



## PDI/Art Dept Initiative

This is an ADG — Art Directors Branch — administered and funded opportunity. It has been created for the purpose of providing on the job mentorship, immersion, and supervision for future careers in the Art Department. The Initiative is not a structured academic program with a formal curriculum. Rather as the word “initiative” implies, a participant will only get out of the Art Department Initiative that which they are willing bring to it. The Initiative is open to anyone possessing art, design, administrative skills and life experiences that would make them valuable participants in the Art Department’s workplace environment. Participants will be designated as “Design Assistants” (DA) and It is an on-the-job immersive vocational regimen which is the only true way to learn the art and craft of art direction for motion pictures. Acceptance into the Initiative does not guarantee membership into Local 800, but it does provide all DA participants with a unique privilege to learn, grow, and build a professional portfolio and a workplace network to aid them in in their pursuit of their future careers as freelance filmmakers.

The Initiative was the first and remains one of the most ambitious learning opportunities administered by a Hollywood labor union. DA participants will be introduced to a wide range of production genres practiced by our members – feature films, episodic television, commercials, reality shows, music videos, live events, broadcast television, and theme parks. Through the Initiative DA participants will have the opportunity to closely interact with many members of the Art Department, including production designers, art directors, set designers, model-makers, illustrators, previs, graphic, scenic, and title artists. Most importantly, exposure to all the associated trades that the Art Department works in close association with. The jurisdiction of Local 800’s Art Directors is unique in that its workplace is national and not limited to the tadeonal Hollywood Studio 30-mile radius employment zone.

Once accepted into the Initiative, the DA participant’s name will be placed on an availability list managed by the Initiative’s staff supervisor.

Upon completion of the PDI: Art Department Initiative, all DA participants will be accorded an exit assessment. The assessment consists of a review of the participants updated portfolio, discussion of work experiences, and next steps for pursuing their future career options and direction.

- DA participants must complete a minimum 130 days in total as an art department production assistant within the 365-day period, beginning with the date of their acceptance into the Initiative. An extension of time to complete may be granted upon a formal review of the needs and circumstances behind a participant’s request.
- Announcements will go out to all Guild Production Designer/Art Director members that ADG Initiative DAs are available for immediate placement. Note that placement is not guaranteed and will depend on the schedules and requirements of the Production Designer/Art Director members and the projects on which they are employed. Equally important will be the participants independent effort to build their own personal network which is no different than what our all past and future Local 800 members must do.
- DA participants would be hired, compensated, and insured by the producers in the same manner as all other Production Assistants employed on the production.
- DA participants will be subordinate to and supervised by the show’s Production Designer, Art Directors, and AD Coordinator. These members will serve as the DA participant’s primary mentors and hopefully a source for reference and referral to other designers for future work opportunities.
- Guidelines governing the assignment, supervision, and periodic assessment of the participants progress will be issued by the PDI Art Department managers to the participating Production Designer/Art Directors.
- DA participants may not displace Local 800 members or other IATSE represented crafts. Only productions that have fully satisfied their staffing for all positions may participate in the Initiative. PDI Initiative participants may not be misused as low-cost alternative employees for the creation of the essential covered work on union signatory productions.
- In general, DA participants are responsible for their own housing, transportation, and living expenses except where otherwise agreed to or provided for by the potential producing employer.

## Scope of Work, Duties and Activities

- Researcher: Search and acquire research materials as directed.
- Art Department Archivist: Manage digital database pipeline and hard copy files for research, set plans, location files, graphic files, stored set assets.
- Copyist: Reproduce all reference materials and blueprint reproduction services.
- Information Distribution: Distribute research and set drawings to all departments.
- Resource Collection: Follow-through on collection of material samples and swatches from vendors.
- Location Surveys: Assist in measuring and documenting as required.
- Observer and Auditor: Attend concept and production meetings, location and tech scouts, have access to all shooting sets and locations.

## Mentored Projects: Mentored Projects that are Outside the Scope of Workplace Paid Employment

- Projects should be considered homework and continuing education and are prohibited from generating any work product for an IATSE signatory production.
- Story Analysis Skills: Practice script and concept presentation.
- Drawing & Illustration Skills (analog and digital): Practice quick sketch, drafting, and rendering.
- Model Building Skills: Practice construction techniques (analog and digital).
- Document Creation Skills: Set and decoration estimating.
- Logistics 101: People skills, resource management, art of work delegation.
- Survival Skills: Flexibility, resourcefulness, communication.
- Continuing Education: Access at subsidized or reduced rates to digital and fine arts training programs when available (Studio Arts, ADG Figure Drawing Workshops, etc.).
- Initiative DA participants are encouraged to attend in-person or audit online, all ADG sponsored master classes, outreach programs, and workshops when available to them.

## ADG Community Service (Non-Compensated Time)

- The AD Initiative's staff supervisor will be responsible for scheduling all ADG related community service activities, and volunteer opportunities.
- AD Initiative DA participants are expected to participate as available in ADG programs (ADG Awards, Special Events, Film Society, ADG Archives).

For any questions about the application requirements, please contact the Art Directors Guild [jackie@adg.org](mailto:jackie@adg.org)