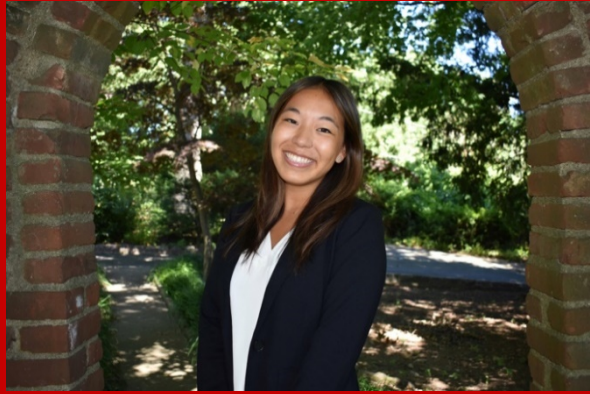




# David F. Squire 1947 Internship Fund

## INTERN PROFILE



### Melody Fu '23 New York City Council

Melody Fu '23 comes from Mountain Lakes, New Jersey where she graduated as salutatorian of her high school class and as a National AP Scholar. At Mountain Lakes, Melody participated in the National Honor Society and the French National Honor Society tutor program, and was the recipient of the Brown Book Award, presented to the senior student most proficient in English. At Dartmouth, she is majoring in government modified with economics with a minor in sociology. Melody is on the varsity equestrian team, works as a tutor for the Tutor Clearinghouse, and is a senior associate with Women in Business. After graduation, she hopes to attend law school and pursue a career in public policy, consulting, or law.

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#### **Executive Summary from Melody’s final report:**

During fall term 2020, I worked for the Office of Councilwoman Carlina Rivera at the New York City Council. As a Policy and Budget intern, I worked primarily under the budget director to serve New York City's 2nd District, which includes East Village, Gramercy Park, Kips Bay, Lower East Side, Murray Hill, and Rose Hill in Manhattan. On the policy side, my position allowed me to work with a team dedicated to many issues: housing affordability, small business survival, immigration rights, education equity, and more. On the budget side, this year was an extraordinarily exciting fiscal year. Due to COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement, budget negotiations for the city were fraught with debates and disputes. For us, this meant making difficult decisions regarding nonprofit allocations in the district; researching and going over budget requests; attending committee hearings; and performing a yearly

analysis of discretionary funding of the Schedule C budget in order to inform our Councilwoman's vote against approving the budget.

Some of the policy work I was involved in centered around researching and keeping up with local and future legislation, then distilling that information into policy briefs to present to the larger staff. For example, I wrote briefs detailing the proposed NYCHA Preservation Trust proposal, the tax lien sale, and the COVID-19 policies surrounding the reopening of public schools in the city—issues that we needed to familiarize ourselves with in order to better inform and guide our constituents. Along with our separate responsibilities, every member of the staff contributed to constituent services: a wide variety of non-legislative activities that are the representational responsibility of every elected official's office. We worked with the residents of District 2 to assist with their issues whenever possible, and managed consistent engagement with them by contacting government agencies, nonprofits, advocacy groups, or other organizations on their behalf. I worked primarily on issues concerning the Department of Transportation and NYCHA, but was able to also work on cases spanning a wide variety of different fields. This experience allowed me to develop essential communication and organizational skills as well as cultivate my interest in public policy, advocacy, and legislation.

Throughout my time working under Councilwoman Rivera, I found many things to be enjoyable. One aspect that I enjoyed was working in the local government alongside a cohort of my peers from different colleges. While working with my peers, I was able to gain valuable insight into micro-focused legislation and its direct impacts on citizens. It has been an amazing experience to be so involved with policy on a local and state level during a time when uncertainty is at an all-time high, and simultaneously at a time when the nation's eyes have been focused on the decisions and precedents of the New York City Council. For the months that I worked for the Councilwoman's office, I was able to communicate with constituents on a deeply personal level as well as conduct research on social/human rights issues centered around New York City. These experiences have taught me indispensable skills that I will take with me for the rest of my time at Dartmouth. As a government major with an economics minor, this internship fell perfectly at the intersection of both of my interests, and I cannot thank the Rockefeller Center and the support of the David F. Squire 1947 Internship Fund enough for allowing me to explore a path that I could potentially pursue in the future.