DES MOINES METRO OPERA

SCENIC CARPENTER

$15–$16/HR	1.5x OT	HOUSING INCLUDED	TRAVEL ALLOWANCE
BASE PAY	AFTER 40 HOURS	NO COST	$350

IN-PERSON EMPLOYMENT | May 17 – July 29, 2027 | Arrive May 16 | Depart July 30

BUILD THE SCENERY THAT BRINGS THREE OPERAS TO LIFE

Join DMMO's summer scenic carpentry staff to fabricate, assemble, install, modify and strike scenery for three repertory operas. Working under the Head Scenic Carpenter, you'll build with wood, metal and other materials, support shop and stage installations, and collaborate across production departments. This is a build-and-installation position—not a show-running or repertory changeover assignment.

WHAT YOU'LL MAKE HAPPEN

- Build, assemble, modify and repair scenic elements in the scenic shop using wood, metal and other materials.
- Assist with basic welding, metal fabrication, cutting, fitting and finishing under appropriate supervision.
- Support onstage scenery installation, technical notes, repairs and adjustments during the build and rehearsal periods.
- Work alongside scenic art, stage carpentry, props and other departments to solve hands-on build and installation needs.
- Help prepare, load, secure, transport and unload scenery and materials; drive a box truck as assigned and authorized.
- Maintain organized, labeled scenery, tools and materials in the scenic shop and warehouse.
- Follow plans, safe tool practices and supervisor direction; communicate questions and flag problems promptly.

EXPERIENCE YOU'LL BUILD

- Build scenery for three fully staged opera productions in a professional scenic shop.
- Develop hands-on wood fabrication, metalworking, welding and scenic assembly skills.
- See scenic components move from shop construction to onstage installation and modification.
- Strengthen skills in interpreting drawings, measuring, layout, joinery and practical problem-solving.
- Gain experience with scenery handling, box-truck logistics, loading and organized storage.
- Work across departments with scenic artists, technical directors, props and stage carpentry teams.
- Build professional relationships within a collaborative summer opera 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

- Some experience in a scenic shop, wood fabrication or building scenic elements for theatre or related work.
- Some welding and metal fabrication experience; aluminum welding experience is a plus.
- Comfort using hand, air and power tools safely, with attention to measurement, fit and finish.
- Comfort driving a box truck; a valid driver's license and responsible equipment-handling practices.
- Ability to read or learn scenic drawings, follow instructions and adapt construction methods as needed.
- A detail-oriented approach to well-built, clean, labeled scenery and organized workspaces.
- Collaborative communication and willingness to contribute hands-on work across production departments.
- A safety-first mindset, appropriate protective footwear and availability for a busy summer build schedule.

WHAT WE BRING

- **$15–$16/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 May 17–July 29, 2027; arrive May 16 and depart July 30.
- Appropriate breaks, safe work procedures and training on the equipment assigned to you.
- A summer scenic build and installation role with no show-running or regular repertory changeover assignments.

SEE YOURSELF ON TEAM DMMO?

Introduce yourself. Tell us about your wood and metal fabrication experience, scenic shop work, and the kinds of builds you enjoy. No formal cover letter needed—we want to hear from you.

Send your resume + references + introduction to jobsinproduction@dmmo.org | Subject: 2027 Scenic Carpenter

POSITION DESCRIPTION / EMPLOYMENT DETAILS	
POSITION TYPE	Seasonal / Hourly / Non-Exempt
REPORTS TO	Head Scenic Carpenter
SUPERVISES / LEADS	No direct reports
WORKS CLOSELY WITH	Scenic Art • Stage Carpentry • Technical Direction • Properties • Production Management

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Work in a scenic shop and active theatre; stand, bend, kneel, climb stairs and use approved ladders/lifts; safely lift/carry up to 50 lb; operate hand and power tools, and welding equipment only when trained and authorized; wear protective-toed footwear and required PPE; and observe safe vehicle and loading practices.