



Costume Design (Fashion Historical Costuming)

May 2018

Prepared by the Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research

Program Recommendation

This report was compiled by the Los Angeles/Orange County Center of Excellence (COE) to provide regional labor market data for the program recommendation of costume design. This report intends to determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from programs of study.

Based on the data, the COE **was unable to determine if there is an unmet need** for the costume design program in the Los Angeles County region. Here are a few notes to consider:

- Nearly 700 job opportunities will be available annually for occupations of interest through 2022 due primarily to replacement need (e.g., retirements).
- Only one of the occupations studied has an entry-level wage above the MIT Living Wage¹ estimate of \$13.54 per hour for a single adult.
- There were 47 online postings for jobs related to costume design in 2017.
- Between 30 and 37% of the current costume design workforce holds some postsecondary coursework, signaling that these positions are relevant for community college students.
- Between 2014 and 2017, programs training for the occupations of interest conferred 182 awards (3-yr average), suggesting an oversaturation of costume designers.

Occupation Codes and Descriptions

Currently, there are two occupations in the standard occupational classification (SOC) system related to the study of costume design. The occupation titles and descriptions, as well as reported job titles are included in Exhibit 1.

Exhibit 1 – Occupations, description, and sample job titles

| SOC Code | Title | Description | Sample of Reported Job Titles |
|----------|-------------------|---|---|
| 27-1022 | Fashion Designers | Design clothing and accessories. Create original designs or adapt fashion trends. | Apparel Fashion Designer, Clothing Designer, Costume Designer , Dance Costume Designer, Design Director, Designer, Fashion Designer, Historic Clothing and Costume Maker, Latex Fashions Designer, Product Developer |

¹ MIT Living Wage Calculator. <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|--|--|
| 39-3092 | Costume Attendants | Select, fit, and take care of costumes for cast members, and aid entertainers. May assist with multiple costume changes during performances. | Costume Draper, Costume Seamstress, Costume Shop Manager, Costumer, Draper, Dresser, Wardrobe Assistant, Wardrobe Attendant, Wardrobe Manager, Wardrobe Supervisor |
|---------|--------------------|--|--|

Source: O*NET Online

Current and Future Employment

In Los Angeles County, the number of jobs related to costume design occupations is expected to **decrease** by 1% over the next five years. Nearly 700 job opportunities will be available annually for this occupation group through 2022 due primarily to replacement need (e.g., retirements). Exhibit 2 contains detailed employment projections data for these occupations.

Exhibit 2 – Five-year projections for costume design occupations in Los Angeles County

| SOC | Occupation | 2017 Jobs | 2022 Jobs | 2017 – 2022 Change | 2017 – 2022 % Change | Annual Openings |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 27-1022 | Fashion Designers | 4,793 | 4,756 | (37) | (1%) | 439 |
| 39-3092 | Costume Attendants | 997 | 1,074 | 77 | 8% | 247 |
| TOTAL | | 5,790 | 5,830 | 40 | 1% | 686 |

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Earnings

In Los Angeles County, one of the occupations studied has an entry-level wage above the MIT Living Wage estimate of \$13.54 per hour for a single adult. The average annual earnings for costume design-related occupations in the region is between \$55,000 and \$77,000 per year, assuming full-time employment.

Exhibit 3 contains hourly wages and annual average earnings for this occupation group. Entry-level hourly earnings is represented by the 10th percentile of wages, median hourly earnings is represented by the 50th percentile of wages, and experienced hourly earnings is represented by the 90th percentile of wages, demonstrating various levels of employment.

Exhibit 3 – Earnings for costume design occupations in Los Angeles County

| SOC | Occupation | Entry-Level Hourly Earnings | Median Hourly Earnings | Experienced Hourly Earnings | Average Annual Earnings |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 27-1022 | Fashion Designers | \$15.23 | \$32.01 | \$65.81 | \$77,000 |
| 39-3092 | Costume Attendants | \$11.36 | \$24.53 | \$46.98 | \$55,000 |

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI)

Employer Job Postings

In this research brief, real-time labor market information is used to provide a more nuanced view of the current job market, as it captures job advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study. Employer job postings are consulted to understand who is employing costume designers, and what they are looking for in potential candidates. To identify job postings related to costume design, the following keywords/search terms were used: costume attendants (39-3092) or job titles with costume*, or wardrobe assistant/design*.

In 2017, there were 47 employer postings in Los Angeles County for occupations related to costume design. The top job titles for employers posting ads for costume designers are listed in Exhibit 4. Costume designer was mentioned in 23% of all relevant job postings (11 postings).

Exhibit 4 –Top job titles (n=47)

| Title | Job Postings, Full Year 2017 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Costume Designer | 11 |
| Costumer | 5 |
| Shop Manager/Supervisor | 4 |
| Costume Technician | 3 |
| Wardrobe Attendant | 3 |

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Top Employers

Exhibit 5 lists the major employers hiring professionals in the field of costume design. Top employers postings job ads included California State University, NBC, and University of Southern California. The top worksite cities in the region for these occupations were Los Angeles, Long Beach, Valencia and Glendale.

Exhibit 5 – Top employers (n=19)

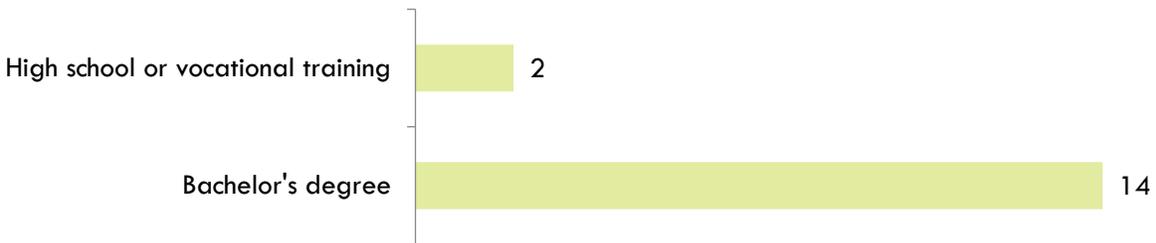
| Employer | Job Postings, Full Year 2017 |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| California State University | 5 |
| NBC | 4 |
| University of Southern California | 2 |
| A Noise Within | 1 |
| California Institute of The Arts | 1 |
| Callan Stokes Wardrobe Stylist | 1 |
| Disney | 1 |
| Gabriella Charter School | 1 |
| Six Flags Incorporated | 1 |
| The Queen Mary | 1 |

Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Advertised Education Levels

Exhibit 6 displays the education level requested by employers in online job ads. The majority of employers were looking for a candidate with a Bachelor’s degree. Approximately 66% of job postings did not specify a level of education.

Exhibit 6 – Advertised education requirements for costume designers (n=16)



Source: Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass)

Education and Training

Exhibit 7 shows the typical entry-level education requirement for the occupations of interest, along with the typical on-the-job training, and percentage of workers in the field who hold a community college award or have completed some postsecondary courses. Between 30 and 37% of the costume design workforce has completed some community college education as their highest level of education.

Exhibit – Education and training requirements

| SOC | Occupation | Typical entry-level education | Typical on-the-job training | % of Community College Award Holders or Some Postsecondary Coursework |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 27-1022 | Fashion Designers | Bachelor's degree | None | 30% |
| 39-3092 | Costume Attendants | HS diploma/equivalent | Short-term | 37% |

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International, Bureau of Labor Statistics Employment Projections (Educational Attainment)

In Los Angeles County, eight community colleges have conferred awards in programs that train students for costume design. Between 2014 and 2017, there was an average of 182 community college awards conferred annually across three programs: Technical Theater (1006.00), Fashion (1303.00) and Fashion Design (1303.10). The inclusion of the technical theater program is due to LA City College offering two certificates for costume design within their theater program. It is important to note that an award is not equivalent to a single person in search of a job opening, since a student may earn more than one award (e.g. an associate degree and a certificate).

Exhibit 10 – CCC Student Awards (by TOP and College)

| TOP Code | Program | College | 2014-15 Awards | 2015-2016 Awards | 2016-17 Awards | Total Average CC Awards |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1006.00 | Technical Theater | LA City | 1 | 5 | 19 | 8 |
| | | Total | 1 | 5 | 19 | 8 |
| 1303.00 | Fashion | Compton | - | 1 | - | 0 |
| | | El Camino | - | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| | | Pasadena | 40 | 27 | 16 | 28 |
| | | Total | 40 | 30 | 23 | 31 |
| 1303.10 | Fashion Design | El Camino | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| | | LA Trade | 85 | 106 | 116 | 102 |
| | | Long Beach | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| | | Mt San Antonio | 13 | 16 | 17 | 15 |
| | | Santa Monica | 14 | 11 | 19 | 15 |
| | | Total | 122 | 142 | 164 | 143 |
| Grand Total | | | 163 | 177 | 206 | 182 |

Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office MIS Data Mart

Student Outcomes

The CTE LaunchBoard provides student outcome data on the effectiveness of CTE programs. The following student outcome information was collected from exiters of Los Angeles County CCC programs for the 2015-16 academic year.

Technical Theater (1006.00)

- The median annual wage after program completion is \$15,031
- 25% of students are earning a living wage
- 69% of students are employed within six months after completing a program

Fashion (1303.00)

- The median annual wage after program completion is \$20,062
- 29% of students are earning a living wage
- 64% of students are employed within six months after completing a program

Fashion Design (1303.10)

- The median annual wage after program completion is \$19,602
- 35% of students are earning a living wage
- 66% of students are employed within six months after completing a program

Source: CTE LaunchBoard

Sources

O*Net Online, Labor Insight/Jobs (Burning Glass), Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI), MIT Living Wage Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Education Attainment, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS) Data Mart, CTE LaunchBoard, Statewide CTE Outcomes Survey, Employment Development Department Unemployment Insurance Dataset

Notes

Data included in this analysis represents the labor market demand for positions most closely related to costume design. Standard occupational classification (SOC) codes were chosen based on the national education level required for employment (associate degree and postsecondary certificate) as well as the proportion of current workers who hold a community college award or have had some community college training. This selection process narrows the labor market analysis to the most relevant employment opportunities for students with community college education and/or training.

Traditional labor market information was used to show current and projected employment based on data trends, as well as annual average awards granted by regional community colleges. Real-time labor market information captures job post advertisements for occupations relevant to the field of study and should not be used to establish current job openings, because the numbers may include duplicate job postings or postings intended to gather a pool of applicants. Real-time labor market information can signal demand and show what employers are looking for in potential employees, but is not a perfect measure of the quantity of open positions.