DES MOINES METRO OPERA

PROPS ARTISAN / RUN CREW

$14–$15.50/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 | Depart July 30

FROM PROP SHOP TO SHOWTIME.

Join DMMO's summer Properties team for a hands-on role that combines creating and adapting props and furniture in the scenic shop with backstage work during rehearsals and performances. Reporting to the Properties Supervisors, you'll help three repertory operas run smoothly from first build through final strike.

WHAT YOU'LL MAKE HAPPEN

- Build, modify and repair hand props, furniture and scenic-property elements for three repertory operas.
- Use hand and power tools, painting, fabric techniques and other shop methods to create and finish props.
- Collaborate with Properties Supervisors, Scenic Art and Scenic Carpentry on fabrication, notes and repairs.
- Help source materials and props; identify practical alternatives and communicate needs clearly.
- Organize, inventory, load and safely transport props and furnishings in company vehicles.
- Prepare, preset, move, track and reset props backstage during technical rehearsals and performances.
- Support repertory changeovers, maintenance, strike and orderly storage while following safe work practices.

EXPERIENCE YOU'LL BUILD

- Create practical and decorative objects for three fully staged opera productions.
- Strengthen prop fabrication, furniture modification, painting and soft-goods skills.
- Develop backstage run-crew skills: presets, cue-taking, quiet handoffs and resets.
- See how props work connects to stage management, scenic construction and scenic art.
- Build experience solving fast-moving problems during rehearsals and repertory changes.
- Practice safe loading, transporting, tracking and organizing of theatrical properties.
- Work alongside experienced supervisors and technicians in a collaborative festival.

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 learning.

WHAT YOU BRING

- Experience making, modifying or repairing theatrical props, furniture or related items.
- Comfort with basic hand and power tools; scenic-shop experience is an advantage.
- Some backstage show-running experience and the ability to follow cues and presets.
- Painting, sewing, fabric work or furniture assembly skills are useful additions.
- Good organization, communication and attention to detail across changing priorities.
- Ability to load and move props safely; valid driver's license and comfort driving a cargo van.
- A collaborative, safety-first approach; OSHA 10 or equivalent training is a plus.

WHAT WE BRING

- **$14–$15.50/hour based on experience; overtime paid at 1.5x for hours worked over 40 in a week.**
- Your primary accommodation will be a private room in dorm-style accommodations, provided at no cost to you.
- $350 travel allowance paid upon arrival.
- In-person work June 1–July 29, 2027; arrive May 31 and depart July 30.
- Safe work procedures, appropriate breaks and instruction on assigned equipment.
- A supportive, team-focused environment for learning and creative problem-solving.

SEE YOURSELF ON TEAM DMMO?

Introduce yourself. Tell us about your hands-on props or scenic-shop work, backstage experience, and what you hope to contribute to the DMMO Properties team. No formal cover letter needed—we want to hear from you.
Send your resume + references + introduction to jobsinproduction@dmmo.org | Subject: 2027 Props Crew

POSITION DESCRIPTION / EMPLOYMENT DETAILS	
POSITION TYPE	Seasonal / Hourly / Non-Exempt
REPORTS TO	Properties Supervisor(s)
SUPERVISES / LEADS	May assist with Props Interns as assigned
WORKS CLOSELY WITH	Scenic Carpentry • Scenic Art • Stage Management • Technical Direction

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Work safely in scenic-shop and active backstage areas, including low light, stairs and uneven surfaces; stand, bend, carry and move props and furnishings within safe limits; use ladders/lifts only when trained and authorized; wear protective-toed footwear and required PPE. Ability to lift 50lbs unassisted.