

2022 Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Assistant Technical Director

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, founded in 1967, is an international exposition of living cultural heritage annually produced outdoors on the National Mall, taking place for two weeks every summer, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors.

It is an educational presentation, usually divided into two to three unique programs, that features musicians, artists, performers, craftspeople, workers, cooks, storytellers, and others from states, regions, and nations around the world.

For the 2022 Festival, we will create custom-built structures, stages, scenery, and other infrastructural projects in our 17,000-square-foot shop in Lanham, Maryland, to be installed on the National Mall in support of two programs featuring the United Arab Emirates and the Smithsonian Conservation Commons.

The Smithsonian Folklife Festival, like most other in-person events across the globe was moved online in 2020 and 2021, but the planning for the 2022 Festival is well under way. The pandemic has been challenging in many ways, but it has afforded us the opportunity to complete design projects, improve the facilities, refine the production calendar, and begin the hiring process for some of our early crew to advance fabrication projects in the fall of 2021. The Festival will be back in 2022 and we hope you can be a part of our return to the National Mall!

JOB DATES: Late September/Early October 2021 – July 22, 2022

COMPENSATION: \$28.53/hour

JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Festival is a complex technical production, requiring a high level of coordination, communication, and expertise from all temporary staff.

Assistant Technical Director's duties include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assisting Technical Director with pre-production planning
- Coordinating and scheduling of logistical operation and labor
- Designing structures, stages, scenery, furniture, and other Festival projects
- Creation of technical drawings using AutoCAD
- Estimating, sourcing, and procurement of materials and supplies
- Estimating job hours and labor needs
- Supervising staff, vendors, and contractors during fabrication, construction/load-in, and strike, both on-site and at the off-site shop
- May occasionally assume the role of Technical Direction during his absence

Candidate must have prior experience in theater/live entertainment production or fabrication/manufacturing industry and have extensive knowledge in the following areas:

- Leadership and supervisory experience
- Project management
- Judgement and decision making in high-stress, fast-paced situations
- Logistics, scheduling, estimating, and procurement
- AutoCAD (creation and interpretation of technical drawings)
- Design, construction methods, steel and wood fabrication
- Heavy equipment operation is a plus, but not required (forklift, aerial personnel lift, box truck)
- Vendor relationships and contracts

Work will take place primarily at the Folklife Festival's fabrication and warehouse facility in Lanham, Maryland, and downtown D.C office. Beginning in May 2022, the work will take place primarily on the National Mall during all-weather conditions (so long as it's safe), requiring lifting, walking, standing, and other strenuous physical exertion. A hybrid remote/in-person work schedule is available from start of appointment until March 2022.

If interested, please email Technical Director Tyler Nelson (NelsonTL@si.edu) and Administrative Specialist Claudia Telliho (TellihoC@si.edu) with résumé, brief cover letter, and any other relevant materials.