

Sabbatical Proposal

Haleh Risdana, Theatre
Professor

- **Proposal Date:** October 26, 2020
- **Proposed Leave:** Fall 2021
- **Previous Sabbaticals:** 0
- **First contract with Moorpark College:** Spring 2014
- **9th year** of teaching & producing costumes at Moorpark College
- **6th year** teaching full time



Les Femmes Savantes MPC 2011

PURPOSE of sabbatical leave

I am applying for a one-semester Fall sabbatical leave for professional growth leading to the development of increased competence focusing primarily on areas of costuming to include and not limited to: historical costume research, pattern drafting and digital costume rendering.

THE PROJECTS

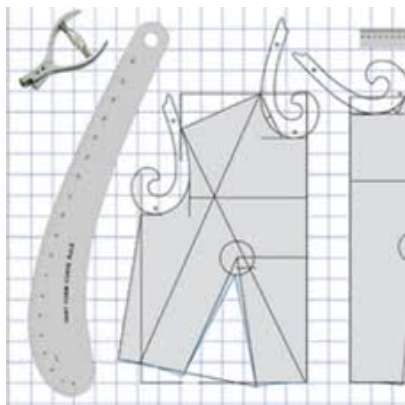
Due to Covid 19 rerouting the way and when classes are being offered at our institutions for learning, museums and so forth, I am looking online and towards the Fall 2021 openings to study what I am seeking to learn. The classes on intend on taking will start at the end of Summer 2021 and go into Fall 2021. In addition, historically before Covid, the Spring semester is when we at MC Theatre Arts do our most enormous musicals. I am the sole costume producer. It will be less of a burden to be off in the Fall then in the Spring

Here is an example of areas that I would use to accomplish my goals:

The Autry Museum of the American West offers an extensive archive on Western & Native Indian clothing pieces in their collections that I would like to research. My study will include clothing as it relates the American West, the symbolism depicted, and fabrics used. This research will culminate in lessons on primary research applications and the history of dress for my costuming classes.



Note: If the Autry doesn't resume hours of operation, they have much of their collections online and access to material is available. <https://theautry.org/research>



Pattern Drafting is an area I want to increase my learning in and teach to my students. It not only applies to the curriculum I teach, but it is also a skill set that is required for any costumer who desires a career in costuming. I intend on learning how to draft patterns so that I can develop lessons for my students in TTHA M27A, M27B, M11 A-D & M904.

Schools such as *Santa Monica City College, 1886* & *The Creative Costume Academy* offer affordable online classes in pattern drafting. My plan is to take classes being offered to increase my competence in this area.

Digital Rendering: we are in the digital age and pen and ink costume renderings are antiquated. Although a beautiful art form, illustrators in the costumer's union render digitally. It is a necessary skill and one I do not know adequately to teach. I plan to learn how to render digitally so that I can teach my students and use it in my job as a costume instructor and costume producer at Moorpark College.

VALUE of sabbatical to VCCCD and MP College

Our values statement reminds me that we are a college of excellence, of equity & success.

- By having a dynamic instructor who remains relevant not only in her skill set but in her connections with professionals and educators, will bring positive attention to the college and our program.
- I will help better prepare students to attain more competitive transfers to four-year colleges and find work in the industry.
- By having an instructor who teaches industry standards and best practices, students will look to MC for their education because we offer what competitive schools offer, but more affordably and with more teacher-student contact experiences.



As part of the CTE advisory board at MC, I spend a lot of time and dedication developing career pathways for our students. In the past 5+ years I have been inviting professional experts to our annual advisory board. In doing so, I connect with experts I know to be the most valuable. Our students have worked in various jobs in the entertainment field in and around southern California including paid internships with professionals in their field of interest, amusement parks such as Universal and Disney, and working in film, tv and theatre productions. This year IATSE 705 the costumers' union made MC one of only two colleges to be part of the PACT Initiative — Production Assistant Costumer Trainee. It is a 2-year paid position that provides on-the-job training for one or two of our graduating or recently graduated costuming students. This position pairs a recent graduate with a fully-fledged Union Costumer where together the training happens. The goal is to train the upcoming costumer with the current skills and expected outcomes one may be expected to know well working in the industry so they can join IATSE 705 and become a working Union costumer without any further production experience. The importance of being a Union Costumer and a member of IATSE 705 compared to being an independent costumer is exponential in terms of success as a professional costumer and longevity in surviving a very competitive career. In the past, in order to be part of IATSE 705 one

must have put in 30 working days on a Union production or in a Union approved costume shop; and that type of work was forbidden to be given to any non-Union members. The importance of the PACT Initiative for a new and upcoming costumer is an opportunity from IATSE 705; and Moorpark College costume department has been chosen to be the direction they are looking at to fulfill the position. My contacts within IATSE have helped bring this program to Moorpark and I would like to expand my contacts to not only professional programs but also educational ones as well.

VALUE of sabbatical to MC students

Each semester I step into classrooms with faces looking to me to not only teach them everything I know, but to help them realize their aspirations of becoming costume designers, of becoming costume supervisors, costume historians, with a need to learn the basics so they can pursue work confidently in the costume industry, and others who are dipping their toes in an idea that excites & motivates them to come to college.

The value of having an instructor, a mentor, a teacher who has the skills and desire to teach the very best and most current instruction provides the students with a teacher who has stepped away only to return with increased competence to share with them who wouldn't have had so otherwise.

The value comes with an instructor who returns to her classes refreshed and excited to teach all that she has learned and to impart the value of a college education.

VALUE of sabbatical to the teacher

Since January 2011, I have produced costumes and created production crews for MC theatre department-- each semester, including summers. During this time, I also taught makeup and costuming. When I started to teach these classes, they were all cross-listed as one class comprised of all three makeup I, costume I, and costume II. Since then, I have grown these classes with their own set of outcomes and objectives.



After 9 years of practice, I find that my skill set is malnourished and although I take weekend workshops when I can find them and search for short online training that doesn't interfere with my heavy workload at MC, it's not enough to have fragments of learning for something I teach & practice every day.

The value of attending a sabbatical would be that I would get to acquire new skills, develop further the ones I already have, and refresh my lessons and lectures with new and exciting material; thus return to MC with vigor and excitement, renew my commitment to excellence in teaching and to reduce the chance of being burned out from this career that I love.

VALUE of sabbatical to Mission of VCCCD

Keeping in mind that “students come first,” as a valued member of the VCCCD, I represent a piece of a dynamic puzzle by providing a diverse outlook from my own unique perspective. It’s in this perspective that the value of my sabbatical supports the district. “We recognize and celebrate creativity, innovation....” “We maintain high standards in our constant pursuit of excellence.” It’s in this and the other values of the district that “I” become “we.”

In a practical sense, I could be available to teach costume history, pattern drafting, digital costume rendering classes online for VC, or OC if the need presented itself.

Proposed Timeline:

Fall 2021			
August	Pattern Drafting /Draping @SMCC	FASHN 6A Pattern Analysis and Design FASHN 13 Draping I	Digital Rendering Autry Research Online
September	Pattern Drafting / <u>Draping</u> @SMCC	FASHN 6A Pattern Analysis and Design FASHN 13 Draping I	Digital Rendering Autry Research Online
October	Pattern Drafting / <u>Draping</u> @SMCC	FASHN 6A Pattern Analysis and Design FASHN 13 Draping I	Digital Rendering Autry Research Online
November	Pattern Drafting / Draping @SMCC	FASHN 6A Pattern Analysis and Design FASHN 13 Draping I	Compile Autry Research. Create Digital Renderings. Update Website to reflect Theatre/ Costuming offerings at MPC
December	Create lessons for MPC classes		

Proposed Objectives.

- Learn to render digitally
- Compile primary historical research as it relates to dress and society
- Pattern Drafting / Draping

Learning Outcomes

- Learn new skills and update current skill set
- Observe teaching methods and modalities from online instructors to use in online classes @ MC
- Implement digital rendering

This work supports the current curriculum and CLOS for my classes and professional costuming assignments at MC.

Proposed dissemination upon my return: I will update my lesson plans for TTHA M27A Costume Design I, TTHA Costume Design II, TTHA 904 Applied Costuming, TTHA M11 A-D Technical Production to reflect my updated skills to support the curriculum & clos for these classes. In addition, as a costume producer, we at MC put on period stage productions each year. During these productions I teach students how to conduct historical research, so their costumes reflect the many eras we depict on stage. During these live performances, we have hundreds of middle school and high school students who attend our performances. They are exposed to the work of our students and, we hope, recognize the authenticity of the era we try to represent. As we move toward producing live stage productions once again, I will represent my professional development in all the work I do, not just in my classes but on the stage.

Project as it relates to my professional assignment:

I teach all aspects of costuming in TTHA M11 A, B, C & D Technical Production, M27A Costume Design I, M27B Costume Design II, TTHA M904 Applied Costuming which include but are not limited to: costume history, costume construction, costume career pathways, costume sewing, costume construction, period costuming construction, dressing.

My project and anticipated sabbatical have been discussed with my department colleagues, and they are in support of my request. I have attached a letter from each of them to this proposal.

In the past 9 years, I've seen two of my colleagues from the dance department take a sabbatical. In the department of Theatre arts, there has been none taken in the past 9 years.

Thank you for your consideration,

Haleh Risdana
Department of Theatre Arts
Moorpark College
HRisdana@vcccd.edu



MOORPARK COLLEGE

October 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Haleh Risdana has expressed a desire to apply for a sabbatical for next year. She has discussed this with the Theatre Arts program and we are in full support of her application.

Haleh has been instrumental in the development of our Costume and Make-up classes as well as our CTE efforts and her collaboration with the Costumer's Union has become a critical part of our Advisory Board and internship/job placement for our Technical Theatre students.

Any advanced professional development opportunity that Haleh seeks to pursue will only enhance the opportunities that Haleh has made available to our students.

Please LMK if you have any questions

Sincerely,

John Loprieno
Chair, Performing Arts
Moorpark College
(805) 378-1469
JLoprieno@vcccd.edu



PERFORMING ARTS
MOORPARK COLLEGE

7075 Campus Road
Moorpark, CA 93021
www.moorparkcollege.edu
805 378 1400

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pride and confidence that I lend my support to Haleh Risdana in her request to pursue sabbatical for the school year 2021-2022. As her colleague, I have worked closely with Ms. Risdana since fall of 2011 when she costumed a production of *Learned Ladies* that I directed for Moorpark College's main stage. Since then we have worked in the same manner on countless other shows including most recently *Macbeth*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and *Three Sisters* to name a few. It is always a joy and an honor to work with her and I cannot wait to see the growth in Ms. Risdana that this sabbatical will surely bring.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Fagan M.F.A.
sfagan@vccd.edu
PAC 142
2027 Campus Road
Moorpark, CA 93021