

## Resident Designer/Technical Director

Sunset Playhouse was established in 1960 as Southeastern Wisconsin's premiere community theater. The Playhouse has evolved since those early days into an arts complex presenting a mix of community theater and professional theater/music events.

Additionally, the Playhouse is an important player in theater arts education through its School for the Arts and "bug in a rug" Children's Theater series. Sunset strives to present productions of the highest quality and has, over the past six years, invested over \$200,000 in upgrades to stage, sound, and lighting equipment. The theater offers opportunities to guest directors and designers and counts more than 600 volunteers in the Sunset Playhouse family. Join us!

### Job Description

The Resident Scenic Designer/Technical Director, a member of Sunset Playhouse's full-time professional staff, is responsible for conceptualizing, designing, and executing scenic elements for all theatrical productions while ensuring artistic vision aligns with budget, safety needs, and production timelines. This role oversees all technical operations—including set construction, lighting, sound, and stage mechanics—while supervising shop volunteers and collaborating closely with directors and producers, production teams, Education Director, and the Artistic Director to deliver high-quality productions.

### General Responsibilities

Working with the assistance of staff and volunteers, responsibilities include but are not limited to: set design and construction of Furlan Auditorium and After Sunset productions, and School for the Arts productions; assisting guest light and sound designers; providing technical support to the other performance series, including the Sunset School for the Arts productions, maintaining the technical shop area and equipment; recruiting, training, and utilizing technical volunteers, and assisting in general maintenance of the building.

### Qualifications

**Education:** BFA or BA in Technical Theater with emphasis on design and construction or equivalent experience preferred. Experience, in lieu of a degree, will also be considered.

**Experience:** 2-5 years' experience in design/construction/painting of sets. Basic Understanding of light and sound design.

**Schedule:** 40 hours per week base. Flexible schedule with additional hours, including nights and weekends, during tech weeks as needed.

**Certifications/Licenses:** Valid Driver's License

## **Knowledge, Skills, & Abilities**

- Create set designs and construction drawings that translate into workable building plans that align with directors' visions
- With assistance of highly skilled volunteers, construct, paint, and dress sets
- Knowledge of basic lighting and sound design
- Recruit, train, and retain technical/shop volunteers
- Able to work independently and lead with enthusiasm, professionalism, and a team-player mindset
- Ability to meet production deadlines within budget
- Proficiency in industry-standard scenic design and drafting software required
- This position requires the ability to sit and stand for extended periods, lift and carry heavy materials, work safely on ladders, and perform other physical tasks associated with scenic construction and installation.

## **Compensation – Benefits:**

- \$45,000 – \$50,000 per year – based on experience, with opportunities for annual bonuses (a health insurance stipend is also available)
- 10 paid vacation days per year / 6 PTO days per year / 8 paid holidays per year

**More Information:** <https://sunsetplayhouse.com/about/employment-opportunities/>

## **To apply for the Resident Designer/Technical Director position:**

Submit cover letter, resume, three references, and portfolio to:

Ella Walker, Executive Managing Director: [ewalker@sunsetplayhouse.com](mailto:ewalker@sunsetplayhouse.com)

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Sunset Playhouse is an Equal Employment Opportunity organization. All qualified candidates will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, or citizenship.

Entertainment begins at Sunset!

