Los Angeles County Arts Commission Arts Internship at the Mission Playhouse!

The Mission Playhouse is thrilled to announce that, for the 4th year in a row, we are participating in the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (LACAC) Arts Internship Program which provides funding for a paid summer “Archive/Historical Costume Intern”.

The background for this project began in 1912, when LA Times journalist, John Steven McGroarty, wrote the epic Mission Play. First performed in 1913, on an outdoor stage near the San Gabriel Mission, the performances moved to the newly constructed San Gabriel Mission Playhouse in 1927. By the end of the play’s run in 1945, there had been over 3000 performances, to at least 2.5 million people! During this span of 33 years, McGroarty’s wife Ida, designed most of the beautiful costumes for the cast of 150 actors, dancers, and musicians. From rough-cloth robes for Franciscan Monks, delicately beaded and fringed suede garments for Native American children, to sequin-adorned skirts and brass buttoned trousers for the Spanish Dancers, the costumes were an integral and celebrated part of the lavish productions. For several decades, the costumes sat dormant in large 1920s wicker chests, until 2013 when some of the baskets were unpacked. In 2013, two garments were displayed at the Huntington Library’s Junipero Serra exhibit, and over the past three summers over 200 garments have been cleaned, conserved and catalogued. During the past internships, several of the garments were definitively identified with photographs as those used in a 1913 production of the Mission Play.

The Archive/Historical Costume Intern will work with both Mission Playhouse Historical Archive and the Mission Play Historical Costume Collection to assess, preserve, and document the programs, flyers, letters, and garments (through report writing, condition reports, and digital photographs) from 1911 to 1950. In addition, they will research and compile information that highlights the relationship between the costumes and the various roles, actors/actresses, and productions of the Mission Play from 1913 to 1945. Additional activities will include attending weekly staff meetings, working with volunteers, and other administrative/production/event tasks as needed.

The intern will also take part in educational and arts networking activities generously funded by The Getty Foundation. Through the program, interns develop business skills that can be put to use in their future careers and gain a deeper understanding of the work involved in nonprofit arts administration and the role of the arts in a community.

Last year over 3000 students applied for these positions, so needless to say, these internships are highly sought after!

Further details and eligibility requirements, please see https://www.lacountyarts.org/opportunities/arts-internship-program-students/about-arts-internship-program-students for more information about the program.

This internship is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. 179 undergraduate interns will participate in the program this year at more than 120 performing, presenting, and literary nonprofit arts organizations and municipal arts agencies throughout LA County. In addition to their full-time 10 week paid internship, interns will participate in educational events as part of the program, which is funded by the Getty Foundation. The educational events are designed to provide interns with a broader perspective of the vibrant arts and cultural landscape of the County. For additional information on the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the Arts Internship Program, and for a complete list of all the internships offered this summer, visit the Arts Commission website at www.lacountyarts.org.