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Jessica Burke
Audience Experience Manager

With an astrophysics degree, my colleagues went out to discover new ions, fight cancer with lasers, and stop asteroids from hurtling into our planet. I've been instrumental, too. With any spirited artistic community, I embodied Mission Control.

My lifelong passion for theatre fostered my skills in science communication and documentation. Most of my customer service experience happened in 2013—2016 at the department stores of JCPenney in Grandville and Okemos, where I utilized those skills and my physics background to be a precise and swift cashier. In the past year, I have been mastering my craft in administrative work. As the apprentice of Atlanta's Working Title Playwrights, I composed a full-length science musical from scratch, managed a team of fourteen theatre professionals, fundraised nearly \$2,000, and accounted for a half-year-long budget of nearly \$3,000 for the concert and reading. Theatre was virtually happening between a 9° latitude distance of Georgia and Michigan in the safety of my home.

So, it was delightful to hear that the theatre I annually attended in our hometown is opening up their physical space. As I have had keenly done with the hospitable community of the Southeast, I shall assimilate to the polite Midwest. I will exhibit that Grand Rapids Civic Theatre is the epitome of earthly kindness through my verbal adaptability with coworkers of all walks of life, empathizing and knowing how to approach newcomers to our space, and my awareness to the ever-changing social environment

In activism, I integrated the missions of Working Title Playwrights and Musical Theatre Factory. The mission of WTP is to help writers excel at their craft by fostering a nurturing environment. The mission of MTF is to dismantle all oppressive ideologies and center unrepresented artists. The mission of GRCT is evident with *Black, Bold, & Beautiful* and gives a positive outlook on the future of theatre. What I have gone above and beyond is including artists who are historically excluded. My purpose strives to be an incorporation, or at least introduction, to your mission. My experience may shift the overall customer service to have less biases and more sensibility.

My sense of humor is malleable, so it will eventually be bouncing more often than falling flat. I programmed tables and animation in Python and Java for homework, so Microsoft is nothing. I have a soft spot for *The Wiz* as part of its orchestra pit, so I look forward to talking endlessly about the lyrics if an interview arises. Don't nobody bring me no bad news.