

MILWAUKEE RECREATION

# ARTS

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



## Milwaukee Recreation's award-winning Arts Internship program

provides high school students with paid, practical summer job experience in arts-related positions. Interns explore the arts in an in-depth and applicable way while gaining 21st century job skills.

See below for important links!



**PROGRAM GUIDELINES:**



[bit.ly/GuidelinesArtsInternship](https://bit.ly/GuidelinesArtsInternship)

*Note: Application will be available 4.13.26*



**ARTS INTERNSHIP INFO SESSION:**



Sign up and learn more at  
[bit.ly/InfoArtsInternship](https://bit.ly/InfoArtsInternship)



**eMAIL LIST**



Receive an email once application is live:  
[bit.ly/MailingArtsInternship](https://bit.ly/MailingArtsInternship)

For all of this and more visit [bit.ly/2026ArtsInternship](https://bit.ly/2026ArtsInternship)



A department of MPS

## Arts Internship Program



# 2026

# ARTS INTERNSHIP GUIDELINES

## ABOUT THE ART INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

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Through partnerships between Milwaukee Recreation and local arts organizations, the Arts Internship Program provides high school students with paid internship opportunities to explore careers in the arts while also gaining practical and applicable job skills and work experience.

Arts Internships span a total of 40-400 hours during the summer, with most organizations offering somewhere between 125-300 hours per internship. **Interns are paid a minimum of \$12.50 per hour** and receive an unlimited WisGo Card for transportation (from their first day of work until the end of summer). Interns are required to attend job training sessions, complete reflection assignments, and work closely with a supervisor to achieve the following:

- Become more prepared for future work experience
- Gain confidence in applying for future jobs
- Learn new skills and abilities in their area of focus
- Gain a deeper understanding of the production, hard work, a dedication that goes into completing a work of art or project
- Build a professional network of mentors

### **Mandatory trainings and events:**

- Orientation: Thursday, June 18 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Check-In Training: Thursday, July 16 | 2:00 – 5:00 PM
- Final celebration: Thursday, August 13 | 3:00 – 7:00 PM

# ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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To be eligible for the program, you must:

- Be at least 16 years of age at the start of work unless the hiring organization indicates that the position or positions are open to students who are 15 years of age or older
- Be a high school equivalent student (or an out-going senior)
- Be a resident of the city of Milwaukee OR currently enrolled in a MPS high school
- Be available to work the internship schedule as determined by the organization and able to attend the mandatory trainings/events listed above.

# HOW TO APPLY

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Read the internship position descriptions and identify which opportunity interests you. Next, complete and submit the materials listed below via an online application which opens on April 13th at 8:00 AM. The position descriptions, a link to the application, templates, and other helpful materials will be available [here](https://tinyurl.com/5yrrrbk5) (<https://tinyurl.com/5yrrrbk5>.) If you prefer to submit a paper application packet please contact Erin Fonseca (contact info below) for instructions.

## Required application materials:

- Arts Internship Student Application (to request a paper application, contact Erin Fonseca)
- A letter of interest (using our template) stating why you are interested in the internship and what you have to offer the organization (If you are applying for a second year, please specify what skills or projects you would like to expand upon.
- A list of 1-3 professional references, including name, relation to you, phone number, and email address (references can include teachers, mentors, coaches, etc.; not family members or friends)
- Any other information requested by the organization

*Note: You may apply for multiple internships, but if offered more than one, **you may only accept one.***

# SUPPORT

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Milwaukee Recreation will host two virtual information sessions for high school students looking to learn more about the program and how to apply. RSVP these support sessions [here](https://forms.gle/3E8nWhKENb8TKa1y6). (<https://forms.gle/3E8nWhKENb8TKa1y6>).

# CONTACT

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Erin Fonseca  
Manager - Afterschool Arts and Humanities  
Email: [erin@mkrerec.net](mailto:erin@mkrerec.net) | Phone: 414-475-8479

# 2026

# ARTS INTERNSHIP POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

# Art Start



**Position Title:** Creative Career Summer Intern (8 positions available)

**Job Description:** Art Start Creative Career Interns will support the design, development, and execution of Art Start’s summer projects, specifically, the coordination, curation, installation, and activation of Art Start’s inaugural youth-curated group art show and The Artist Statement public campaign.

Art Start summer interns will use art to explore, envision, and portray the complex narratives of their identities by reworking their personal narratives and developing their artist portfolio and statement through multidisciplinary creative sessions, including professional photoshoots; storytelling; oral history and motivational interviews; creative writing, poetry, and monologues; music; film; and visual art modalities.

The exhibitions will respectively premiere and activate at Art Start Studio for Milwaukee’s Summer and Fall 2026 Gallery Night MKE in the Third Ward. Interns will also develop their creative process portfolio/lookbook, business cards, and resumes, participate in special networking opportunities, and participate in a tentative, merit-based day trip to Madison, WI or Chicago, IL, hosted by Art Start board members and industry partners, such as Shake Shack, Dr.Jart+, LinkedIn, Hearst Media Company, Sotheby’s, and Cadogen Tate. Interns will also have access to college readiness with Art Start’s Academic Advisor and youth mental health resources and interventions, under the guidance of Art Start staff and licensed social workers specializing in teen and young adult education and workforce development.

**Start/end dates:** June 15 – August 13, 2026

**Schedule:** Mondays – Wednesdays 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.art-start.org](http://www.art-start.org)

**Contact:** Cat Pond, Associate Program Manager | [cat@art-start.org](mailto:cat@art-start.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Thursday, May 21



## Arts @ Large

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**Position Title:** Creative Career Summer Intern (4 positions available)

**Job Description:** Arts @ Large is seeking Summer Art Interns who are looking to develop a teaching practice. These interns (ages 15-18) will be responsible to support the camp coordinator and camp artists in leading 12-15 campers per session (ages 7-14) in daily summer camp activities in various art forms. This includes visual arts and performing art forms. Interns will also receive weekly professional development and check-ins geared toward mindfulness, creativity, and developing 21st century job skills for future opportunities.

**Start/end dates:** July 6 – August 21, 2026

**Schedule:** Mondays – Thursdays: 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM · July 6 – 9: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.artsatlargeinc.org](http://www.artsatlargeinc.org)

**Contact:** Sam Kacala, Education Manager | [sam@artsatlargeinc.org](mailto:sam@artsatlargeinc.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, May 29

## Bembé Drum and Dance



**Position Title:** Workshop and Production Assistant (5 positions available)

**Job Description:** Bembé Drum & Dance Workshop and Production Assistants will support Bembé's in-person summer programming, including Afro-Latino music and dance workshops for youth and teens, student performances, community events and a large theatrical production, including backstage responsibilities and overseeing student performers. Primary duties for this position will include, but will not be limited to, creative and cultural exploration, including playing, singing and dancing with youth and teens in a music and dance workshop setting, supporting youth during workshops, camps and performances, classroom management and support responsibilities, event production and theatrical operations support, stage management/crew responsibilities, and working on creative, cultural art projects. We are looking for reliable young people who are driven, committed, and open-minded, and have a passion for creativity, cultural performing arts, music/dance education and/or production in a youth mentoring environment. An interest or curiosity in Afro-Latino musical traditions or dance forms is highly encouraged but not required. Interns will engage in 12-15 hours of arts related activities each week

**Start/end dates:** June 8 – August 15, 2026

**Schedule:** Mondays: 5:00 PM – 8:15 PM · Wednesdays: 5:00 PM – 8:15 PM · Saturdays: 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM · *Additional hours for performances and special events*

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.proyectobembe.org](http://www.proyectobembe.org)

**Contact:** Imani Jalil, Program Director & Dance Director | [imani@proyectobembe.org](mailto:imani@proyectobembe.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, May 22



## Casa Romero Renewal Center

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**Position Title:** Arts Program Intern (2 positions available)

**Job Description:** Casa Romero is seeking creative, outgoing high school students who enjoy working with others to serve as mentors and co-facilitators for the 2026 Summer Arts Camps. Arts Camp interns will work directly with elementary and middle school youth in a bilingual (Spanish and English) setting. Interns will help lead youth programming that centers visual arts and music as tools for self-expression and personal growth. In addition to engaging with students during camp sessions, interns will be actively involved in the preparation and planning of camp activities. This role is highly hands-on and ideal for students who are self-motivated, organized and great at taking initiative. Experience or interest in art-making, music, and youth engagement is preferred.

**Start/end dates:** July 15 – August 14, 2026

**Schedule:** From June 15 - August 14, 2026, intern schedules will align with Casa Romero's camp hours. For the six weeks when summer day camps are in session, interns will work approximately 35–40 hours per week, Monday through Friday. In weeks without an active camp, interns will work up to 5 hours per week to support preparation and planning for upcoming camps.

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.casaromero.org](http://www.casaromero.org)

**Contact:** Kaki Tavares, Director of Youth Programs | [jtavares@casaromero.org](mailto:jtavares@casaromero.org) or DeAnn Cortés, Associate Director | [dcortes@casaromero.org](mailto:dcortes@casaromero.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, May 22

# Lead2Change



**Position Title:** Video and Film Editor (5 positions available)

**Job Description:** Under the direction of a skilled Video and Film Editor, students with a demonstrated interest in video and film editing will learn different techniques used in this profession. With this skillset, students will film and edit all Lead2Change, Inc. summer internship experiences. They will use this footage to create videos that will be showcased at the year-end celebration on August 13, 2026. Students may also be contracted by outside organizations to create promotional content for them

**Start/end dates:** June 22 – August 13, 2026

**Schedule:** Monday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.lead2changeinc.org](http://www.lead2changeinc.org)

**Contact:** Dionne Grayson, Executive Director | [graysondl@lead2changeinc.org](mailto:graysondl@lead2changeinc.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, May 1

# Lynden Sculpture Garden



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**Position Title:** Art Education Intern (2 positions available)

**Job Description:** The Lynden Sculpture Garden operates as a laboratory that creates, supports, and shares experiences at the intersection of art, nature, and culture. Lynden's summer camps integrate our collection of monumental outdoor sculpture and temporary installations with the natural ecology of 40 acres of park, ponds, and woodland, creating a unique hands-on experience of art in nature. The art education intern will assist with all daily camp activities, supervision of campers aged 4 to 15 years, set-up and clean-up, and the development of hands-on projects and activities. The intern will work 8 hours a day (generally 8:30 am-4:30 pm), 5 days a week, from June 17-August 28, 2026.

**Start/end dates:** June 15 – August 28, 2026

**Schedule:** Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

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**Position Title:** Community Arts Intern (3 positions available)

**Job Description:** The Lynden Sculpture Garden operates as a laboratory that creates, supports, and shares experiences at the intersection of art, nature, and culture. The community arts intern will assist community engagement specialist/artist-in-residence Kim Khaira as she plans and implements arts-integrated opportunities and programs for refugees at Lynden. These include HOME World Refugee Day (June 20 and June 22), and HOME Family Workshop Day (July 18), and HOME Citizenship Day (August 15).

**Start/end dates:** June 15 – August 28, 2026

**Schedule:** The intern will work 4 to 8 hours per day, typically between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, for 2 to 5 days per week, averaging 16 hours per week. This schedule includes some weekend shifts.

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.lyndensculpturegarden.org](http://www.lyndensculpturegarden.org)

**Contact:** Jeremy Stepien, Director of Education | [jstepien@lyndensculpturegarden.org](mailto:jstepien@lyndensculpturegarden.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Monday, May 11 by 5:00 PM



## Milwaukee Repertory Theater

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**Position Title:** MKE Rep Arts Camp Youth Leader (9 positions available)

**Job Description:** This position will support Milwaukee Rep's new summer camp program! Youth Leaders will work closely with professional artists and educators to inspire a passion for the arts in campers aged 7-15 across a variety of topics. Key duties include teaching support in the classroom, coordination and hosting of camper performance events, designing and executing "campers' choice" periods, and contributing to a positive camp culture that makes participants feel welcome from the moment they enter the space until they leave for the day.

**Start/end dates:** June 16 – August 31, 2026

**Schedule:** Monday – Friday: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 16 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.milwaukeeep.com/202526/milwaukee-rep-arts-camp](http://www.milwaukeeep.com/202526/milwaukee-rep-arts-camp)

**Contact:** Britney Walker-Meritte, Manager of Career Pathways |  
[bwalkermerritte@milwaukeeep.com](mailto:bwalkermerritte@milwaukeeep.com)

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, May 15

## TBEY Arts Center



**Position Title:** Summer Arts Camp Assistant Interns (2 positions available)

**Job Description:** The Summer Arts Camp Assistant Intern supports teaching artists and staff during TBEY's Summer Arts Camp. Interns assist with arts instruction, classroom preparation, and daily camp operations while working directly with youth participants. This position is ideal for students interested in arts education, youth development, or creative careers.

**Start/end dates:** June 8 - August 28, 2026

**Schedule:** June 8 – 12: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Initial Training) · June 15 – August 23: Monday & Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 4:00 PM · Tuesday & Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM (Regular Work Schedule)

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

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**Position Title:** Dance Production Assistant Interns (2 positions available)

**Job Description:** The Dance Production Assistant Intern supports TBEY's summer dance production by assisting with rehearsals, production planning, and performance logistics. Interns gain hands-on experience in arts production, stage coordination, and behind-the-scenes operations. This role is ideal for students interested in dance, theatre, or arts management.

**Start/end dates:** June 8, 2026 – August 28, 2026

**Schedule:** June 8 – 12: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (Initial Training) · June 15 – August 23: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Regular Work Schedule) · Weeks of August 12 & 19: Hours vary – Production Prep and Time (Extra Hours)

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.tbey.org](http://www.tbey.org)

**Contact:** Contessa Cole, Executive Director | [contessa@tbey.org](mailto:contessa@tbey.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Tuesday, June 16



## TRUE Skool

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**Position Title:** CEO Arts Intern (5 positions available)

**Job Description:** Join TRUE Skool for a 7 week, Creative Entrepreneurial Opportunities paid internship where you will join other young creatives in a Milwaukee value add of arts education and problem solving using creative talents. Field trips and major events related to the projects will be a part of the experience as well as a presentation of professional portfolios at the end of your internship.

**Start/end dates:** June 29 – August 19, 2026

**Schedule:** Monday – Thursday: 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

(Field trips and events may happen outside of these times - TBD)

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.trueskool.org](http://www.trueskool.org)

**Contact:** Shalina Ali, Co-Executive Director | [shalina@trueskool.org](mailto:shalina@trueskool.org)

**Deadline to apply:** May 31, 2026



## VIBEZ Creative Arts Space

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**Position Title:** Youth Art Program Intern (1 position available)

**Job Description:** VIBEZ Creative Arts Space is looking for a people-centered, creative intern to join us this summer (June–August) as a paid Youth Art Program Intern! Perfect for students 15+ interested in education, mentoring, or community arts, you'll assist with hands-on art workshops — painting, crafts, fluid art, and mixed media — while supporting youth participants of all ages in a welcoming, inclusive space. You'll build real facilitation and leadership skills, gain experience co-leading activities, and learn how art drives social and emotional growth, all with guidance from experienced arts educators. A meaningful way to spend your summer.

**Start/end dates:** June 15 – August 31, 2026

**Schedule:** Wednesday – Sunday: 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

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**Position Title:** Creative Media & Visual Storytelling Intern (1 position available)

**Job Description:** VIBEZ Creative Arts Space is looking for a creative, visual thinker to join our studio this summer (June –August) as a paid Creative Media & Visual Storytelling Intern! Perfect for students 15+ with a passion for photography, video, or content creation, you'll document studio life — photographing artwork, capturing behind-the-scenes moments, and supporting social media and graphic design using Canva. Along the way, you'll build a real creative portfolio, develop hands-on skills in visual storytelling and branding, and receive mentorship from a creative professional. This is your chance to gain meaningful experience in a working arts organization.

**Start/end dates:** June 15 – August 31, 2026

**Schedule:** Thursday – Saturday: 12:00 PM – 6:30 PM · Sunday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.vibezcreativeartsspace.com](http://www.vibezcreativeartsspace.com)

**Contact:** Chrishella Roché , Creative Director | [chrishellaroché@vibezcreativeartsspace.com](mailto:chrishellaroché@vibezcreativeartsspace.com)

**Deadline to apply:** Sunday, May 31

## Walker's Point Center for the Arts



**Position Title:** Community Art and Summer Arts Camp Intern (4 positions available)

**Job Description:** The Community Art & Summer Arts Camp Assistant Internship offers high school students a combined experience in creative development and arts education. Interns receive 16 hours of dedicated studio time to create a personal body of work that will be featured in WPCA's Annual Youth Art Exhibit. Alongside their own artistic practice, interns serve as educational assistants in WPCA's Art Education Department during the 8-week Youth Summer Art Camp, supporting teaching artists and engaging directly with young creatives.

**Start/end dates:** June 16 – August 14 , 2026

**Schedule:** Tuesday – Friday: 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM, plus four Saturdays and  
Week 3: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 15 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.wpca-milwaukee.org](http://www.wpca-milwaukee.org)

**Contact:** Daniel Flores | [daniel@wpca-milwaukee.org](mailto:daniel@wpca-milwaukee.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Friday, May 29



## Woodland Pattern

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**Position Title:** Youth Literary Arts Program Assistant (2 positions available)

**Job Description:** Youth Literary Arts Program Assistants will work closely with Woodland Pattern's education team to support all aspects of our summer Poetry Camp programming. This includes assisting with preparation, facilitating activities, mentoring young participants, and documenting program activities. Interns will have the opportunity to create alongside students while working with professional teaching artists.

Ideal candidates will have strong writing and organizational skills, an interest in arts education, and enthusiasm for working with youth from diverse backgrounds.

Through this internship, you will:

- Gain hands-on experience in arts education
- Develop your writing practice and experiment with multiple mediums of art
- Work alongside established writers and artists & expand your artistic network
- Develop leadership and job readiness skills

**Start/end dates:** June 16 – July 31, 2026

**Schedule:** Applicants must be available for Poetry Camp Week 1 (June 22 – 26) OR Week 2 (July 6 – 10) Monday–Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Plus an additional 4 hours for training (June 16–21) & 6 hours for wrap-up (July 18–31)

**Age Requirement:** Open to students 16 years of age or older

**Website:** [www.woodlandpattern.org](http://www.woodlandpattern.org)

**Contact:** Antonio Vargas-Nieto, Education Director | [antoniovn@woodlandpattern.org](mailto:antoniovn@woodlandpattern.org)

**Deadline to apply:** Sunday, May 17, 2026