Valerie Jaimes

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Summary:

U.S. university graduate now working as an English language assistant in Madrid. Passionate about language, culture, and the visual arts.

Education:

* **The George Washington University | Washington, D.C., USA | 2015 – 2018**

B.A. International Affairs, *Magna Cum Laude,* GPA: 3.79, Presidential Scholar

* Obtained a regional concentration in Latin America focused on comparative studies of the region’s economics, politics, history, security, development, and culture. Courses included:
  + Comparative Politics of Latin America
  + Caribbean Literature and Culture
  + History of Latin America
  + Latin America: Problems and Promise
  + Cuba in the Global Arena
  + OAS and Democracy in the Americas
* **The George Washington University Elizabeth J. Somers Women’s Leadership Program | 2015- 2016**

International Arts and Culture Cohort

* Participated in a year-long living and learning program for freshmen women at The George Washington University, with a focus on courses in the arts and humanities and immersive experiences in the local artistic culture. Courses included:
  + Women in the Creative Process
  + Propaganda
  + Academic Writing
  + Painting: Visual Thinking
* **The George Washington University Short Term Abroad | Paris, France | June 2016**
* Course: Modernism and the Arts, Then and Now
  + A multidisciplinary course that focused on the early 20th century modernist movement that altered the course of art and society at large in Europe and beyond, while experiencing Paris’s contemporary culture
  + Course required independent research after leaving Paris
  + My research focused on the intersection between French colonialism and Parisian fascination with black American culture in the interwar period
* **James E. Taylor High School | Katy, Texas, USA | 2011 – 2015** 
  + Graduated with High Honors

Work Experience:

* **Bilingual Assistant |** Organization of American States, Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy | Washington, D.C. | 2017 –2018
* Researched and consolidated information on electoral politics in the Americas to create data bases and briefings
* Translated OAS documents between English and Spanish
* Collaborated on the generation of ideas about legislative innovation in the Americas
* **English Language and Cultural Assistant |** Meddeas Public Schools Program in Madrid | Washington, D.C. | 2018 – 2019
* Serving as a conversation assistant in the classroom to courses taught in English at a Spanish bilingual school, including English, art, and science
* Preparing presentations and activities that represent North American culture to share with the Spanish staff and students at the school
* **Founder of Portraits\_by\_Val** | 2015 – Present
  + Developed my own oil and acrylic portrait painting business, where I accept commissions for portraits of pets and people
  + Shipped my original artwork around the United States and elsewhere
  + Ran my own social media accounts to promote my work

Extracurricular Activities:

* **Artistic Director** | Feminist Student Union at The George Washington University | 2017- 2018
* Revitalized the social media presence of the organization by making weekly postings on feminist artists
* Organized events to engage students on feminist issues through the arts, including a tour of the National Museum of Women in the Arts
* Collaborated with executive board members to create bimonthly discussion events with students or professors to explore various feminist issues
* Group won “Student Organization of the Year 2017-2018” for our innovative programming and social media presence
* **Marketing Chair |** Latin America Policy Organization at The George Washington University | 2017 – 2018
* Organized informal discussion events between professors and students on topics related to Latin American economics and politics
* Designed graphics to promote the organization’s events on social media
* **Co-Chair of Museum Committee** | The George Washington University Cesar Chavez Day Celebration Committee | 2016 – 2017
  + Conceptualized and curated artwork to present at the GW Cesar Chavez Day celebration
  + Delegated the set-up the day of the event
  + Organized a workshop with artist and activist, Rosalia Torres-Weiner, in which students could interact with the artist and create their own work based on the values of the celebration
* **Group Coordinator |** Somos Familia | 2015 – 2016
* Led student volunteers from The George Washington University’s Spanish department in community outreach for elderly Spanish speaking residents in Washington D.C., where we sought to build community with one another, practice language, and provide material resources such as grocery deliveries
* **Selected Volunteer Participant** | The George Washington University Alternative Breaks | 2015 – 2018
* A community service program focused on service learning and fostering active citizenship as well as social awareness. All trips are a week long and have a focus issue, and participants must find innovative ways to fundraise prior to the trip. Trips participated in included:
  + 2015 – 2016, Urban Sustainability in Portland, Oregon
  + 2017 – 2018, Community Development in Otavalo, Ecuador
  + To fundraise, I held a benefit concert with local musicians and sold original art pieces
* **Bass Player** | Student Theater Council at The George Washington University | 2017 – 2018
* Played bass in live orchestras for student-produced musicals, including “Heathers: The Musical”, “American Idiot”, and “Bare”

Achievements:

* Original art work published in Voyage Houston Magazine 2018
* Original art work published in The George Washington University’s Wooden Teeth Magazine 2017
* National Collegiate Scholar 2015
* Received highest honor ribbon for an original painting at the Katy Independent Spring Art Show 2015
* Inducted into Spanish Honor Society 2014
* Member of the Taylor High School Jazz Band 2014-2015
* Inducted into the National Art Honor Society 2013
* Georgetown University Summer International Relations Program 2013
* Inducted into National Honor Society 2013
* McMeans Junior High School Orchestra President 2010-2011