

GET TO KNOW...

PRIYA

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ART

The UW Bothell community is filled with thousands of game-changers who are building careers, developing networks and creating opportunities to make the world around them a better place. One of them is Priya Frank, associate director for community programs at the Seattle Art Museum.

Q: Who was your favorite professor at UW Bothell?

A: Susan Harewood changed my life. She encouraged me and set high expectations for what I could achieve in my research into how the marketing of world music artists contributes to stereotyping and how arts organizations can empower artists to speak up and explore what their art truly represents.

Q: Describe your UW Bothell experience in one word.

A: Epic.

Q: Why did you choose UW Bothell?

A: The cultural studies program focused on exactly what I loved and allowed me to put theory into a community-based learning practice.

Q: Who did you meet during your graduate studies at UW Bothell — on or off campus — who became a career connection for you?

A: My mentor, Vivian Phillips. Shortly after we met, she and I cofounded a Women of Color in the Arts group, and she opened invaluable doors for me. As an international leader in the arts, she was often approached for opportunities and would put my name forward instead. She believed in me long before I recognized the contributions I could make in the arts community. I'm so grateful.

WHERE I WORK:
Seattle Art Museum

WHAT I DO:
Associate Director for
Community Programs

HOW I DO IT:
My job is to bring the community into the museum and bring the museum into the community, building partnerships and advancing ways for art and culture to contribute to a healthy and diverse community where all voices can be heard.

Q: How do you believe UW Bothell helped you find a career that fed your passion for the arts?

A: How didn't it! Being able to take classes like digital storytelling and performance theory pushed me out of my comfort zone and let me explore many different parts of myself, professionally and personally. That gave me confidence to curate a local lounge/art space called LUCID, serve on the Seattle Arts Commission and the board of On the Boards, and eventually to apply for my position at SAM.

Q: How do you like to stay involved with UW Bothell as an alum?

A: In my position at SAM, I can be an ambassador and advocate for UW Bothell in different ways. I get to talk to a lot of young folks about career paths intersecting arts administration, social justice and racial equity, and let them know what an impact my UW Bothell experience had on me.

Q: Why do you give back to UW Bothell?

A: UW Bothell allowed me to blossom in a safe space. I made friends, built community, owned my perspective and who I am in ways I hadn't considered before. UW Bothell is where I grew the most and realized my potential and owned it.

Q: Your community connections run deep. Why is that important to you?

A: My community raised me. It's what lifted me, what made me and what's gotten me to where I am. From my family to my mentors to my teachers to the organizations I've worked with, it was as if they could see me before I could see me. They pushed me forward because they had faith in me.

Q: Describe your personal style and how it reflects your personality.

A: I want to celebrate life and I feel like my personal style reflects that. I love to mix bright colors and thrift store glamour with glittery Doc Martens. I hope people see my style as they see me: unique, joyful, approachable and always true to myself. **W**

