STEP Artistic and Creative Endeavors: Portfolio Building and Professional Development

*Discussion from OSU First Year Conference with keynote speaker Vincent Tinto:*

*“First year retention is a vehicle for learning….beyond first year (STEP) learning is a pathway to portfolio building.”*

Students working toward achieving highly competitive internships, project work, leadership opportunities, or other STEP experiences in their areas of interest may use STEP Creative Endeavors to improve their chances of winning these highly selective opportunities. A major competitive advantage comes from developing portfolios or repertoire, enhancing techniques and skills, or developing intensive exposure to particular aspects of professional practice in their interest areas.

Strong portfolios increases ones chances in achieving an internship or research or development project in your interests/passions rather than just settling for whatever opportunity you can get right away, but not closely related to your interests.

One aspect of intensive exposure is to explore methods of obtaining financial livelihood to transform interests into a passion and a profession. An overall method would be to earn revenue from something you make or a service you perform. With their portfolios in hand, even if students don’t earn revenue or accomplish a STEP internship, project, or leadership position, they are better equipped to achieve these experiences in the future.

Possible Learning Activities:

1. Travel and visit places where other people with similar interests to your own meet up and exchange information about professional practices, such as community centers and events like expos, conferences, and fairs.

2. Travel and visit places that already sell the items or services you might sell to learn how they do it and what resources are needed.

3. Purchase items you need to build your portfolio, such as equipment, supplies for equipment, office supplies.

4. Establish studio space where you live and stock with the items you purchase

5. Practice making and offering services for free to friends, family, those in need, or to groups where you can pay forward.

Budgeting and accounting for your profession.

1.Office supplies and equipment/supplies of your profession. $$$

2. Travel costs and fees to visit one or more expos, conferences, enterprises, maker spaces, and other important places in your profession. $$$

3. Travel costs to visit career fairs outside of OSU: $$$

4. Car travel: $0.575 per mile.

5. Business attire for meeting with stakeholders in your profession. $$

6. Studio space: $$ Either at home or pay for outside space (see below).

7. Payment for services you hire to help develop your profession: $$

8. Your expenses for offering donated services related to practicing your profession: $$

Thinking about home studio space and how to value it. A good way would just be to write your proposal in that you are renting studio space. The Columbus Idea Foundry (CIF) would be a good example. Being able to use (CIF) for studio work costs at least $50/month. Plus you need to travel back and forth. Could put in $200-300 for transportation, which could include using car2go.

So that is about an $800 expense/year.

Once you get your funds, at some point, you may decide to start to set up studio space at home. You could then use the remaining funds for some other aspect of the project work.