



DES MOINES METRO OPERA

Job Title: Props Artisan (build crew)
Reports To: Properties Supervisor(s)
Supervises: Props Interns, as needed
Works closely with: Scenic Carpentry, Scenic Art

Summary:

Located in Indianola, Iowa the company will produce three exciting new productions in a summer repertory schedule, within the intimate 467-seat theatre at the Blank Performing Arts Center. Our 54th season consists of 3 mainstage productions with 2 new productions being built specific for DMMO's stage and the third built as a major co-production. DMMO is one of America's boldest Opera Companies (as reported by the New York Times) and was nominated for its 2024 season for an International Opera Award. Join our team in this a critical role to work on some of the most challenging, bold, intense, visually stunning, complex and rewarding productions of your career!

Des Moines Metro Opera is looking for a skilled props builder to join our team to help create the props needed for the festival. This position is not a member of the run crew and departs after the final production opens.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, Des Moines Metro Opera celebrates diversity and inclusion. We do not discriminate against any employee or job applicant on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, disability, age, veteran status, political affiliation or philosophy. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

Principle Duties and Responsibilities:

The below responsibilities are in no means a complete list of tasks/responsibilities.

- Work with-in the properties team in the scenic shop for the creation, modification of the properties/furniture for the season.
- Source items and materials both online and remotely.
- Drive a company vehicle to move props and furnishing.
- Participate in and inspire safe working practices in others. Accept no corners cut.
- Provide all necessary information to the Properties Supervisors and Associate Technical Directors.
- Be a problem-solver and be solutions oriented – working with the team to make our goals.
- Assistant in warehouse / scenic shop organization of the properties.
- Comply and enforce safe working techniques, safety policies and procedures and all rules.
- Strive for a workplace that is; team-focused, creative, positive, professional and solution based – encouraging all members of the team.

Dates of In-Person Employment:

Arrival Date:	Monday, May 25, 2026 by 5:00pm
First Work Day:	Tuesday, May 26, 2026
Last Work Day:	Saturday, July 4, 2026 (opening of King Roger)
Departure Date:	Sunday, July 5, 2026 by Noon

*Some flexibility can be afforded to the right candidates

Compensation:

Base pay rate, per hour:	\$14.50 - \$16.25/hour based on experience
Overtime pay rate, per hour (after 40):	1.5x the hourly rate

\$350 travel stipend to be paid upon arrival.

DMMO will provide single occupancy air-conditioned room in dorm-style housing during the festival season.



Skills and Knowledge:

Any combination of education and experience providing the required skill and knowledge for successful performance would be qualifying. Typical qualifications would be equivalent to:

- Experience working as a props builder, with ideally at least 1+ year working after completing a technical theatre training.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills, with the ability to tailor to the needs of the listener/reader.
- Proven ability working with-in a diverse, multi-generation workforce.
- Experience working with/in a scenic shop is an asset.
- Experience working in a repertory production format is helpful.
- Experience loading/unloading trucks and vans.
- Experience assembling/disassembling props and furniture.
- Experience with basic hand tools and power tools is important.
- Experience with hand/machine sewing and working with fabrics.
- Experience with time-efficient painting techniques.
- Willingness to try new things and learn.
- Driver's License and ability to drive a cargo van.
- OSHA 10 or greater qualifications.

Physical Requirements and Working Conditions:

- Ability to sit, stand, traverse a working stage/shop environment which includes ladders, uneven floors and workspaces associated with properties fabrication and use.
- Work includes extended periods of standing, working in low light, climbing stairs/ladders, and may include working in a personnel lift.
- Ability to lift heavy objects properly/safely
- All team must supply their own protective toed footwear.
- Ability to wear a Type 2 hardhat, eye protection, hearing protection, respirator and any other safety equipment that may be needed.

Application Process:

Submit resume, with three (3) references and a cover letter via email to production@dmmo.org.

Please include "**Props Artisan**" as the subject line.

For more information on this position, contact crodney@dmmo.org

Deadline:

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Applicant screening process expected to begin in mid-January of 2026