DES MOINES METRO OPERA

PROPERTIES INTERN

$12.50/HR	1.5x OT	HOUSING INCLUDED	TRAVEL ALLOWANCE
BASE PAY	AFTER 40 HOURS	NO COST	$350

IN-PERSON EMPLOYMENT | June 1 – July 29, 2027 | Arrive May 31 by 5 pm | Depart July 30 by 11 am

REAL WORK. REAL EXPERIENCE. REAL OPPORTUNITY.

Three positions. Each intern will work more closely with a Properties Supervisor on one opera while contributing across all three. Combine hands-on props fabrication with backstage show run; a typical show day includes a shop call followed by a performance call.

WHAT YOU'LL MAKE HAPPEN

- Contribute to the preparation, fabrication, modification and repair of props for all three productions.
- Work with a Properties Supervisor on one assigned opera while supporting the full repertory.
- Work with varied materials and techniques, including sculpting, painting and soft goods.
- Participate in props presets, performance cues and resets as run crew.
- Participate in repertory changeovers, removing, organizing and preparing props for the next production.
- Assist with inventory, loading, unloading, strike and return of stock.

EXPERIENCE YOU'LL BUILD

- Be part of the professional team creating and running props used onstage.
- Build practical experience taking a prop from fabrication to live performance.
- Explore unfamiliar materials, tools and fabrication techniques on real assignments.
- Strengthen backstage timing, organization and repertory problem-solving.
- Contribute meaningfully across three operas while developing a production-specific focus.

WHY DMMO?

DMMO brings established and emerging professionals together to do their best work. Our summer festival presents three operas in repertory, with inventive technical solutions, collaborative teams and a shared commitment to safety and professional growth.

WHAT YOU BRING

- A genuine desire for hands-on professional production experience.
- Curiosity, an open mind and confidence to bring your authentic self.
- Practical problem-solving, teamwork, clear communication and a get-it-done attitude.
- Some props or scenic art experience; school and practical projects count.
- Familiarity with hand and power tools and basic fabrication methods.
- Basic hand-sewing and sewing machine skills.
- Strong attention to detail, an eye for craftsmanship and a commitment to high-quality finishes.
- Ability to research historical periods, styles, materials and techniques.
- Availability for shop and show calls; driver's license desirable.
- Must be at least 18 years old.
- OSHA 10 training is highly valued, but not required.

WHAT WE BRING

- $12.50/hour; 1.5x overtime ($18.75/hour) after 40 hours/week.
- Overtime occurs in most departments during the festival, as production needs require.
- A private room in dormitory-style housing at no cost; $350 travel allowance paid upon arrival.
- Paid, meaningful work alongside experienced industry professionals.
- Specialized departmental training and dedicated one-on-one guidance and feedback.
- A series of cross-departmental workshops led by industry professionals, providing opportunities to explore other production disciplines, expand your technical knowledge and develop a broader understanding of professional opera production.
- Thoughtful call scheduling, scheduled breaks and appropriate turnaround between calls.
- Paid safety training, including safe working practices and training specific to your department, equipment and assigned duties.
- A potential pathway to staff positions in future DMMO seasons.

SEE YOURSELF ON TEAM DMMO?

Introduce yourself: Tell us what you bring, what interests you most and what you hope to gain professionally at DMMO.
Send your resume + introduction to jobsinproduction@dmmo.org
EMAIL SUBJECT: 2027 INTERN PROPS

POSITION DESCRIPTION / EMPLOYMENT DETAILS	
POSITION TYPE	Seasonal / Hourly / Non-Exempt / Internship
REPORTS TO	Properties Supervisor(s); Properties Lead
SUPERVISES / LEADS	No direct reports
WORKS CLOSELY WITH	Properties, Scenic Art, Scenic Shop, Stage Carpentry and Stage Management

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Ability to move safely through active shop, stage, backstage and theatre spaces, with or without reasonable accommodation. Duties may involve tools, ladders, low light, outdoor work and lifting up to 50 lb. Ability and willingness to wear a Type II hardhat, employee-provided steel-toed boots and other required PPE.