



THE COMMONWEALTH MUSEUM

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Human Services/Communications
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ABOUT THE MUSEUM



- Exists under Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Francis Galvin
- The official state museum of Massachusetts
- Located on the beautiful UMass campus in the Massachusetts Archives, which also houses the Massachusetts Historic Commission
- The Treasures Gallery holds historic documents such as the Massachusetts Colony Charter and one of 13 original copies of the Declaration of Independence



COVID :(

When I saw the co-op description for the Commonwealth Museum, I knew it was one of my top choices. I would be able to use my public speaking skills and get an opportunity to work with kids. I was so excited when I got the job and then we went right into quarantine. I was nervous about what the co-op was going to look like or if it would even happen. Luckily, I was still able to get to work there and, while it was not the co-op I imagined, I had such a blast at the Commonwealth Museum.

PROJECTS

One good thing about Covid was that we all were a little unsure of what we were supposed to be doing. This meant that I got to take the lead and come up with a lot of my own projects.



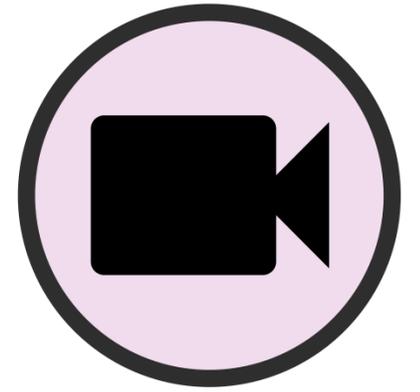
Social Media

I was in charge of creating social media posts, which was really fun! I used Canvas and was able to improve my skills with "graphic design".



Virtual Classroom Programs

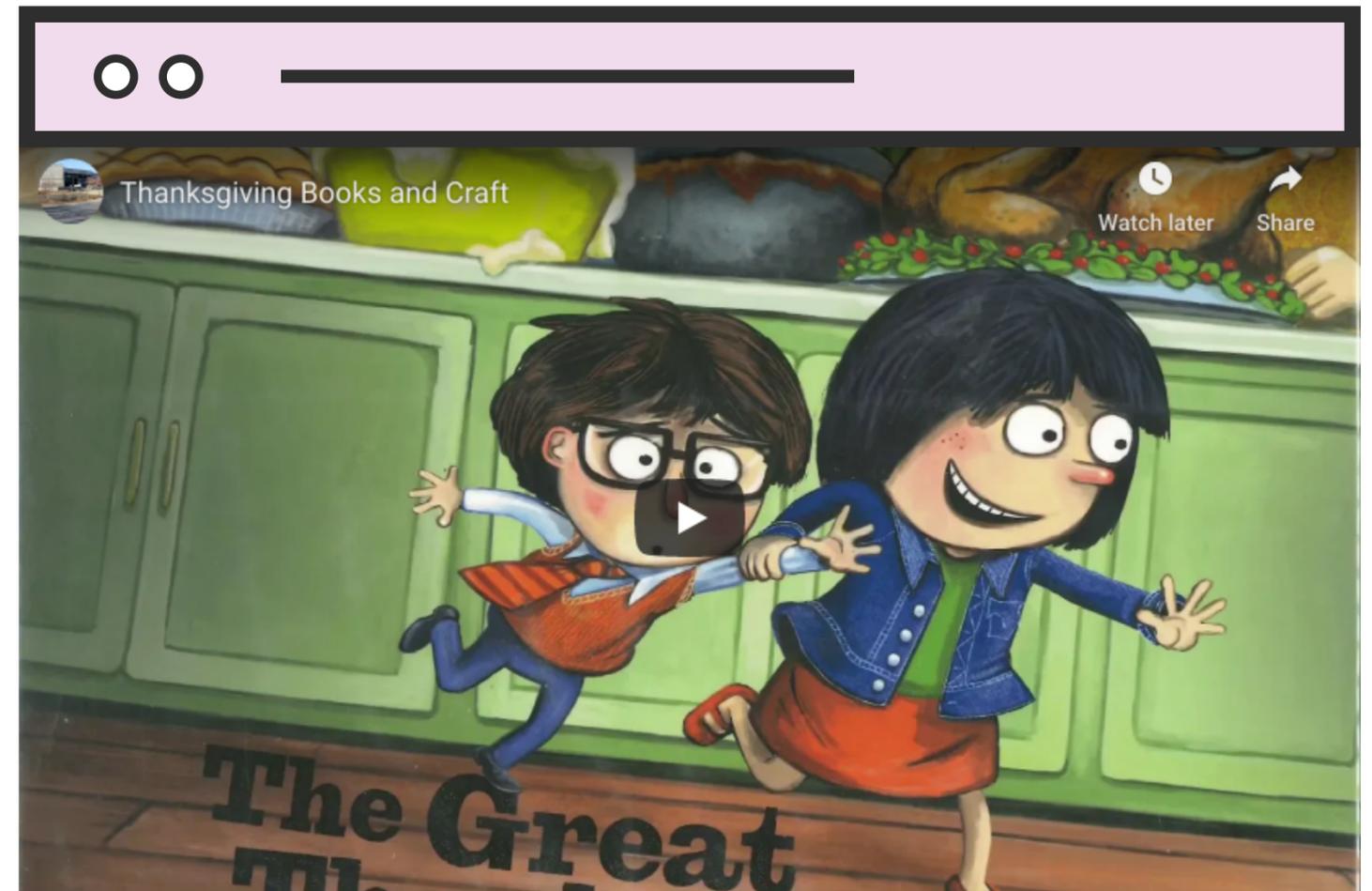
Toward the end of co-op, we were able to meet virtually with real classrooms and teach them about the Boston Massacre.



Videos

I was also able to practice some video editing skills. This made me think about utilizing this in the future to make myself a more interesting job candidate.

READ-ALOUDS, CRAFTS, AND MORE

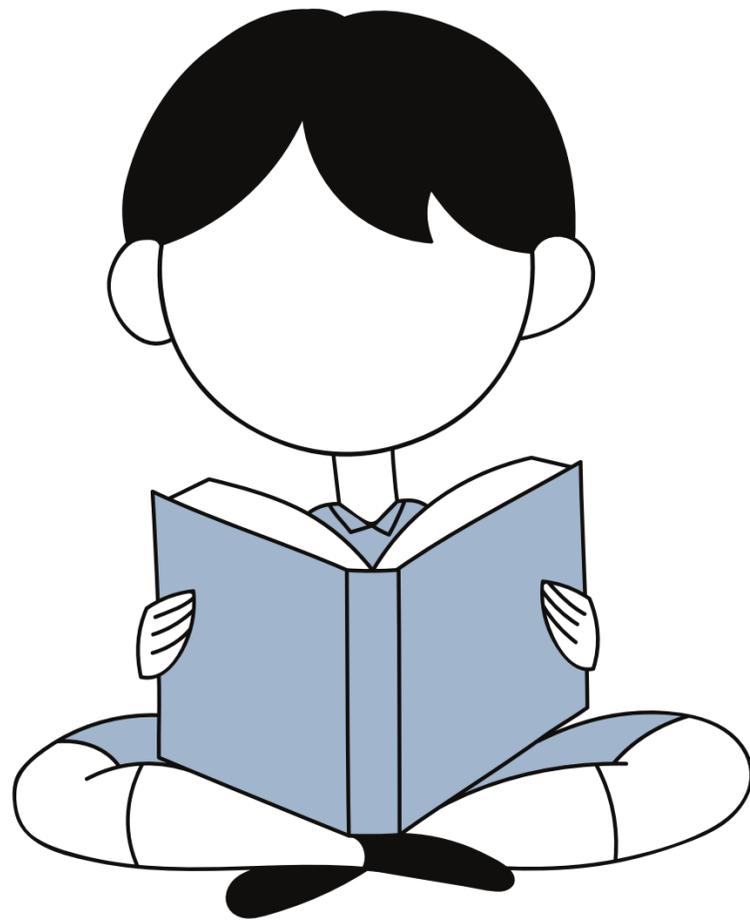


NARRATING THE OFFICIAL COMMONWEALTH TOUR

One thing I'm really proud of that I was able to be a part of was narrating a virtual tour for the Commonwealth Museum! Lior (who was the second co-op at the museum) and I got to work with the Archives director to record narration. It was really cool to leave a part of me at the museum!



LEARNING OUTCOMES



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At the end of co-op, I will be able to lead an adapted virtual classroom program easily and with confidence.

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At the end of co-op, I will be able to help future co-ops and supervisors adapt this position in light of Covid-19

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At the end of co-op, I will have mastered creating posts for and running social media accounts for the museum

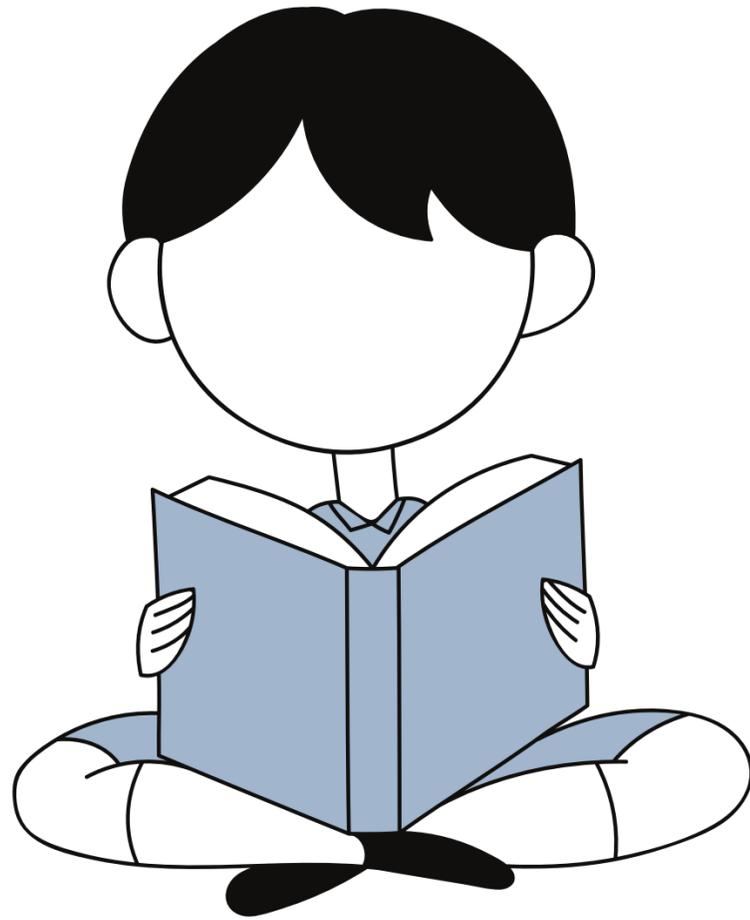
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At the end of co-op, I feel comfortable and confident when presenting new projects/ideas to supervisors

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At the end of co-op. I will be able to research and write a classroom program, social media posts, instructions for class programs, and other activities with clarity and ease

LEARNING OUTCOMES

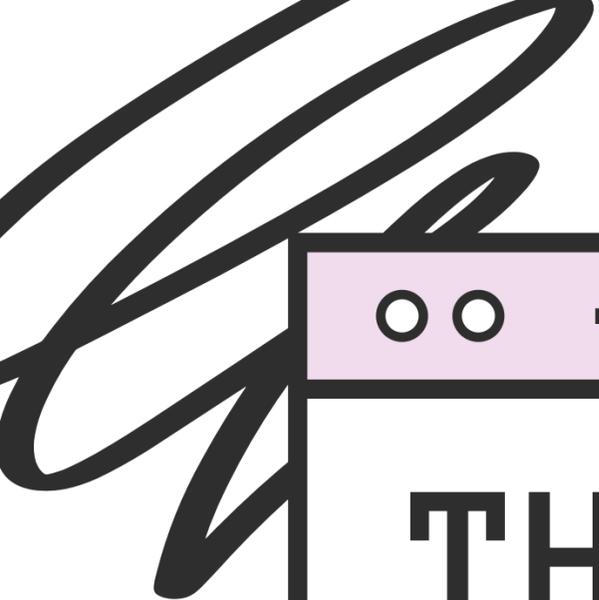


I learned a lot working at the Commonwealth Museum and even though my learning goals were specifically for working at the museum, I feel like they are useful skills to have for future. One thing I think I really improved on was my writing skills in a professional setting.



INEQUALITY

One thing I always thought I wanted to do was to make the world a better place. I thought this only happened in specific ways like through grassroots work or direct service. Something I learned at the Commonwealth Museum is that there a myriad of ways to make the world a better place. At the museum we teach children about American history, specifically about the history of rights in America. We stress that everyone deserves the same rights and share with students how they can push for a more equal future. Even though we may not be working to change big policies or organizing a protest, education is important work that helps even the playing field and create a more equitable society.



THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THE FUTURE

- Cannot work in a basement! I had to work in the windowless basement and it was depressing at times. But the UMass campus is beautiful so when it was nice we would eat lunch outside which I loved
- Independence! I loved having the independence to create my own projects and plan out my own day. This was very different from my first co-op, and I will now look for managers who are more hands off.
- Kids! Even though I did not work with school groups until the end of co-op, I loved doing it! Although I don't want to be a teacher necessarily, I'd like to incorporate teaching into my future jobs.