



Job Title: Planetarium Producer

Department: Planetarium

Supervisor: Planetarium Director

Position Type: Exempt, full-time

Educational Requirements: Degree in animation or video editing essential (or equivalent experience). Background in astronomy or other science desirable. Prior planetarium production experience desirable but not essential.

Skill Requirements: Background in 3DS Max (other 3D animation software is acceptable, but our facility has 3DS Max), Adobe CS (After Effects, Media Encoder, Photoshop), and experience rendering using VRay. Understanding of (or willing to learn) planetarium "storytelling" and how it differs from traditional flat screen production.

Strong troubleshooting and multitasking skills are essential for this position. Candidate must be willing to learn new software to accomplish tasks if needed. Knowledge of astronomy and/or other science is desired.

Job Summary: The planetarium producer and animator is responsible for all visual content for use in the planetarium. Their responsibilities include production of original animation and fulldome video for the Irene W. Pennington Planetarium as well as the other domes at LASM. The producer and animator works with the educators to compliment their programs with creative and dynamic visuals. Script writing is also part of the producer's responsibilities from time to time. The producer and animator is also responsible for programming real-time astronomy shows in the DigitalSky2 software. Aside from the production of original content, the producer also prepares purchased content to play back in the Discovery Dome (portable), as well as the lobby dome, and the large dome. Lastly the planetarium producer and animator maintains the rendering farm and its software, as well as the file structure and organization of digital assets.

Responsibilities and Duties:

Create digital productions and digital content for playback in planetarium shows

- Create custom fulldome animations as requested
- Adhere to production schedules to keep shows up to date, and prioritize projects to meet deadlines
- Write and produce short movies for Ceiling Dome monthly
- Keep orderly library of digital assets on the Network Attached Storage.
- Program DigitalSky 2 software buttons for use in the planetarium.

Work with educators and director in developing school and public programming.

- Compose, review, and evaluate written scripts in single and partnered work groups
- Suggest dynamic and creative visuals to enhance educator presentations
- Create interactive DigitalSky 2 button sets that are user friendly for presenters

Prepare content for the mirror dome systems (Discovery Dome and Ceiling Dome)

- Use IMGWarper software to warp 4k frames and encode them in proper Quicktime formats
- Update and maintain the iPad kiosk
- Encode monthly video set for Ceiling Dome and copy to iPad
- Ensure necessary shows are transferred to the Discovery Dome laptop as needed

Work with other staff to ensure proper integration of all media components in the planetarium

- Test DigitalSky button sets in planetarium after transfer, ensure content plays back correctly
- Facilitate FTP and other data connections between LASM and other content providers
- Maintain the storage of files on the Network Attached Storage.

Assist in occasional creation of promotional materials

- Provide planetarium-related graphics and images for use by LASM staff
- Assist in creation of graphics for use in social media and website

Communicate with other planetarium professionals and vendors to keep current with trends and technology

- Make contacts with vendors to keep up with best rendering and encoding practices
- Be self motivated to troubleshoot and find solutions with proprietary software
- Attend planetarium meetings to network with possible partners for show production