

SCENIC WELDER / CARPENTER

\$21–\$25/HR
BASE PAY

1.5× OT
AFTER 40 HOURS

FULL TIME
YEAR ROUND

BENEFITS
HEALTH • 401(K) • PTO

Ideal start December 2026, flexible start for the right candidate

WHO SAYS THE MIDWEST PLAYS IT SMALL?

Join Des Moines Metro Opera as a Scenic Welder / Carpenter and help build the worlds our audiences step into each summer. If welding and metal fabrication are your strengths and you’re also confident building with wood, you’ll turn designs into safe, well-finished scenery and help bring it to life onstage.

WHAT YOU'LL MAKE HAPPEN

- Weld and fabricate steel and aluminum scenery, supports and scenic elements; build in wood and other materials as designs require.
- Work from drawings with the Head Scenic Carpenter and Scenic Artist to find practical, accurate construction solutions.
- Build, maintain and repair scenery, shop equipment and warehouse elements throughout the year.
- Help plan and execute scenic installations and the movement of scenery and fly goods at the Blank Performing Arts Center.
- Load and transport scenery, including driving a 26-foot box truck; keep work organized for a smooth install.
- Collaborate with seasonal scenic and stage carpenters, share skills with interns, and pitch in on occasional company projects.

EXPERIENCE YOU'LL BUILD

- Deepen your welding and metal fabrication skills on scenic projects that call for both precision and creative problem-solving.
- Become a more versatile builder by working across metal, wood, and other scenic materials.
- Follow major pieces from drawings and shop construction through installation, seeing how your decisions hold up onstage.
- Take on more responsibility for planning builds, solving installation challenges, and helping seasonal crews do their best work.
- Develop the mix of craft, coordination, and mentorship that can prepare you for a lead carpenter or scenic shop leadership role.

WHY DMMO?

Our intimate theatre hosts an adventurous repertory festival, and our year-round shop makes ambitious designs real. We value excellent craft, safe work and colleagues who care as much about the clean, labeled back of a piece as the finished front the audience sees.

WHAT YOU BRING

- Hands-on welding and fabrication experience. We work in steel and aluminum and support training where you want to grow.
- Wood carpentry skills and at least a couple years’ experience in a scenic shop, or working in theatre carpentry or closely related fabrication work.
- Experience building projects of different types and scales, with a strong grasp of safe construction methods.
- Comfort reading drawings and using shop tools; experience with lifts, forklifts and trucks with lift gates is valuable.
- Clear communication, attention to detail and the judgment to adapt to design and installation needs.
- A generous, team-focused approach to working with colleagues and interns of varied skill levels.

WHAT WE BRING

- **\$21–\$25/hour based on experience; overtime at 1.5× after 40 hours.**
- Regular 40-hour weeks, with some overtime during builds.
- **An employer-matched 401(k), health benefits, paid time off including sick leave, and paid holidays.**
- First aid, OSHA workplace safety, forklift and other training provided at no cost.
- Professional development opportunities and a year-round place to build work you can be proud of.
- A steady, year-round shop schedule where you can keep building your skills - and see your work reach the stage.
- An on-site role centered on building scenery.
- **Moving expense allowance, paid on your first day of work.**
- Build your career in Des Moines, with live music, good food, bike trails, and plenty to do when you leave the shop.

SEE YOURSELF ON TEAM DMMO?

Introduce yourself: tell us about your welding and building, why this role interests you, and work you take pride in. No formal cover letter needed; experience outside theatre is welcome.

Send your resume + three references + introduction to jobsinproduction@dmmo.org | Subject: Scenic Welder
Applications reviewed as received until filled.

POSITION DESCRIPTION / EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

POSITION TYPE	Full time / Year round / Hourly / Non-exempt
REPORTS TO	Head Scenic Carpenter
SUPPORTS / MENTORS	Seasonal scenic and stage carpenters • Interns
WORKS CLOSELY WITH	Head Scenic Carpenter • Head Scenic Artist • Seasonal production team

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS: Work safely in shop and theatre spaces, on ladders and lifts and near stage edges; lift at least 50 pounds unassisted; stand, sit, kneel and bend. Basic computer skills and clear written and spoken communication required.

Des Moines Metro Opera is an equal opportunity employer.

If you do not meet every requirement but can contribute strong fabrication and building skills, we encourage you to apply.