



Metal Museum

Studio Assistant- F.I.R.E. Conference 2026

Classification: Unpaid

Reports To: Foundry Operations Manager

Hours:

Work hours will be between 8:30am to 9pm, Wednesday-Saturday (May 13-May 16), and 8:30am to 3pm on Sunday (May 17). Most workdays include two 4-hour shifts per day. The number of hours per day and the number of days per week are not flexible.

Applicants will receive a \$100 materials stipend, conference t-shirt, free onsite camping, all conference-provided meals, and are encouraged to make their own molds during slow work times. All personal material costs beyond the value of the stipend are the responsibility of the applicant.

Description of F.I.R.E. and Its Mission:

The Foundry Invitational and River Exhibition (F.I.R.E.) is a conference for metal casting artists to utilize the Metal Museum's Foundry. The conference includes a specialized workshop with a guest artist, greensand workshop, and independent mold making. The Museum's foundry uses green sand, resin sand, and ceramic shell as mold-making techniques. Equipment includes furnaces to pour aluminum, bronze, and iron, many sizes of flasks and flask-making materials, as well as pattern-making tools and a small woodshop.

This conference offers an intimate group of artists, both professional and emerging, the resources to create new work, learn new techniques and molding applications, and to connect with other artists in the casting community.

Purpose of the Assistantship:

Assists Foundry Operations Manager, Workshop instructors, conference attendees with tasks related to the F.I.R.E. Conference.

Essential Functions and Responsibilities

1. Assist Foundry Operations Manager with conference preparation and execution.
2. Assist conference attendees with materials needs (ex: mixing resin sand)
3. Assist the Museum Education Coordinator with daily conference operations and communications.
4. Assist workshop instructors with workshop needs.

Qualifications:

Experience:

Experience is required. Applicants must provide any foundry experience including higher education classes, special workshops, previous internships/residencies, or any iron pour in which they were a participant.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience with molding methods including green sand, resin bonded sand, and ceramic shell
- Ability to use power equipment such as angle grinders, Vertical Bandsaws, pneumatic hand tools
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely
- Knowledge and experience pouring cast iron, aluminum, bronze
- Punctuality and ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently and as a part of a team
- Heavy physical effort which may include lifting up to 75 lbs

Applications are due by February 6th, 2026. Notification will be before February 24th

James Vanderpool
Foundry Operations Manager
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