The Columbus to do list was a journey to say the least. At first, I had a very hard time deciding which list I was going to complete. The downtown list seemed the most interesting of the options, but it also looked like the hardest to complete. At the point when I was considering my options, I had not really used the bussing system at all. Needless to say, COTA was a bit intimidating. I considered the High street coffee to-do list since I’m a fan of caffeine, but crossed that of off my list because it was a bit too close to home. I had to learn how to use the bus eventually, so why not do it while eating hot dogs, walking the Scioto mile, and browsing the art museum.

First things coming first, my suite and I watched the Columbus history video before making the journey. It was very interesting to see where the city began and where it is now going. I found it very interesting that Columbus was one of the first cities with a real, paid fire department. Prior to this, citizens of the city all owned buckets that were filled with water and used to put out fires if they were to ever come up – which they often did. In fact, fires in the old city were a daily occurrence. Anything from a small kitchen fire to entire buildings engulfed was a danger to the city as a whole. I’ll be the first to admit that history is not my main interest, and sometimes I find it dry. However, some of this video sparked my interest to see the city that I have never seen before.

Ohio State was generous enough to give students the opportunity to visit COSI free of charge early in the semester. I had been to the Center of Science and Industry several times before, but more than ten years ago when I could not have been older than eight or so. Revisiting was nothing short of nostalgic perfection. Seeing the museum again brought me right back to my childhood. The space, anatomy, electricity, water, and LEGO exhibits were all up and running when we arrived. The most memorable was the water exhibit which held the massive Poseidon statue. It was completely unchanged from the last time I saw it, which made it even more impressive.

Dirty Frank’s Hotdog Palace was my first stop on the downtown Columbus to-do list. Dirty Frank’s is a small restaurant on Fourth Street in downtown Columbus. My suitemates and I decided to plan the trip downtown for dinner one night. Unknown to us, a rainstorm and a bone chilling cold were also scheduled for that night. We found this out shortly after arriving at the Ohio Union bus stop. We weren’t going to let the weather stop us, especially when food was the major motivator. We continued downtown and got off the bus about a half mile from the restaurant. Using our phone GPS, and desperately trying to keep them dry, we navigated our way to Dirty Franks. By the time we arrived, we were all decently wet, cold, and hungry. The trip turned into more of a trek, but the destination made it worth the effort. Dirty Frank’s served everything from the traditional Chicago dog to the Fancy Lady (a hot dog covered in crushed potato chips and nacho cheese). The environment was relaxed, the staff was polite, and we all enjoyed getting out of the rain. All in all, it was a great experience. We ended up returning a second time, but corrected our first mistake by going on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

While visiting Dirty Frank’s for a second time, we noticed the 16-Bit Barcade right next door was also on our Columbus to-do list. This was really exciting for us. Throwback arcade games remind all of us of when we were younger and of some of the best times of our childhood. We ate another couple of Frank’s dirty dogs and left to spend our quarters, only to be immediately denied. When we got to the door, we were stopped right away. Yes, the Barcade sells alcohol, but for whatever reason we expected to be let in just for the games. It was an abrupt and disappointing end to the day, but we were reassured that every so often the bar holds events where 18 year olds and above are welcome. The bar stops serving alcohol and instead focuses on the arcade aspect. From here, we began planning our next trip.

The Columbus art museum and the Scioto mile were next on the list. I personally have only ever seen one other art museum, but it was one of my favorite experiences. I visited a Miami, Florida modern art museum over spring break of my senior year in high School. Columbus would have to pull out all the stops to impress me more than Miami art, even if some it was literal piles of dirty clothes on a wooden chair. Modern art can be confusing. Either way, the Columbus art museum gave Miami a good run for its money. The diversity of the art they held and environment was very enjoyable and relaxing. Spending an afternoon browsing art from different time periods, genres, and artists was a great way to decompress before starting a new week of classes, I recommend this site particularly to anyone interested in history or art. From the museum, we left for our final destination – The Scioto Mile. The day we walked the mile, it was still getting some work done. It seemed like a section of it was either being finished or redone by pouring a new concrete walkway. Either way, the view of the river and the outdoor feel was a refreshing sight to see from the city landscape. Being able to still connect with nature and enjoy the environment is a must have for any urban area. Finding out more about the city of Columbus and seeing some of the sights of downtown was really enjoyable and left me with some definite go-to’s for food or fun on the weekends here at Ohio State.





