
Arts

Position #65; Jane Barnette

Mentor name: Jane Barnette, Theatre

Job/project title: Assistant Dramaturg & Designer for Sycorax, a new play

Project description:

I am directing a play in early 2019 that is a feminist and queer prequel to William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, called *Sycorax* by Susan Gayle Todd. This creative work will be part of the research for a book I am working on about makeup design for stage witch characters and for the performance of witchiness in everyday life. The purpose of this project is dual: for the stage production, I want to share Todd's vision of Caliban's mother Sycorax with audiences and inspire conversations about the fictional worlds playwrights create and how they reverberate for today's spectators. By exploring major witch figures like Sycorax, the Algerian woman whom Prospero calls "the blue-eyed hag," I can discover patterns of adaptation dramaturgy for the book. By dramaturgy, I mean the research for producing the performance as well as the adaptation process of writing the play. Dramaturgs work behind the scenes to support the director's concept, the designers' processes, and they curate the spectators' navigation of the show.

The Emerging Scholar will help design and build the puppets, makeup and headgear, and props that will be part of the KU Theatre's production of *Sycorax* in the early spring semester. This process will have two primary parts: in the fall semester, students will gather research about the culture, styles, and materials dramaturgically appropriate to the play and share that research with the rest of the design team. In the spring, students will help build the puppets, headgear, and props for the show, while documenting the process. After the run of the show, students will organize and summarize an inventory of the documentation (photographs, video clips, interviews, publicity) that will be crucial evidence for the book.

Potential student tasks and responsibilities: Possible tasks and responsibilities include receiving training from the costume and scenic designers and theatre staff on how to work with the materials and tools needed for puppet, headgear (hats, horns, crowns, etc.), and prop (handheld object) design and construction. Students may also receive training from arts-based library staff on how to work with theatre history and design research. With this training in place, the student will then begin methodically collecting images and material details about the location, culture, and production history of both *The Tempest* and *Sycorax*. As the student gets more comfortable with this task, there will likely be a chance to work with the construction crew and the design team for this show.

Student qualifications and characteristics: This job requires cooperation, determination, and creativity because we are making theatre. The student must also be organized, attentive to detail, and systematic—they will receive training to help hone these skills. Curiosity about the history of witchcraft, feminism, and/or the LGBTQ community will be very helpful as will an interest either in Theatre, African & African-American Studies, Religious Studies, History, or Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. We will meet regularly to discuss your findings, progress, and for general supervision and mentoring. Beyond these regular meetings, the scheduling for student work is only confined to the KU Theatre costume and scenic shops' hours of operation. I will occasionally join you in the shop/s to work together.

Additional comments: Content Warning for Sycorax: This play contains depictions of sexual and domestic violence and abuse.

Position #66; Joe Colistra

Mentor name: Joe Colistra, Architecture

Job/project title: Research Assistant for the Institute for Smart Cities

Project description:

Research Assistant needed to conduct literature review of Smart Cities technology, organize KU research efforts, dissemination of research through websites, and social media.

Potential student tasks and responsibilities: Web research, some light architectural drawing, architectural models depending on experience, compilation of articles on research.

Student qualifications and characteristics: Flexible tasks and schedule, organizational skills a must, preferably a Design or Architecture student.

Position #67; Marie-Alice L'Heureux

Mentor name: Marie-Alice L'Heureux, Architecture

Job/project title: Politics and the Built Environment

Project description:

I am working on a number of research projects. One of them is the preliminary work to apply for a "Healthy Communities" grant from the Robert Wood Johnson foundation to study the Ivanhoe Neighborhood and its emergence from being the most dangerous sector of Kansas City, Missouri, to being a poster child for positive development without gentrification. I want to study the basis for this phenomena, which will involve map-making, scanning, reading, maybe participation in neighborhood meetings, and as much or as little hands on involvement as you desire. The second project is to prepare a book manuscript on the Estonian cultural landscape for publication-this also involves a variety of tasks that would be useful to anyone interested in history/research methods/organizing materials. I am also working on an article on Urban Renewal and Highways in Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri, which is an archival and a material culture project. The final project is a book on the Presidential libraries, mainly right now, the Truman, Eisenhower, Hoover, Roosevelt, Johnson and Kennedy Libraries, and the up-coming Obama Library. You would help me in many ways depending on your interests. Nothing is very complicated and I am very open to helping you learn practical skills, as well as research methods.

Potential student tasks and responsibilities: There are all kinds of tasks and I am very happy to have you help at whatever level you feel comfortable-and to progress to higher level tasks as you feel comfortable. Images need to be formatted (using Photoshop) for all of the projects, copyrights tracked down, and scanning of documents done. If you do not have Photoshop or illustrator skills, and would like to acquire them, this could be part of your work. I would also help you learn a bibliographic application such as Zotero or Endnote which would be useful for you as an emerging scholar.

Student qualifications and characteristics: Since the projects are at very different stages in their progress, from the very early stage of the Presidential libraries and the Ivanhoe research (yet even these are 6 years old) to the manuscript preparation phase on the Estonian cultural landscape which has been in the works for at least 15 years, you can have a variety of skill levels and still grow in the position, or if you have few of these skills but are open to learning them, then you could progress with the work. Given the range of projects you could be interested in sociology or health (Ivanhoe)

history, cultural studies or architecture (presidential library or Estonian Cultural landscape); urban issues about race and place (KC Urban Renewal and Highways). There is a place in Marvin you can work and some of the work can be done independently. Detail oriented and organized are two useful skills to have. But an artistic temperament would also work.

Position #68; F. María Velasco

Mentor name: F. María Velasco, Visual Art

Job/project title: Studio/Research Assistant

Project description:

Spaces of Conviviality consists of the creation of several artistic installations around historic memory, identity and stereotypical perceptions of the 'Other.' The artwork will be created during my residency in Spain from July-August 2018 and I will use architectural patterns, historical symbols and textual resources dating Islamic Iberia (710-1491). Upon return, I will publish a brochure with images and an essay by Dr. Susan Earle, Curator of European and American Art at the Spencer Museum of Art.

This project is a continuation of my research about visual patterns and socio-cultural patterns, specifically in the geographic area of Islamic Iberia (Spain, Portugal, North of Morocco). I will need a studio/research student to help me organize the work produced, update artist website, handle photo/video documentation of the project and assist with the production of the brochure. Concurrently, we will investigate contemporary artistic and curatorial practices (residencies, organizations, research centers) engaged in the process of reactivation of cultural heritage and collective memory in relation to this geographic area.

Potential student tasks and responsibilities: Some tasks will be very hands-on and will entail handling the artwork, packing and transporting it to be photographed in the studio and investigating the best preservation methods (archival paper, boxes, portfolios etc); general studio organization. Additional tasks: basic design and layout; website updating; editing and preparing images for brochure; conduct research relative to the wider context of the topic in contemporary art practices; organizing the literature and textual resources related to the project. A student with an interest in contemporary art, curatorial practices, history, sociology, visual anthropology, or journalism will enjoy being a part of this project.

Student qualifications and characteristics: The ideal student is organized, pays attention to detail and is able to handle delicate materials with care. Some knowledge of Adobe Photoshop, data entry and design layout is desirable, and can be arranged with existing online tutorials. Curiosity, initiative, a certain amount of trial and error will make the tasks interesting and enjoyable. A regular and reliable schedule is required to fit blocks of time (2-3hrs) to meet and make good progress.

Additional comments: Somebody said the best learning takes place outside of the classroom!