DES MOINES METRO OPERA

SCENIC ARTIST / 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 BRUSHSTROKES TO BACKSTAGE.

Join DMMO's summer team for a hands-on role that blends scenic painting with backstage properties running. Working with the Head Scenic Artist and Properties Supervisors, you'll finish, maintain and touch up scenery before helping run three operas in repertory. On a typical show day, your paint call is followed by the evening show call.

WHAT YOU'LL MAKE HAPPEN

- Work with the Head Scenic Artist to paint, texture and finish scenery and properties for three repertory operas.
- Prepare surfaces, mix colors and apply scenic finishes using shop tools and approved methods.
- Complete paint notes, repairs and touch-ups, including after scenery changeovers and during the run.
- On a typical show day, complete a scenic touch-up paint call before the props show call.
- Prepare, preset, move, track and reset props during technical rehearsals and performances.
- Support backstage props handoffs, repertory changeovers and safe movement of furniture and objects.
- Keep paint tools and materials organized; assist with strike, cleanup and proper storage at season's end.

EXPERIENCE YOU'LL BUILD

- Apply scenic painting, surface preparation, color matching and texture skills to full-scale opera scenery.
- Learn to translate scenic art direction and production notes into consistent finishes.
- Develop speed and accuracy with touch-up calls across a changing repertory schedule.
- Build backstage run-crew skills: presets, cue-taking, quiet handoffs and resets.
- See how Scenic Art, Properties and Stage Management coordinate through rehearsals and performances.
- Strengthen troubleshooting and communication while working across two departments.
- Collaborate with experienced scenic artists and properties technicians on three productions.

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 hands-on scenic painting or paint-shop experience, including safe use of common tools and materials.
- Comfort with surface preparation, color, texture, touch-ups and following paint notes.
- Some backstage run-crew experience and the ability to learn cues, presets and resets.
- Good organization, clear communication and careful attention to detail.
- Flexibility to shift from daytime paint work to an evening performance call.
- Ability to move props safely and work in active shop and backstage environments.
- A collaborative, safety-first approach and availability for evening, weekend and repertory calls.

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 scenic painting, paint-shop or backstage experience, and what you hope to contribute to the DMMO team. No formal cover letter needed—we want to hear from you.
Send your resume + references + introduction to jobsinproduction@dmmo.org | Subject: 2027 Scenic Art / Run Crew

POSITION DESCRIPTION / EMPLOYMENT DETAILS	
POSITION TYPE	Seasonal / Hourly / Non-Exempt
REPORTS TO	Head Scenic Artist and Properties Supervisor(s)
SUPERVISES / LEADS	No direct reports
WORKS CLOSELY WITH	Scenic Art • Properties • Stage Management • Stage Operations

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Work safely in paint-shop, scenic-shop and backstage spaces, including low light, stairs and uneven surfaces; stand, bend, and safely move props, scenery, tools and painting materials; use ladders/lifts only when trained and authorized; wear protective-toed footwear and required PPE. Ability to lift 50 lbs unassisted.