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Early Career Development

On Thursday, July 24th, 2024, a Brooklyn Navy Yard Early Career Panel & Celebration Luncheon took place at 63 Flushing Avenue in Brooklyn. Claire Linnemeier, Assistant Vice President at BNY presented the workshop. Panelists at this exciting event were Kyiesha Kelly, *Founder & CEO of Hip Hop* *Closet*, Elizabeth McGorty, *Director of Archives, BNYDC*, BNY Intern alum Thomas De Andrade, *Technical Project Manager, HITN* and BNY Intern alum Drew Deveo, *Tech Research & Product Engineer*.

The biggest takeaway from the workshop was that one’s career path can always change. Just because a person goes to school for business does not mean that they are limited to just working in business. Kelly, who started her e-commeerce business over 25 years ago went to school to become an engineer and upon getting her degree, persued a career in fashion. Kelly had no understanding of fashion prior to starting her business, but was able to use logistics that she learned from obtaining her engineer degree to map out her plans. Devero also switched career paths. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in music, he pivoted into the tech world. Their stories are a reminder to many that there are no limitations when choosing a career, once establishing a career, it is okay to change fields.

When McGorty started at BNYDC, she was the only person in her department. 10 years later she remains the only person in her department. She went on to explain how important archievial work is and how it is literal culture that needs to be protected. From a professional standpoint, it is uncommon to basically create your own job, but she was able to do so and expand within that role. McGorty provided a sense of reassurance that if there is not a job that fits in with ones skills or knowledge, they have the ability to create one and excel in it.

Explaining the workshop to a peer would be very informative. One would first discuss the name of the workshop, where the event took place, the panelists and their career backgrounds, everything that was discussed, how one was able to attend the event and provide information on how to not just attend the upcoming workshops but how one applied for the internship and other employment opportunities through BNY.

Utilizing all tools provided during one’s internship, whether it be mentorship, resources, and networking was heavily stressed. Networking throughout departments, using resource tools like company Linkedin Learning programs and computer system programs has been extremely beneficial as an intern. Whilst in attendance at New York City College of Technology, City University of New York (CUNY) with a major in the Business & Technology of Fashion one has been given informational knowledge about the industry, while one’s internship has provided hands on experience. If one were to factor in the professional development panel discussion, one would say that they are prepared to enter the workforce.