ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



AMA | ART MUSEUM of the AMERICAS DESIGNMATTERS FELLOWSHIP JONATHAN GOLDMAN

Woohoo! I got the fellowship!

Uh oh, now what do I do?

In late January I flew home to DC. (Yes, I'm living at home with my parents...) Despite the snow it was so great to rediscover my hometown as an "insider."

First things first: no Washingtonian look is complete without DC's most important fashion accessory: the official ID badge.

The Art Museum of the Americas (now, AMA), is on the campus of the Organization of American States, just a block from the White House and the Washington Monument and houses one of the best collections of contemporary art of the Americas. The museum is also engaged in many programs to serve the public.

My first step was to do a little espionage. I staked out the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and similar museums in the area. I needed to find what our museum was lacking and ways we could stand out. My first major hurdle was identifying and explaining the lack of identity the museum had. Art Center had previously worked on a branding effort for the museum, but essentially the museum had a nice visual identity, but lacked a clear personality and mission.



The museum's old identity was somewhat generic, not very contemporary, and followed an institutional nature and government language of the Organization of Americans States, which had eroded the brand of the museum over time.

My first pitch consisted of a video proposing the need for a new brand, brand attributes, and mission.



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The presentation was a success. I was in.

The brand attributes for AMA are:

- > [CULTURAL] HUB
- > BEACON [OF THE AMERICAS]
- > FREE AND OPEN
- > GLOBAL VISION
- > SOCIAL CHANGE
- > CONTEMPORARY
- > ALIVE



At this point, in the comfort of my first-ever cubicle, I began working on how we could update their current identity to be more contemporary and alive (and friendly). Above is the new logo design, below are some applications.





After completing my first round of proposals of the new identity, the team here starting asking for my help with their everyday design needs.

At this point I stopped having complete autonomy from the rest of the staff, which meant less time to work on the "big ideas" but also that I became more integrated with the team.



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As you can see in this very scientific chart, my day to day activities quickly changed from larger, conceptual ideas aimed at better marketing the museum, to completing tasks for the team here to help improve the current things they were working on. This is a place I like to call "flyerland." Flyerland is filled with e-flyers, banners, signs, invitations, and web.



Aside from just designing new materials for the museum, I began to focus on how we could streamline various marketing processes (like newsletters, invitations, signage) so that everything was consistent. This also involves strategizing ways of decreasing the time spent in flyerland and increasing the time in producing a solid, consistent identity with an outward focus. I have also worked to spruce up the overall design of the museum by introducing a new labelling system for the artwork on display as well as some new outdoor signage.





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One of the biggest concepts I had during my fellowship was to develop AMAtv - an online portal for museums across the hemisphere to broadcast their cultural events to a larger, global audience. Current efforts to "digitize" museums are based on conservative museum models of providing visitors a curated experience through an exhibition. AMAtv is unique in that it attempts to showcase a secondary experience provided by museums: cultural events. This web page would fuse museum events with ideas like youtube and PBS. Essentially, AMAtv is open for any museum or cultural center in the Americas to upload video from cultural events at their museum to be shown to the public for free. It's kind of like youtube for museums. AMA would not "curate" or filter the videos aside from the initial determination of whether or not a "user" is a museum. AMA liked the idea and I am continuing to pursue this concept and take it into development.



In the past few weeks I was offered to continue working for the museum and my contract has been extended indefinitely in order to see all my ideas fleshed out and implemented, as well as assist in a museum relaunch in the near future... stay tuned!

This experience has been amazing! I've had a lot of freedom in developing new design strategies here, as well as proving the impact design can have on an organization.

THANK YOU!

A humongous thanks to Mariana Amatullo and Elisa Ruffino at Designmatters! This experience has been a wonderful transition into a career path for me and your dedication to your student's success is incredible. iMuchas gracias!

My mentor, Stephanie Sigg, has provided invaluable assistance during this fellowship. Your support and ideas helped me shape my experience here and kept me sane while feeling my way through the dark. Thank you so much.

-Jon Goldman | jonpgoldman.com

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CURRENT BRAND WORK





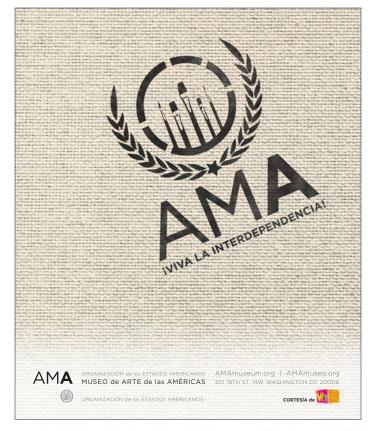


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NEW BRAND WORK











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