



# CONSERVATORY PLACEMENT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

## PRODUCTION & DESIGN CONSERVATORY (GRADES 7-12) Digital Submission Placement Activity

### Application & YouTube Video Submissions:

Please submit a completed application and a **video detailing your project below**. This must be an original artwork. The sample must be detailed in a video for submission. No pictures will be accepted unless they are a part of the design creation and must be included in the applicant's video submission. **Your video should be no longer than 5 minutes.**

### Placement Activity: “Mini-Stage World in a Box”

#### Objective

Students will demonstrate their understanding of key set design components: scale, perspective, texture, color, and storytelling, by creating a small 3D scenic model from limited materials. Using the shoebox/foam core as the stage, they create a **scaled scenic environment** that captures mood, space, and story.

Materials needed:

- Shoe box or foam core base (serves as stage space)
- Assorted colored paper, cardboard scraps, and fabric swatches
- Scissors, glue, tape, markers/pencils
- Scale figure templates (1:24 or 1:12)

---

Students choose **ONE** of three scene prompts:

#### Option 1: The Disguised Royal

Scene: The bustling city marketplace at night, where the young queen slips among commoners in disguise.

- The set should show contrasts: the grittiness of the street market (stalls, fabric awnings, lantern light, uneven ground) versus a subtle sense of the palace looming in the distance.



# CONSERVATORY PLACEMENT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

- Students should think about levels (raised stall platforms, stairs, or distant arches) and functional elements like entrances/exits that could allow for sneaking or hiding.

---

## **Option 2: The Rebel of the Future**

Scene: A futuristic society where every citizen wears identical uniforms and lives in a rigid, oppressive city.

- The set should highlight uniformity and order (clean lines, repetitive shapes, maybe modular walls or glowing panels).
- Students must also show where rebellion might surface, perhaps a hidden corner with graffiti, broken tech, or a space that feels less sterile.
- Encourage them to think about scale and perspective to make the audience feel the weight of an authoritarian world.

---

## **Option 3: The Enchanted Forest Guardian**

Scene: A mystical forest at twilight, where the guardian emerges.

- The set should combine organic forms (twisting trees, roots, vines) with a sense of magic or ethereality (glowing stones, suspended shapes, shimmering surfaces).
- Students should consider texture and atmosphere (soft fabric as mist, layered cut-outs for depth, or lighting suggestions).
- They might also design a functional central playing area where characters can move freely while still surrounded by an immersive forest world.

---



# CONSERVATORY PLACEMENT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Set designs must:

- Place at least two scaled figures to show actor–environment relationships.
- Use line, texture, and color choices to reflect the scene's atmosphere.
- Incorporate at least one movable element (door, flat, platform, etc.) to demonstrate awareness of functional set design.

Be sure to include:

- A recorded verbal statement answering the following questions:
  1. What is YOUR definition of Production & Design?
  2. Why are you interested in the Production & Design Conservatory?
  3. What is your design concept? (Explain WHY you made your design choices and briefly discuss the research and rationale behind your decisions.)

**WHY?**

In Production & Design, we want you to understand how to take your ideas and turn them into actualized designs. We want to see what you can create with common production and design materials. **Creativity is key!** Secondly, we want to know WHY you chose the colors you chose. We want to know WHY you chose the materials you chose. The “WHY” is just as important as the work. Show us that you understand the prompt and create something meaningful from it!

**Video Content Guidelines:**

At the beginning of your video, please state your name and grade level and answer the following questions:

1. What is YOUR definition of Production & Design?
2. Why are you interested in the Production & Design Conservatory?
3. What is your design concept? (Explain WHY you made your design choices and briefly discuss the research and rationale behind your decisions.)



# CONSERVATORY PLACEMENT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

After answering the questions above, your video submission should include an overview of your design and artistic and technical choices for the design of your choice. Show your created materials within the video.

## **Video Submission Guidelines:**

- **You should only submit one video, which should be no more than 5 minutes total in length.**
- To protect your privacy, the YouTube video should be saved as “UNLISTED” so it cannot be publicly viewed.
- Copy and paste your YouTube video URL (web address) link directly into your conservatory application. Multiple YouTube videos must be combined into a single URL.
- YouTube videos must be included at the same time as the application submission.
- The YouTube video should have no disruptive background noise, good lighting, and a framing that views  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the student’s body in the video.
- Once your YouTube video has been submitted to OCSA, the submission is final, and changes cannot be made.

## **Before submitting your video, be sure to check:**

- Did you choose a prompt from the list of options?
- Did you create ONE original set design inspired by that selection?
- Did you state your name and grade level, and answer the question prompts?
- Did you state in your video WHY you chose the scene and WHY you chose to do that design?
- Did you create a video showing your design?
- Did you state what research you did to create your design?
- Is your video under 5 minutes in length?

If you can say “YES” to all of the above, your video should be good to go!

Applicants who are English language learners, have a disability, or need technology assistance are encouraged to reach out for support with the admissions process. Please contact [admissions@ocsarts.net](mailto:admissions@ocsarts.net) or 714.560.0900 ext. 5510 for more information.



# CONSERVATORY PLACEMENT ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

Hay asistencia disponible para los solicitantes aprendiendo inglés, que tienen una discapacidad, o los que necesitan asistencia tecnológica. Favor de ponerse contacto con nosotros por correo electrónico [admissions@ocsarts.net](mailto:admissions@ocsarts.net) o por llamar 714.560.0900 ext. 5510 para más información.

Applicants requesting accommodations must have established eligibility under IDEA, Section 504 or an established Academic Support Plan (private schools only). The documentation must be provided at the time of application submission. Confidential documents must be sent directly to Lauren Reynolds, Director of Special Services, at [lauren.reynolds@ocsarts.net](mailto:lauren.reynolds@ocsarts.net).

Accommodations must be requested 15 days in advance of placement activities for planning purposes.