

A sunset scene with palm trees and the Hollywood sign. The sky is a gradient of orange, pink, and blue. In the foreground, the silhouettes of palm trees and other vegetation are visible against the bright sky. In the background, the Hollywood sign is visible on a hill, and a radio tower stands to the left.

A Guide to the Los Angeles DSP

Advisor:
Professor Mary Flanagan
Los Angeles
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Hello DSP-ers!

You might feel a little bit nervous about being in LA if you've never been before and that's totally understandable. Downtown LA (DTLA as everyone calls it) is sometimes intimidating. More than likely you're going to have an internship in some far away LA land like Santa Monica or Culver City and so you'll have to take the infamous LA Metro. And some days it'll feel like there won't be anything to do besides go to the Getty Center, or hike up to the Hollywood sign, or go to film screenings where Oscar nominated directors do Q&A's or eat delicious food in Chinatown/DTLA/ Santa Monica/Long Beach/Malibu/West Hollywood/East Hollywood....

Your internship will be challenging. Your living situation will be really hard some days, but the LA DSP will be one of the most valuable, exciting, formative, and fun experiences of your undergrad career. It will take some getting used to, but you'll figure out things as you go along through your journey. In order to calm some of your worries, though, we decided to create this guide to share with you some of our own experiences on the 2018 DSP. You'll have a different schedule than us with different internships and you might be living in a different place, but this should give you a pretty good idea of what is to come once you embark on this new and exciting journey. We have also included little tips and tricks on how to maximize your total fun-intake for the trip and how to stay safe while having the time of your life.

As Luke Skywalker says in the controversial film, Star Wars: The Last Jedi: "This will not turn out the way you think." It will turn out better. By going on this DSP, you have taken the first steps toward the world of Hollywood. You have taken the first steps toward a tumultuous, but fulfilling career in the media industries.

Congrats!

Naomi Agnew '20

General Introduction

Your Experience:

It is a typical Dartmouth 3-course term. In the program, you can choose to pursue an independent study or an internship for your third course. The time you'll spend getting hands-on experience at the company or studio where you'll be interning is extremely valuable because it will allow you to get a glimpse into the media industries and make connections. The position will be unpaid, but along with reflection and writing, you'll get academic credit for your internship and a great addition to your resume.

Internships are your responsibility to procure and arrange. Some students have found that beginning the search for internships the previous summer is a good idea. Everyone in our group pursued internships. Internships allow you to work in the media industries for up to 20 hours a week.

Some dos and don'ts:

- Do search the alumni database (DAEMA, <http://dartmouthentertainment.org>) and find alumni out there doing interesting things who might either help find you an internship or have a spot at their own organization
- Do have a resume and perhaps a portfolio ready. People often want to see your work if you sound like what they might be looking for. Some former students' portfolios/demo reels include: the website of Alexander Stockton, <http://alexanderstocktonfilms.com/>, the Vimeo videos of Joe Fairbanks, <https://vimeo.com/joefairbanks>, and the portfolio sites of Winnie Yoe, <http://www.winnieyoe.com/design>, Spring Yu, <https://spring-yu.com>, Charlie Laud, <http://www.charlielaud.com>, and Sharang Biswas, <https://sharangbiswas.myportfolio.com>
- Do contact the Center for Professional Development for help in your search
- Don't give up! Persistence pays.



Jordyn Fitch '20 and Anca Balaceanu '20

Internships

where we worked

This year's program had us working at:

- Violet Grey, a fashion startup, where a student did video shooting, editing, and content development
- Global Road Entertainment (aka IM Global), where a student worked in script development
- Brewmance, a documentary film project, where a student worked in video editing
- Lord Miller Productions, where a student worked with the directors of the Lego movie on their next project
- National Research Group, where a student conducted media market research
- The Traveling Picture Show Company, where a student did editing
- Red Door Films, where a student did editing
- Kinetic Content, where a student worked on series
- National Association of Latino Independent Producers
- The Gotham Group, where a student was involved in project management and production
- Illumination Entertainment





At the Getty Research Institute

A note from the Department:

Curriculum

The intention behind the DSP is to combine rigorous coursework, primary and secondary research in regional facilities, and meetings with alumni and media practitioners with first-hand experiences working in the media industries. The program is designed to provide inspiration, collegiality, critical skills and insights, and no small degree of fun in developing new aptitudes and appreciation regarding the media we study and create. And, it changes every time it runs.

In 2018, students enrolled in three courses: first, a critical exploration of the complex historical issues regarding Race and Place in Los Angeles (FS 47, taught by Prof. Karen Beavers, who is outstanding); second, an introduction to Media Industries Studies, which focused on specific media industries and their evolving inter-relation to one another (FS 46, taught by Prof. Vanessa Diaz); and finally, an independent study which required original primary research, one example of which could be an internship (FS 80). The group meets each week for a salon discussion, with guest speakers from the Alumni each week, or site visits such as the Getty Museum archives.

In 2018, the enrolled students arranged for and completed internships as part of their independent study course. Dartmouth students may receive course credit for an internship, via the completion of an assignment-based journal that contextualized their internship experience in relation to the other two courses and to their research interests, with some additional pertinent writing assignments. To receive credit, the internship is unpaid.

This confirmed the extraordinary interest in pursuing such opportunities. Acquiring an internship is not a requirement to participate in this program, and more traditional forms of original research are encouraged and promoted in the overall curricular design. But the innovation of this format in providing a diligent and mindful pursuit of experiential learning is clearly a popular option.

The schedule for the 2018 program was demanding and rewarding. The coursework was scheduled at night to accommodate for the weekday internships the students were pursuing. FS 46 met for a three-and-a-half hour block on Thursday evenings, while FS 47 met for a for a three-and-a-half hour block on Tuesday evenings. FS 80 featured class trips and meetings with special invited guests on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with additional meetings some Saturdays.

For FS 46, the students created and shared an Instagram account to look more broadly in LA at "Critical Approaches to Media Production." Each week, students on the program are required to post at least one image to the group Instagram account, "Humans of Hollywood," which draws inspiration from the popular human storytelling blog Humans of New York. They also integrated relevant hashtags in their posts to drive traffic to the page.

@humans_of_hollywood featured the interactions of the student group, who came back from work with an interesting story to share about his or her morning bus ride or fellow colleague. The account was a great way to meet new people and learn about the kind of work or experiences that pass unnoticed. Students posted about local artists (Robert Vargas, Teacher), celebrity run-ins (Barry Jenkins, Tommy Wiseau), the class's guest speakers (The Bachelorette contestant Kupah James) to name a few.

Outings

Each trip to LA is different, depending on emerging opportunities and the faculty director's program plans. We'll tell you about our experiences, but yours won't be exactly the same -- every trip is a bit unique. For 2018...

Sky Place LA

We arrived in LA at the end of the week, so for our first weekend in LA, we went with our Faculty Director on a group outing to Sky Place LA, "California's tallest open-air observation deck". There, you'll walk through interesting interactive spaces until you reach the observation deck on the top floor of the building. With its two observation decks, you can see the whole of LA and the Pacific Ocean if it's a sunny day-- which it thankfully usually is in Los Angeles! It's the perfect way to start off your trip because there's just something a little magical about seeing LA from so high up!

*Pro tip: While this wasn't a planned trip, we all headed to Grand Central Market to get a bite to eat after our awesome morning at Sky Place. Grand Central Market is the **perfect** place to discover just how unbeatable LA food culture is.*



Back row: Anca Balaceanu '20 , Nicholas Windham '20, Elisabeth Sanson '20, Paula Kutschera '20, Nicholas Gutierrez '20, Sophia Whittemore '20, Anthony Robles '20
Front row: Jordyn Fitch '20, Naomi Agnew '20

DTLA Art Walk: Mural Tour

The Downtown Los Angeles Historic Core Mural Tour was an awesome chance to get to see the gorgeous murals throughout DTLA you might have completely missed otherwise! The tour also features presentations by local mural artists, so we were able to talk to well-known muralists like, Robert Vargas who painted *Our Lady of DTLA* and Teacher, who specializes in creating super intricate stencils he spray paints onto buildings downtown. It's easy to

overlook just how much art and talent is present in DTLA, so this mural tour definitely helped.

Studio Tours

Many of us were interested in studio tours. The studio tours available include Paramount Pictures Studio Tour, Adventures by Disney: Disney Backstage, and Warner Brothers.

USC and other film schools also offer tours early in winter terms.

Getty Museum Tour-

The Getty Center is by far one of the coolest things that LA has to offer. The Getty Museum is split up onto two campuses: the Getty Center and the Getty Villa. In order to get to the Getty Center, you have to have to ride on a tram through the mountains of North West LA, until you reach this beautiful ivory building nestled within the tops of the mountains surrounding you.

It feels totally separated from the business of the LA city below, so it's really just you, the art, the stunning Central Garden, and the Pacific Ocean to the West. Obviously the art is breathtaking-- but our professor arranged a visit to the archives of old images and early motion picture technology for an incredible day filled with physionotrases and Van Gogh. What more could you ask for?

DSP Experience Design Weekend-

The DSP "Experience Design Weekend" allowed our group to explore two of LA's most popular attractions and analyze our experiences in them through an academic lens. I mean-- it's pretty creepy that there are absolutely no squirrels at



The Getty Center Gardens

Disneyland or Universal Studios. And despite feeling like you're in your own world on the various rides, you don't realize how monitored you really are until you stand up in the middle of a ride and three seconds later you hear a "please sit down" loudly over an invisible intercom. How controlled is your experience in Disney's Tomorrowland? What technologies do theme parks use to subconsciously manipulate your emotions throughout the day? How

many times can you ride Space Mountain before vomiting? These questions and many more were certainly answered during this fulfilling, thought provoking, and entertaining weekend.





LA street artist expert

Opportunities

While in LA, you are encouraged to find opportunities outside of your internship to work on various different productions doing various different jobs. These opportunities included:

- Production Assistant on set for a Korean K-Pop Music Video shoot and an informational video to be pitched to Elon Musk for a new electric airplane.
- Assistant to Jeremy Teicher, a Dartmouth Alum, who was shooting a film in South Korea about the 2018 Winter Olympics. Tasks included bookkeeping and editing short behind the scenes videos that were eventually put onto the Olympics official website. His assistant also got a credit on his film.
- Production Assistant on set of Hillary Prentice's film, *Safety*. PA's on set got a credit for the film.

* In order to participate in a shoot you will need to commit the whole day, which may be long.

The “LA Experience”

Interning and taking classes in LA for 10 weeks is already an amazing experience in and of itself, so your ability to go and explore LA for all it's worth during your free time on the weekends is just the icing on the cake.

There is literally always something to do in LA so it is almost impossible to be bored. DTLA has popular art venues and fairs, and frequent pop-up events, like virtual reality arcades and video game bars, and there are enough delicious restaurants that you could eat at a new place every weekend. Because you have unlimited access to the LA metro, it's also super easy to explore areas outside of downtown.

Go by groups to the movies! West Hollywood has SO MANY Oscar nominated movie screenings during the winter-- it is insane. Most of the time these screenings will begin with or be followed by a Q&A from the director or one of the main actors. Hearing Oscar nominated directors speak about the process of creating their film is actually a film students dream and you have the opportunity to go to screenings like this practically every weekend.

The Santa Monica Pier is a fun weekend activity filled with yummy fair-like food, actually incredible street performers, some not-so-incredible street performers, and the freezing, but beautiful, Pacific



Jordyn Fitch '20, Sophia Whittemore '20, Paula Kutschera '20, Lee Houle '17, Anca Balaceanu '20, Naomi Agnew '20, the Hogwarts Express Conductor, Anthony Robles '20, Nicholas Windham '20, Chinendum Nwaigwe '20, Nicholas Gutierrez '20

Ocean. Two blocks away from the pier you have Santa Monica Place: a town center filled with even more street performers and far too many stores to blow your money in.

If none of those things sound up your alley, don't worry. If you don't feel like doing anything in the city, head out to Griffith Park for a hike or head over to the Griffith Observatory at night to see LA's city

skyline. That seems boring to you? Get on the metro and head to Anaheim to chill at Downtown Disney. Still not your vibe? Just have a nice night in! Order some food and relax on the roof-deck. Like we said, there's almost no way to be bored in LA.

Practicalities

Food

Downtown LA is home to some of the best food in the country.

Everything from delicious street food like tamales, frutas con chilé, and LA's famous dirty dogs, to five-star dining. Some notable places to check out are Two Boots Pizza, Clifton's Cafeteria (I promise its worth it), Cole's French Dip and the near by little Tokyo district.

Local grocery store include Ralph's, Whole Foods, and a few bodegas scattered around the area. There are many grocery services that deliver so it might be a smart idea to organize an order with your roommates. DTLA is also home to the Historic Downtown Farmers Market which runs every Sunday.

Money

Creating a budget in advance is a great idea. Generally a "moderate" grocery budget would be around \$250 a month. This does not account for eating out. You can find a decent meal in LA for \$10-20 at a midrange restaurant. Keep in mind that you may also want to budget for extras like museum trips or movie nights, but don't worry if you're strapped for cash there are plenty of amazing free events in Los Angeles. DoLA.com/free is a great resource for local happenings. Dartmouth will provide you with a Metro pass for train access so a portion of your transportation will be covered.

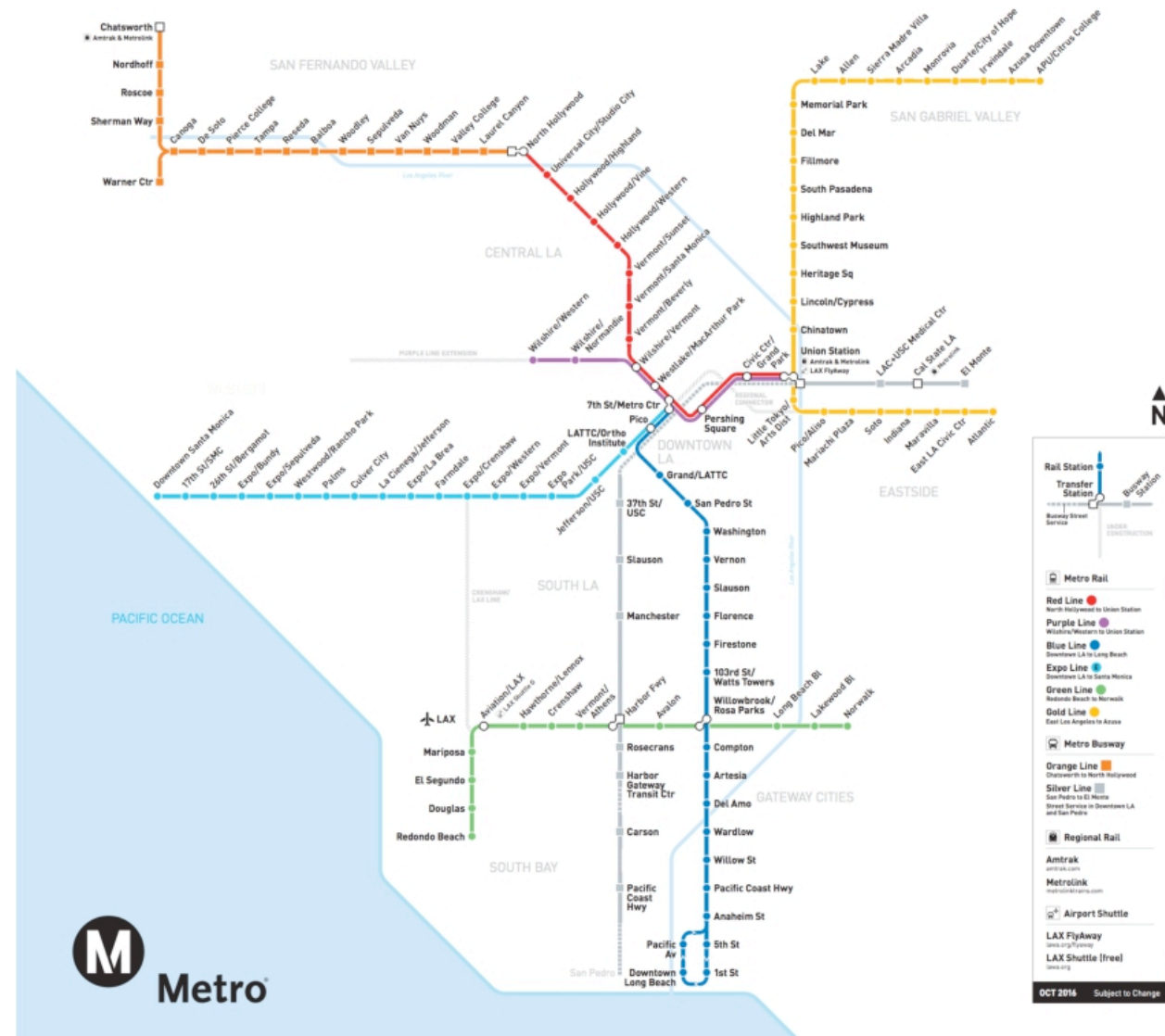
It's important that you set up your internships in advance so you can plan on how much your trip will cost you should you need to catch any additional transit. It's also important to plan for additional considerations like laundry, toiletries, and other incidental expenses.



Transit

There are three (3) [tres] major modes of transportation you can take in LA:

- Your own car! While this luxury may not be afforded to everyone, if you can get a car in LA, it'll certainly help with the amount of time you have to spend on the Metro and the amount of money you have to spend on Uber or Lyft. You will still spend time in traffic; in 2018, only one student had a car.
- The LA Metro! If staying in DTLA, you are only 10 minutes away from the 7th Street Metro Center that'll connect you to any and all Metro lines. The Metro won't get you *exactly* where you need to be, so taking the train also means taking the bus or an uber afterwards to get to your final destination. Metro passes are provided by the College, so this is definitely the cheapest way to get to where you need to be. There also aren't too many bells and whistles when it comes to the Metro, so it's fairly easy to navigate, as well!
- Ridesharing! This is definitely the most expensive option for transportation, but it



also the easiest option for transportation in terms of the lack of work you actually have to put in to get to your final destination. Lots of students on the program would combine the methods of transport by riding the Metro as far as it would take them and then use a ride share app the rest of the way. Carpooling with one another was also a biggie among the students, which help to cut

down on costs, too.

Pro Tip: Try downloading ride-sharing apps to help get you from place to place. Remember that different apps cost different prices so its always a good idea to compare trip costs before you confirm Also, remember that rush hour is between the hours of 4:00PM - 6:00PM and during that time there can be significant price increases. Sometimes its better to wait until rush hour dies down.

Points of Interest

While in LA you may want to take advantage of some of the wonderful sights LA has to offer! Here's a mini guide of tried and true places to check out. If you want to live like a local, these are definitely the places to go.

The Echo Park Film Center is a non-profit, lo-fi, diy, community arts space and screening room.

www.echoparkfilmcenter.org

1200 N Alvarado St, Los Angeles, CA 90026

The Museum of Jurassic Technology is a cabinet of artistic curiosities with a beautiful rooftop tea room.

mjt.org

9341 Venice Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

Santa Monica Pier & Venice Beach The pier is home to a carnival and rides. Venice is beach home to famous muscle beach and a vibrant artscommunity. (About a 45minute walk down the beach from each other)

<https://santamonicapier.org>

<https://www.venicebeach.com/>

Runyon Canyon is a beautiful canyon hike in the Hollywood Hills.

2000 N Fuller Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90046

Olvera St. (Calle Olvera) is a beautiful historic Mexican outdoor air market featuring art, food and shops.

845 Alameda St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Little Tokyo District features the Japanese American Museum as well as a plethora of amazing food and shops.

100 N Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Griffith Park Observatory is a public astronomy station build on one of LAs most scenic hilltops. It also hosts one of the largest urban national parks in the country.

2800 E Observatory Rd, Los Angeles, CA 90027

Dockweiler Beach is one of the only state beaches were you're allowed to have a bon fire! They provide the pit. You bring the wood.

beaches.lacounty.gov/dockweiler-beach-fire-pits/

12001 Vista Del Mar, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293

The Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theatre is located

inside of the stunning Walt Disney Concert Hall in DTLA. You'll find an amazing selection of Avantgarde and groundbreaking artistic shows happening here. Take the historic *Angels Flight* train for a bonus!

<https://www.redcat.org/>

631 W 2nd St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Melrose Ave. is home to some of the best food and shops in Hollywood.

Melrose Ave. between Fairfax Ave & Highland Ave.

Echo Park is the east sides district famous for vibrant music venues, art, bars and shops. It's also home to the beautiful Elysian Park.

New Beverly Cinema is a historic LA movie theater owned by Quentin Tarantino. It features off beat independent films.

<http://thenewbev.com/>

7165 Beverly Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Hollywood Forever Cemetery might sound morbid, but it's a beautiful park where you can picnic and pay homage to the famous people laid to rest there like Judy Garland, Dee Dee Ramone, and Mickey Rooney.

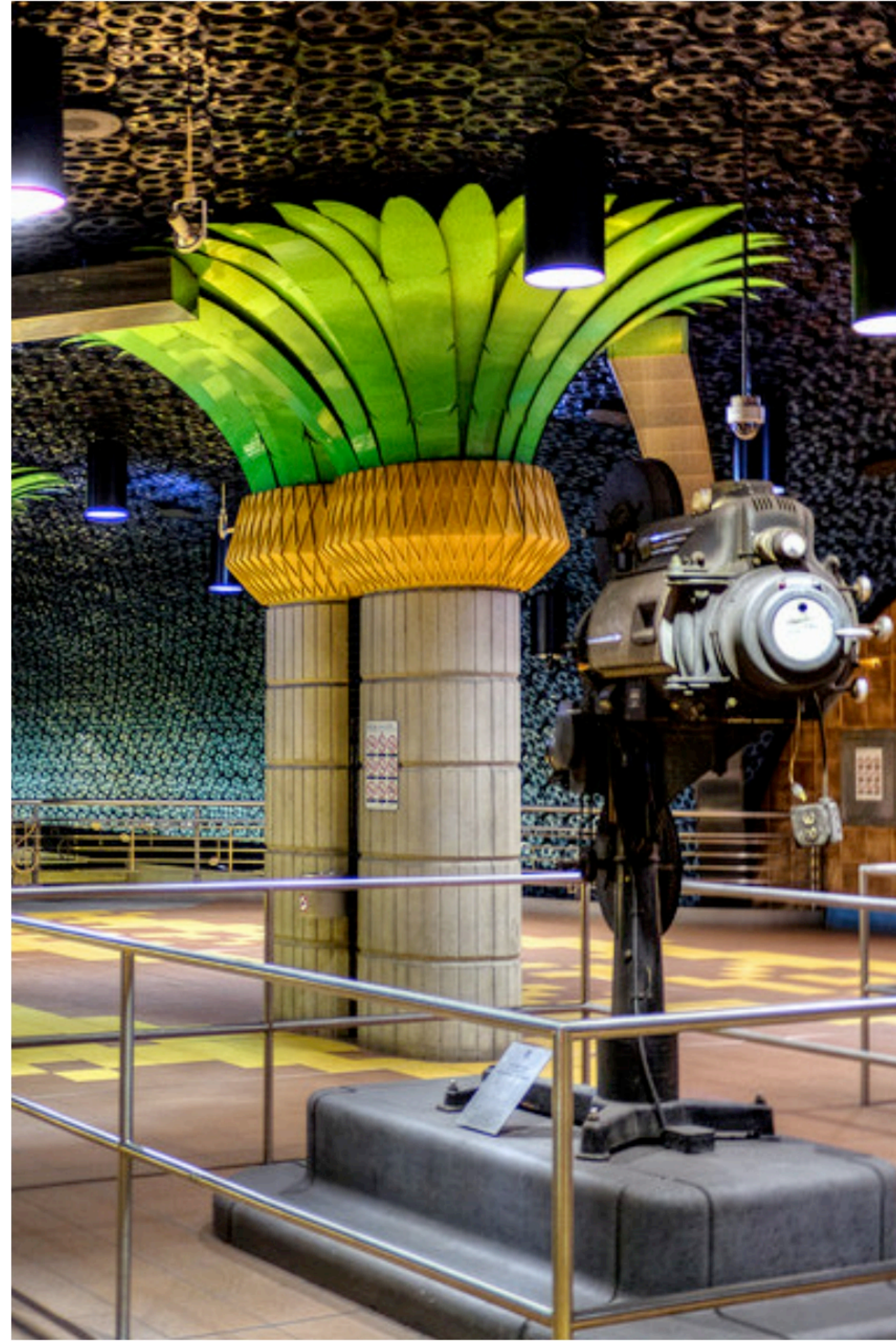
6000 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90038

Safety Tidbits

Your safety is of Dartmouth's utmost concern, so they do everything in their power to keep you out of danger, but there are some common-sense things you'll need to remember to do as well.

- Your apartment is located in a safe part of DTLA, but just like any city, it's important to be aware of your surroundings at all times. Know where you are going! Always explore new places with a friend, travel in twos.
- If you are traveling alone (which will happen when commuting to your internships and other various work opportunities), make sure someone knows where you're supposed to be and around what time you should be back to your apartment. And always try to keep a phone charger on you in case your phone dies and there's an emergency.
- If it's your first time taking the Metro remember that as long as you are aware of your surroundings you should be good to go! There are officers on every platform to keep you out of harm's way and the train cars themselves are monitored with video cameras at all times.

In case of an emergency, *always* make sure your faculty advisor is aware of the situation. Depending on the severity of the situation 911 may be the first call you make, but your advisor should always be on the first list of people you need to contact. You'll have their mobile number.



General Advice And Thoughts

Using your time wisely:

Time management skills are incredibly important during your stay in LA because you only have 10 weeks to cram in an all-inclusive Los Angeles experience. Your internship and classes will take up a lot of time, so when you do have the opportunity to go out and explore LA, it's important that you do! The worst feeling in the world is getting to week 9 with a list of things you wish you would've done, but now have no time to do. Try to not waste time procrastinating on your work and plan out your weekends beforehand so you aren't wasting time trying to figure out what to do or just how exactly you'll get there.

Professionalism:

One of the more unexpected, but incredibly invaluable lessons you learn in LA is a sense of professionalism. Prior to your trip, you might not know when it's appropriate to pitch an idea to a colleague or when it's appropriate to network or what you should do if your favorite celebrity randomly walks into the same Pinkberry that you're in, but no worries! This trip helps clear up most of those unknowns in your life. There are definitely unspoken social norms and nuances specific to the media industry that are important to learn if you want to have a successful and prosperous career. And the process of obtaining an internship, working at your internship, and speaking to various media industry professionals are all things that will help you have a better understanding of what professionalism means within this industry.

Note that professionalism extends to class time and program obligations. On excursions, don't keep everyone waiting for you. Keep your phone with you and text if you run into timing problems. Plan for traffic. Just because you have an internship doesn't mean that you can miss class. Always keep in contact with your professors about class and your scholarly obligations. Don't make excuses, just do it.

Alumni party!!!

Near the very end of our time spent in LA, the extraordinary Dartmouth Alumni office put together the networking event of a lifetime (or our undergraduate career) for us.

One room. 75+ Dartmouth Alumni. All with two things in common: they have a successful career in media and they're there to speak to you! Few times will there ever be a room so full of useful knowledge and interesting people all at your own disposal, so it really is an incredibly rare and valuable opportunity. Not only do you come away from the event with new insight on the media industries, but you also leave with newly established networks in LA.



Interactions and Alumni Connections

In relation to the FS 80 course and also some events scheduled by our professor, we met with a number of extraordinary alums, including:

- Hilary Prentice, who brought on most of the class for her documentary film production for two weekends, as production assistants for the film Safety.
- Michael Steele, who took two students to shoot a music video for a K-pop artist in his plane
- Steiner Kierce, visiting writer
- Jethro Rothe-Kushel, visiting writer/producer
- Gabriel Schlumberger, interactive designer, director of startup companies

With our professor, the extraordinary Dartmouth Alumni office put together the networking event of a lifetime. As discussed previously, the talk and reception were at the Omni Hotel in LA. Phil Lord, Chris Miller, Dan Gilroy, and John Gilroy were present for the rich discussion that went on far longer than scheduled due to the interest of the audience. Not only do you come away from the event with new insight on the film industry, but you also leave with newly established networks in LA.

Other guests who met with us included:

- Julia Grob (actor, producer, writer)
- Tanya Hong (Associate Director, Digital Accounts at Fox (Film, TV, and Sports))



Anca Balaceanu '20, Chinendum Nwaigwe '20, Nicholas Windham '20

- Raheem Dawson (Senior Manager of Production, NBC On-Air Promo)
- Jose Toscano (Story Producer, Stone & Company Entertainment)
- Erik Kovtun (Producer, American Crime Story (The Assassination of Gianni Versace the People V. O.J.))
- Sarah Gonzalez (PR/Talent agent)
- Kupah James (former Bachelorette Contestant)
- Courtney Hazlett (Senior Vice President of Development, OutEast Entertainment)
- Alana Garrett, New Media Coordinator, E!
- Douglas Smith (Stage Manager (e.g. Grammy's, Oscars, Emmys, VMA's, CMT Awards, BET Awards, etc.))
- Christel Miller, Director of Current Programming, NBC Entertainment
- Joseph Forster (Vice President On Board Entertainment)

This DSP is so important and relevant because it both enlightens you on the inner workings of the industry and prepares you to be able come back to LA and find work through the contacts and relationship you made at the Alumni event.