall, this position provided practical work experience related to my field of study, and I felt supported by the Metro Vancouver Alliance. I will be able to carry the training and experience forward into my studies and my career.

Tasks accomplished:

- Conducted one-to-one meetings with leaders of community institutions
- Participated in meetings with community leaders
 - GETI round table
 - Greg Moore/Pitt Meadows Youth Centre leadership meeting
- Participated in MVA meetings
 - A Thousand Conversations Kickoff Meeting
 - Monthly board meetings
 - Provincial election assembly planning session
 - West Vancouver affordable housing meeting
- Organized 'Listening to Youth' session
 - collaborated with Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows community services
 - met with youth to build relationships & identify challenges
- Developed strategies for a listening campaign at Capilano University
- Designed communications materials
 - "Listening to Youth" brochure
 - General brochure
 - Youth listening campaign overview
- Developed web design & NationBuilder software skills
 - updated site header & favicon
 - posted blog entries