



# E. John Rosenwald, Jr. 1952 Public Affairs Internship Fund INTERN PROFILE



## Solenne Wolfe '24 NYC Mayor's Office of Operations

Solenne Wolfe '24 hails from New York City and plans to study environmental engineering at Dartmouth. At Brooklyn Technical High School, she won the state debate championship, and ranked nationally in policy debate. She also served as the treasurer for the Youth Progressive Policy Group and was recognized for her writing on water management by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. On campus, she writes for The Mirror section of The Dartmouth, works as an intern on the Organic Farm through the Sustainability Office, conducts research in the Environmental Studies Department in the Dartmouth Forest, and is a member of the Club Triathlon Team. Growing up in New York City was formative and Solenne hopes to preserve the wonder of the city that she grew up in by working as an urban planner with a focus on municipal government and environmental justice.

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### Executive Summary from Solenne's final report:

This summer, I had the privilege of working at the New York City Mayor's Office of Operations (OOO) as an intern with the Project and Performance Management (PPM) team. The OOO is a back-end office that works with all agencies in the Mayor's Office to implement new policy initiatives and provide organizational support for a vast range of projects. I provided organizational and analytical support for the project management team's COVID-19 emergency response and recovery efforts including testing operations, vaccine distribution, and business health and safety inspections. The team works as the internal consultant to the Mayor's Office.

In June, Mayor Bill de Blasio told the public that he would vaccinate all of the city's 12-15 year olds in homeless shelters. The Department of Homeless Services (DHS) was tasked with vaccinating nearly every single shelter

designated a “family with children” shelter. I spent most of my time working with the DHS on project management for vaccine logistics. Specifically, I created and oversaw the messaging to homeless shelter directors regarding vaccination and how to alert clients of the event. Each day, I met with senior health officials at the DHS for debriefs as well as with my supervisor to learn technical skills required to process massive amounts of urgent logistical information. I was responsible for coordinating 300 homeless shelter vaccination events and ensuring that shelter space was adequate, medically safe, and sufficient for vaccination. Each week, I aggregated public health data collected from shelters and presented a top-level dashboard to senior officials in the DHS.

This work was eye-opening in that I realized that though I was sending emails and working in spreadsheets, my efforts would result in increased vaccination rates for undervaccinated communities, which saves lives. That the means to an end are unsurprising or tried and true doesn't neglect the importance of that end. I understand now that the tedium of life matters – getting the “little stuff” right isn't just for the sake of pleasing an authority figure or one's personal ambition, but creates a large ripple effect. I am inspired by the fastidious nature of my colleagues and carry in my present academic life, greater poise and focus thanks to my work with them.