

Kalu Yala 2011 Summer Internship Packet

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Kalu Yala

Kalu Yala as a Brand:

Kalu Yala is in a 7,000 acre valley that backs up to a 320,000 acre national park and sits at the headwaters of a 90,000 acre watershed. Primary rainforest covers 50 percent of the breathtaking valley, while the rest is currently used for cattle grazing. Kalu Yala is located 50 minutes from Panama City's central business district and 35 minutes from the international airport. The village we are designing in the valley will eventually have a population of over 10,000 people, while inhabiting less than 20% of the land.

Some of the world's best architects, planners, economists, attorneys, and farmers are helping us make Kalu Yala one of the most sustainable places on earth. We are designing a sustainable food production and distribution system with farms, markets and restaurants that will be able to provide almost all of Kalu Yala's food. Energy will be produced on the property. We will help build social capital and empower environmental responsibility in the 200,000 acre region surrounding us. Residents and guests will have access to the national park that borders Kalu Yala and all the adventure and education it holds.

Although Kalu Yala covers over 5,000 acres of the valley, the village will be designed on less than 20 percent of the land. This allows us to preserve all of the primary rainforest, over 2,500 acres in total. Working with the team in Panama, our online community and experts, we will decide how to divide the remaining land between the village, reforestation and small scale sustainable farms.

Kalu Yala Language

There are so many words that we think describe what Kalu Yala is now, what it could potentially be, and what it represents. The problem is choosing the few that best describe it and hold the most meaning. Before coming down to Panama we think it is important to expose you to the vocabulary that is often used in daily conversations and our meaning behind them.

Here is a list of words that we feel best represent Kalu Yala and why:

Sustainability: This seems to be the stickiest word in our language. Everyone has an expectation of what “being sustainable” means to them personally. The word *sustainable* has become closely tied to the environment, but Kalu Yala understands that in order to protect ecology, we must also be socially and economically sustainable. A sustainable community – or at least, our sustainable community – is one that can proceed indefinitely because it’s environmental, social, and economic trends are positive, not negative. We seek to add environmental, social, and economic value at rates faster than they are being consumed. A sustainable community focuses on durability and longevity, allowing citizens to seek their highest potential without diminishing future value.

Awareness: The knowledge of how individual items are part of the larger system which they both help to create and are also created by. This knowledge is required to maximize the value of those systems and optimize their efficiency, be they social, agricultural, ecological or financial.

Design: Design reflects the values that connect people to their surroundings and determines the potential people can gain from those surroundings. Kalu Yala’s design will call to people who share its values, while helping them optimize the lifestyle they can achieve while part of Kalu Yala.

Education: Kalu Yala is an ever-learning, ever-growing center of knowledge. Our possibilities are only limited by our total understanding of the parts of life which matter most to us. We are all here to learn and to teach, so that our village is as strong and resilient as possible.

Incubator: Kalu Yala will be a hub for ideas built around human scale sustainability to be able to garner support and hear criticisms, leading the village to become an incubator for both sustainable practices and businesses that can be applied outside of Kalu Yala as well.

Inevitability: What we are doing at Kalu Yala is inevitable. All we need is for people to believe.

Integrity: Direct, honest and uncompromising in living up to our word. In the future, expect clear, objective metrics to be available to the public so we can be judged for how we are performing.

Naked Development: Real estate development has gotten a nasty reputation for causing damage to communities, environments, and economies – yet we all live in houses, use roads and highways, and

shop in stores. Naked Development is our attempt to realign a large and necessary industry with the people it is supposed to be serving by bringing them into an honest and open conversation via the internet, using transparency and clear intent as the foundation to the conversation. Prepare for open-source Sim City.

Natural: Kalu Yala is in the rainforest of Panama surrounding a pristine river. However, natural settings haven't traditionally kept communities from building their houses, foods and lifestyles from synthetic materials. Kalu Yala is looking to nature first, before making decisions in a synthetic age.

Organic: A self-evolving system, rather than a pre-destined plan.

Ownership: Ownership means taking responsibility and not relying on others to solve problems for you. The intern program, the shareholder agreement, and the home owners association seek participation from all stakeholders in creating Kalu Yala's future by attracting self-reliant people to help build the world's most sustainable modern village.

Proactive: Kalu Yala is a place for problem solvers, not whiners. If you like to whine without taking action, please leave Kalu Yala alone. *Note: Whining loudly for someone else to take action is not considered action in Kalu Yala.*

Villager: What we consider the people living in Kalu Yala that signifies that we are different from most modern communities. We are a team working towards a common goal – to create the world's most sustainable village. We may choose different routes, but we are all working towards getting to the same place.

Value: Everyone involved will be contributing some kind of value to Kalu Yala to get some kind of value out of the project, whether it is economic, social or environmental. We are driven by our values to create value.

Whole Living: Kalu Yala is all about choosing a better lifestyle. A whole life is a multifaceted, well-rounded, and aware life.

Internship Program

May 22nd-August 5th

Overview:

The Kalu Yala internship program is an opportunity for students and young professionals to come to Panama and gain cultural exposure, work experience, knowledge and use the resources Kalu Yala has in order to create a project that is personal to you and in line with both your and our values. This program allows each individual to tailor a research project that fits his or her specific interests pertaining to Kalu Yala. As a team, we work with each individual to craft a roll which fits our company, our brand, and your passion. We are looking for passionate, self-starting people who wish to help inspire and continue the progress of our work. Kalu Yala is seeking individuals from all

backgrounds who will be able to flourish in our whole-systems, entrepreneurial research environment.

Goals:

Each semester the KY group makes a list of goals of what they want to accomplish as a company that semester. Some goals are short-term and confined to next few weeks or months, while others will be long-term and relate to the direction of the company's growth. Here are some we are already focused on:

- Biological systems within the Kalu Yala valley
- Sustainable agriculture and food
- Sustainable architecture and construction
- Community outreach and education in San Miguel
- Advertising and creative media to tell meaningful stories to the world
- Outdoor recreation
- Hospitality

These goals are not the only things Kalu Yala is focused on. We are interested in all the facets of building a community and would love to have interns express their interest in how they want to contribute to Kalu Yala.

Tuition

\$1,200.00 per term

The Kalu Yala internship tuition includes:

- Rent
- Office overhead
- Meal Plan

- Maid service
- Laundry service
- Internet
- Utilities
- Transportation between locations
- Mail Box

The Kalu Yala internship tuition does not include:

- Plane ticket

Travel expenses

Entertainment expenses

We accept full payments, half payments and monthly payments.

Where You Live

The Kalu Yala Internship Program houses interns in three different locations.

1) Panama City is where we have our main office and intern living quarters. It is located in the Bella Vista neighborhood in the center of Panama City. Our interns live in Edificio Hispania, a historic building located directly behind Urraca Park. The building has full security and a gated parking garage.

2) San Miguel is the nearest village to the Kalu Yala property. Many of our community outreach and education interns spend a significant amount of time in the local town.

3) The Kalu Yala site is still completely off-the-grid, with access by four wheel drive vehicle only. Biology and sustainable construction interns will spend at least 50% of their time living in camp sites within the valley. If adventure is what you are looking for, the valley will live up to your expectations.

The location where you will live is driven by which topic you choose to focus on and the location of resources needed to complete your project. Before you have finalized your project outline, it is not always easy to predict where you will sleep. However, each person has the ability to visit all locations and stay wherever he or she feels the need to get their project done. You are not limited to one area, so we have beds in all places.

How You Eat

Kalu Yala has incorporated a meal plan service that provides interns with lunch on weekdays and dinner Monday through Thursday (9 meals per week). The meal plan allows interns to save time and money and is constantly evolving in its effort to create a healthy and delicious menu.

The meal plan goes with you where you go. We have arranged a meal plan service with the local “fonda” (restaurant) in San Miguel and are in the process of arranging one with the caretakers on site in Kalu Yala.

We are willing to work around special dietary needs and preferences to the extent that is currently possible. We can accommodate vegetarians, but cannot yet satisfy the needs of vegans or gluten-free individuals. If you are a vegan or gluten-free cook, we would love to have you incorporate your skills into the meal plan so that we can offer this in the future!

Weekly Work Requirements

While your research and projects will vary based on your area of study there are a few basic weekly requirements. At the end of each semester, all interns will give a final presentation of the work product from their project, including how Kalu Yala can apply this to creating a better community.

Weekly Requirements

Documentation:

- Project Management spread sheet filled out completely by Friday at 4PM.
- All research documents shared by Friday at 4PM.

Social Media:

- Blogs: 1 blog post on your project and how it is relevant to creating a new community.
- Twitter: 2 tweets, 1 including a Twit Pic or link to interesting article.
- Facebook group page: 1 post of a link to something interesting, a short paragraph of something you find interesting, link to a KY blog post, etc. (can be done by “@” mentioning Kalu Yala group in your status updates)
- Facebook photos: All photos must be captioned and tagged. Relevant photos should be posted to the KY Facebook group. Remember that pictures need to be appropriate.
- Stumble: Stumble and like (thumbs up!) the blog post that went up the day before.

Vacation days vary depending on the semester that you are applying for. We take both Panamanian and major American holidays into account. There are pre-planned trips according to season, rainy season and dry season, in which interns are able to participate. The KY staff has created itineraries for those who wish to participate in these trips. This service is incredibly helpful because it is difficult and sometimes unreliable to make travel plans in a foreign country. Any special request to get off work outside any holidays or special KY event (trips) needs to be approved two weeks in advance, no exceptions.

Application Process

How to get involved:

All applications are e-mailed to ellie@kaluyala.com

For direct information on the Outdoor Recreation Program email AshleyKaluYala@gmail.com

Required Information:

- The subject of the e-mail should be titled “Intern Application”.
- Application: The application attached needs to be filled out with the appropriate information. Then it must be scanned and sent as an attachment.
- Short Answer Questions:
 - Why you would like to be a part of our team and what makes you a good candidate?
 - What interests you about Kalu Yala and what skills you will bring with you to Panama?
 - What are you interested in studying when coming to Panama?
 - Can you speak Spanish? It is NOT required.
 - What do you look forward to most about moving to Panama?
 - Any additional information you would like to add!
- Interview: Please e-mail me available times for a possible interview during the week of March 14th- 18th.

Optional Information

- Current Resume
- List of References
- Photo

Please e-mail ellie@kaluyala.com if you have any further specific questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will Kalu Yala be built?

A: Construction of Kalu Yala is set to begin in January, 2013, but we are already beginning to experiment with different construction systems on the site in our Base Camp.

Q: Where does our research go after we leave the program?

A: All research is reviewed in order to see what implications it will have to helping Kalu Yala make better decisions about subjects that are not typically considered or well understood by the financiers and contractors usually involved in real estate. Furthermore, all studies are catalogued to form a foundation of local knowledge available to all who will be involved with Kalu Yala.

Q: Can we use Kalu Yala as a vessel for our own project?

A: Yes, we get lots of proposals from students who want to use us as a project to increase their portfolio. This allows them to get a portfolio piece as well as professional experience.

Q: Do you have to be a student?

A: No, 20% of KY interns are still students and 80% are out of college and as old as 28 years old. What everyone has in common is a desire to gain professional experience working on a project unlike any other in the world.

Q: Can you get college credit from this internship?

A: Yes, while Kalu Yala has chosen not to become an accredited program to prevent being viewed as a study abroad program, rather than a work experience, the KY staff is happy to fill out any information and send in any documentation the student needs to meet the requirements from his or her college.

Q: What and where is San Miguel?

A: San Miguel is the last town before you enter the Kalu Yala property. We have recently launched our community outreach program where the students live in San Miguel. Each semester the students have different projects they work on with the community.

Q: How many residents does San Miguel have?

A: About 400 residents.

Q: What is there to do in San Miguel?

A: There is a beautiful river that runs through the town, basketball courts and soccer fields. It is always fun to hang out at the local cantinas and fondas (restaurants) to eat and listen to „typico“ music. Also, you are close enough to the property to go on hikes through the valley!