

10 Tips

To Help Jumpstart Your Museum Career by Other Museum Professionals

1 DECIDE IF THIS IS THE CAREER FOR YOU.

A lot of the time working in the history field doesn't make a lot of money. There are some weekends, late nights and holidays. Make sure you can learn to balance this with your personal life.

2 VOLUNTEER AND INTERN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

Volunteering and interning are valuable ways to gain experience, network, and evaluate the type of museum you want to work at and role you want to fill.

3 BE FLEXIBLE.

Don't be holding out for the perfect museum job. Take the job, even if it isn't your preferred location, type, or subject. Build experience, keep your eyes open, and build your way up.

4 CROSS-TRAIN YOURSELF.

Don't limit yourself to one skill set. Build experience in marketing, social media, administration, programming, architecture, science, history, etc. It makes you more marketable on a whole because you wear many hats.

5 NOTHING IS BENEATH YOU.

You'll probably have to clean the bathrooms, or get your hands dirty. Some museums have large staff for light work, others have small staff with many jobs.

6 NETWORK, NETWORK, NETWORK!

Not only is it about what you know, but who you know. Meet other museum professionals, build connections. If someone can vouch for you, it goes a long way.

7 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RESOURCES OUT THERE.

There are a lot of online resources available to help you with your career. Online job searches, resume reviews, online certifications and webinars. Good places to start are on the *Virginia Association of Museums* and *American Alliance of Museums* websites.

8 TAILOR YOUR RESUME EACH TIME.

Many job applications are done online through a computer that match your application with key words. Look at the position you are applying for. Tailor your resume to match the application.

9 DO YOUR RESEARCH.

When applying or interviewing, visit the museum or at the very least the website. Not only does it help make sure you like the museum you might possibly work, when asked questions and you can give examples from the museum it is sure to impress!

10 YOU CAN DO IT!

It might be lean sometimes, you might be working 2-3 part-time jobs, but if you work hard, persist, and make yourself valuable you can do it. Remember you are not alone and people are willing to help!

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