

ART MUSEUM LIGHTING TECHNICIAN

Work in this class involves the lighting of exhibits and galleries in the North Carolina Museum of Art. Employees in this class review gallery or exhibit layout plans, draw lighting plans considering light intensities and types needed for optimal effect on the viewing public and the damaging effects of light on delicate works of art, and either install or supervise the installation of lighting systems. While work assignments are received from the Chief Designer, employees work with project designers or curatorial personnel responsible for each project.

I. DIFFICULTY OF WORK:

Complexity of Work - Employees must design lighting systems for a variety of galleries and exhibits which require a variety of types of lights, lighting intensities, and lighting positions. Employees must be knowledgeable of the types and intensities of lighting needed for different types of exhibits as well as the harmful effects of light on works of art. Employees must be familiar with the various types of light fixtures available. Some electrical knowledge is required in extending or modifying existing systems or for wiring special lighting systems.

Intricacy of Work - Lights must be balanced to provide optimum lighting levels for the viewing public while minimizing harmful effects on works of art. Light intensity meters are used to make fairly close measurements of lighting levels.

Controls Over Work - Employees review exhibit plans and determine lighting systems needed independently. Employees plan and supervise installations without technical review. Curatorial personnel review exhibits and galleries upon completion of lighting for overall effect.

Judgmental Demands - Employees, after reviewing exhibit plans, must determine the most effective lighting scheme among several alternative schemes. During actual construction, employees may vary plans to improve the viewing effect or reduce damaging light levels.

II. RESPONSIBILITY:

Potential - Damage to delicate, irreplaceable works of art, reduction of exhibit quality.

Care and Attention - Employees measure light intensity with light meters and adjust lighting in order to reach optimal levels of intensity.

III. PHYSICAL EFFORT:

Intensity of Effort - Employees must carry cumbersome lighting fixtures up ladders and support these during connection. Fixtures are of medium weight.

Frequency and Duration - The installation and removal of lighting fixtures would occur on a regular basis for extended periods of time in the case of lighting a large gallery or exhibit.

IV. WORK SURROUNDINGS AND HAZARDS:

Worker Surroundings - Work is generally performed in an environmentally controlled shop or gallery.

Hazardous Conditions - While installing or removing lights, employees must work at considerable heights on ladders or platforms.

V. RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENTS

Knowledges, Skills, and Abilities - Working knowledge of the effects of light intensities on works of art. Working knowledge of the types of lighting fixtures used in lighting exhibits. Working knowledge of the uses of various types of lights in lighting exhibits. Working knowledge of basic electrical formulas. Ability to read exhibit plans and design effective lighting systems. Ability to plan for the installation of lighting systems. Ability to direct the work of others. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Minimum Education and Experience - Completion of high school and two years of experience in planning and installing lighting systems for art galleries and exhibits: or an equivalent combination of education and experience.