



Dark Heaven LLC – Internship Program – 2026/2027

Dark Heaven is currently seeking interns across six areas: Social Media, Video Production / Post Production, Business Development, Fashion / Apparel Design, Graphic Design, and A&R / Label Representation.

Each internship provides hands-on experience within an independent music, events, and media organization, with opportunities to collaborate across projects and develop real-world skills. These positions are designed for self-motivated individuals who want to contribute to building something rather than simply completing an internship.

Strong contributors may have the opportunity to continue working with Dark Heaven beyond the internship period through paid work, expanded responsibilities, and potentially longer-term roles within the organization.

Graphic Design Intern

Company: Dark Heaven LLC

Location: Chicago, IL (Hybrid / Remote)

Type: Part-time Internship | College Credit May Be Available

Duration: 3-6 months (approximately 10–15 hours per week)

About Dark Heaven

Dark Heaven is a Chicago-based independent music, events, and media company rooted in underground music and culture. We produce live events, release electronic music, create visual media, develop apparel, and build creative projects that connect music, design, fashion, and technology.

Our visual identity is an important part of how people experience Dark Heaven—from event flyers and artist artwork to social content, merchandise, release campaigns, and physical environments.

Role Overview

We're looking for a Graphic Design Intern to help develop and execute visual work across Dark Heaven's events, record label, media projects, apparel, and digital presence.

This is a hands-on creative role for someone who wants to do more than produce isolated design assignments. You'll have the opportunity to work on real projects that may be published, printed, promoted, or used in live environments.

You'll collaborate with the Dark Heaven team and may work alongside photographers, videographers, musicians, artists, apparel designers, social media, and business development team members.

The ideal candidate has strong visual instincts, familiarity with modern creative software, and an interest in developing a distinctive visual language while learning how design functions within a real-world music and entertainment organization.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist in design for promotional materials for Dark Heaven events
- Assist in creating graphics for social media, digital campaigns, and online content
- Assist in creating artwork and visual assets for record label releases
- Assist with design flyers, posters, event announcements, and other promotional materials
- Assist with merchandise and apparel graphics
- Explore visual concepts for potential Dark Heaven apparel drops and collections
- Assist with developing typography, layouts, visual treatments, and graphic systems
- Assist with branding and visual identity development across different projects
- Assist with preparing production-ready files for print and digital applications
- Resize and adapt designs across multiple platforms and formats
- Assist with editing and manipulating photography for promotional and editorial use
- Collaborate with the Social Media and Video Production teams on visual content
- Collaborate with the Fashion / Apparel Design team on garments and merchandise
- Research contemporary graphic design, music, fashion, and cultural references
- Participate in creative brainstorming and concept development
- Help maintain consistency across Dark Heaven's evolving visual identity

Software & Technical Skills

Strong familiarity with Adobe Creative Cloud and other modern creative tools is highly encouraged.

Candidates should ideally have experience with any of the several of the following:

- Adobe Photoshop — image editing, compositing, retouching, digital graphics
- Adobe Illustrator — vector graphics, typography, logos, illustrations, layouts
- Adobe After Effects — motion graphics, animation, visual effects, animated typography
- Adobe Lightroom — photo organization, color correction, editing, and image processing
- Adobe InDesign — layouts, posters, publications, and print materials
- Adobe Premiere Pro — basic video editing and integrating motion/video into design projects
- Figma — digital design, layouts, visual systems, collaborative design
- Canva — social media and rapid content production

- Procreate — digital illustration and drawing
- Blender or other 3D software — 3D design, rendering, or experimentation
- Other emerging AI-assisted design and creative tools

You do not need to know every program listed above. We're primarily looking for strong design fundamentals, creative instincts, and the ability to learn new tools quickly.

Experience with multiple programs is a strong plus, particularly when you can demonstrate how you've used them together to create finished work.

What We're Looking For

- Strong foundation in graphic design and visual communication
- Demonstrated familiarity with Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Lightroom, Figma, or comparable creative software
- Understanding of typography, composition, layout, color, hierarchy, and visual storytelling
- Strong visual taste and attention to detail
- Interest in music, fashion, art, nightlife, or contemporary culture
- Ability to develop concepts rather than simply execute instructions
- Willingness to experiment with different styles and visual approaches
- Ability to move between digital, print, social, and physical applications
- Organized and able to manage multiple projects and deadlines
- Self-motivated and comfortable working independently
- Comfortable receiving feedback and iterating on work
- Chicago-based preferred

Bonus (Not Required)

- Motion graphics or animation experience
- 3D design, modeling, or rendering
- Illustration
- Photography and professional photo editing
- Apparel or merchandise design
- Print production experience
- Experience developing brand identities or visual systems
- Experience designing for music, nightlife, fashion, art, or cultural organizations
- Experience with AI-assisted creative tools and generative design workflows
- Experience with web design or UI/UX
- Basic video editing or color grading

Portfolio

A portfolio is strongly encouraged and may include school projects, personal projects, freelance work, experimental designs, posters, album artwork, apparel concepts, illustrations, photography, motion graphics, or other visual work.

We're interested in seeing how you think and what you're capable of, not just professional client work.

If you don't have an extensive portfolio yet, a smaller collection of strong personal or academic projects is completely acceptable.

What You'll Gain

- Hands-on experience creating visual work for an active music and events company
- Portfolio-ready design work for real projects and audiences
- Experience designing across music, events, media, apparel, and digital platforms
- Experience developing visual concepts from initial idea through final execution
- Experience working within an evolving brand identity
- Experience working across Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, Lightroom, Figma, and other creative tools
- Exposure to print production, merchandise, digital media, and live-event applications
- Collaboration with artists, musicians, photographers, videographers, designers, and other creatives
- Mentorship and feedback on design, branding, creative direction, and professional development
- Opportunity to see your work published, promoted, printed, or used in live environments
- Experience collaborating with creative, production, marketing, and business development teams
- Opportunity to build meaningful professional experience within an independent music and creative organization

Pathway to the Dark Heaven Team

These internships are designed to provide an opportunity for strong contributors to continue working with Dark Heaven beyond the internship period.

Depending on performance, contribution, availability, and the evolving needs of the organization, interns may be invited to transition into an ongoing role with Dark Heaven.

Potential opportunities may include:

- Continued paid design work and expanded responsibilities
- Increased creative ownership and leadership
- Leading visual projects or campaigns
- Taking ownership of specific Dark Heaven design initiatives
- Annual performance-based bonuses
- Opportunities to collaborate on future apparel, events, releases, and media projects
- Potential participation in future equity or profit-sharing arrangements, where applicable

While continued involvement is not guaranteed, we view these internships as a potential starting point for building a long-term role within Dark Heaven.

How to Apply

Send an email to events@darkheaven.co with:

- Resume / Cover Letter and a short introduction about yourself
- Portfolio or links to relevant work (strongly encouraged)
- A brief description of your design interests and the types of projects you'd like to work on
- A list of the creative software you are familiar with
- Optional: Include one or two examples of a Dark Heaven event, release, apparel concept, or existing piece of visual content that you would approach differently and explain why

Subject Line: Graphic Design Intern – Dark Heaven

