



- Independent project, This is Vietnam!**, Vietnam 2006-2011
- Carry out a photographic project about the socioeconomic changes in modern Vietnam
- Photography exhibition, SUGAR project**, Cu Chi, Vietnam June - Aug. 2011
- Exhibited a photo story about children born with HIV/ AIDS to raise awareness about social discrimination against HIV-infected individuals.
- Photography exhibition, Unconventional Beauty**, Singapore, Singapore 2008-2010
- Exhibited documentary projects about the various communities in Singapore, Singapore and Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, highlighting the lives of individuals from different backgrounds: handicapped athletes, working elders, street children and Thaipusam devotees.

### **Skills**

**Computer:** Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator; Geographic Information System and AutoCad

**Language:** Vietnamese - Native , English - Fluent, Chinese - Conversational

**Others:** Online photography portfolio at <http://www.behance.net/iamdat>

**Dat Tien Vu (2015)**

## **Program Proposal**

### **1. Provide a brief overview of the organization for which you will intern or program/project you are developing.**

The Vietnam Green Building Council (VGBC) is a program of Green Cities Fund, Inc., an international non-profit organization based in California, USA. VGBC was established in 2007 with an aim to raise awareness and build capacity for the development of green building in Vietnam. VGBC's goal is to act as a catalyst by encouraging cooperation among government, academia and the private sector to achieve a more sustainably built environment.

According to an offer letter from the Council, I would be placed in the Technical Department, which focuses on research about Green Database and environmental criteria for buildings in Vietnam.

### **2. Briefly provide details of the internship or experience, including responsibilities and tasks.**

There are three main areas that make up my internship responsibilities: Green Database, Vietnamese-English translation and LOTUS Research.

For Green Database, I will help develop an online hub of green products and services that could aid compliance with LOTUS, which are the rating tools that detail criteria for a building to be certified sustainable and environmentally friendly.

In terms of LOTUS Research, I would conduct research on the LOTUS Rating Tools and their applicability to the Vietnamese environment. The focus of the research would be energy and water efficiency.

Finally, Vietnamese-English translation would be one of the biggest aspects of my internship. I would primarily help translate research documents with technical terminologies related to construction, the environment and engineering.

### **3. How have you communicated with the employer and determined mutual interest?**

As of February 23, 2014, I received an offer letter from the organization. I submitted the letter along with the application under the "other documents" section as proof of our communication and mutual interest.

#### **4. How will this experience enhance or broaden your career goals?**

Coming from Vietnam, I have always felt compelled to apply what I have learned and garnered at Wesleyan back in my home country. With a double major in Environmental Science and Art Studio (photography and architecture), I am inclined to pursue opportunities that allow me to combine the knowledge and skill sets from these two fields. This is why the summer experience with the Vietnam Green Building Council (VGBC) is crucial development toward my career goal. It caters to both of my academic interests and practical skills because it focuses on sustainable architecture in the specific environment conditions of Vietnam.

Thanks to my coursework at Wesleyan, I have become very familiar with contemporary architecture and the weight of environmental components in construction. By participating in discussions about building passive dormitories and earthships on campus, I am ready to apply my knowledge about concepts, methods and technologies to influence environmentally conscious buildings. I am curious about how this can be adapted in the tropical climate and the particular landscape of Vietnam. In conjunction with VGBC, I would gain the tools to implement these techniques in Vietnam.

The internship is likely to foster a strong specific skill set for me regarding architecture design and planning, which will come into handy for my other community endeavors. Having served as a volunteer builder for Habitat for Humanity, I have usually helped with fashioning different house components, such as pipe installation, floor and roof layout. With the techniques I learn from VGBC, I can incorporate green products into households and therefore promote a sustainable lifestyle for the residents.

On the other hand, the internship is a way for me to reconnect and to explore my own home country, especially after three years away overseas at Wesleyan. There will be things that I am familiar with and definitely things that I am very new to. My education will shape my view of the country. All the more, Vietnam, as a developing country, is coupled with lots of issues in terms of sustainability and development. Though my role at the VGBC might not influence much presently, I aspire to one day contribute to the major change in the country's transition of development.

Moreover, Vietnam's growing market in green building construction provides a platform of new development and growth for residential buildings, non-residential buildings and buildings in operation. With a strong demand for sustainability politically and economically, progress in environmental construction will be very relevant for the near future of Vietnam. Through this internship I will develop skills for an up and coming field in sustainable building that will influence a new movement toward environmentalism and contribute to my career goals.

What is important about my motivation for doing this is undoubtedly the chance to utilize the knowledge and skills I have learned and developed in Wesleyan over the

past three years. Since it is my career goal to promote and influence sustainability in Vietnam, the nature of this internship is essentially in line with my future prospect. Besides, as VGBC is part of an international non-profit organization, I will get to broaden my career horizon working with non-profit sectors and in a diversified environment. I believe that being an intern at the Vietnam Green Building Council this summer will be a major learning experience during my undergraduate career.