

designers in residence curator

Reports to: senior curator

Department: curatorial

Contract: fixed-term (until end of March 2019)

Overview

The Design Museum is looking for an experienced and innovative curator to work as part of the museum's curatorial team to manage the Designers in Residence programme.

Designers in Residence is a core part of the museum's annual programme. It has two main aims: to provide designers in the early stages of their careers with time and space to develop their practice and produce new work, and to offer museum visitors an opportunity to engage with live design projects. Each year the residency accommodates four designers, working in different disciplines, who develop individual responses to a set theme. After an initial six months' research and development phase the residency studio is converted into a public showcase to exhibit the work.

The curator will be responsible for supporting the residents during the development of their projects and assisting them in creating the public showcase. This role will suit a self-motivated and confident individual with excellent curatorial and project management skills, with the flair and creativity to maximise visitor engagement within a museum context.

Job description

Support the development of the residency projects

- Oversee the research and development phase of the four residency projects
- Ensure the residents are able to use the full extent of the museum's facilities (such as the residency studio and the workshop)
- Help the residents engage with museum visitors where relevant
- Facilitate Crits, workshops and other feedback sessions
- Introduce and make connections with industry contacts to advise the residents
- Work with graphic designers to signpost and interpret the residency studio
- Develop a themes and framework for the 2019 residencies
- Recruit the following years residents

Oversee the production of the exhibition showcase

- Ensure the display of the residents' work is presented to a standard in accordance with other Design Museum exhibitions
- Work with graphic designer to ensure the showcase is suitable signposted and interpreted
- Ensure the projects are exhibited in a safe and secure manner
- Produce a publication that supports the projects and the designers research and practice
- Take on any necessary project management

Public programme

- Work with the learning and public programme teams to involve the residents in a wide range of talks, activities and workshops

General support and administration

- Ensure the programme is delivered to a set budget
- Brief museum staff on the progress of the residencies, and where necessary involve other staff members in the programme
- Work with and support volunteers to ensure their full integration into the museum
- Assist with any press and PR needs
- Ensure that the Arts Council deliverables are met and reported on
- Support the rest of the curatorial team as necessary

Person specification

Knowledge, skills and experience

Essential

- Relevant curatorial or residency experience gained working either independently/freelance and/or within a museum / cultural institution setting.
- Effective project management skills and evidence of the ability to plan work to meet agreed standards, deadlines and budgets
- The ability to work on multiple projects and manage workloads accordingly
- Experience of budgeting and monitoring procedures
- Excellent people management skills required to manage the individual needs of the residents
- Experience of commissioning new designs or artworks and design copyright management.
- Ability to communicate effectively and confidently, both in writing and verbally, with colleagues and external contacts within a museum/gallery environment
- Ability to demonstrate knowledge of how equality and cultural diversity positively impact the work of a major museum
- Good attention to detail, timekeeping and organisational skills
- A self-motivated team player
- Computer skills: Microsoft Office including Outlook, Word and Excel
- A qualification in design, architecture, a related field or equivalent experience

Desirable

- A master's degree in museum studies, curating or equivalent experience
- Experience of working in a museum or comparable institution
- Experience of object handling in a gallery or museum environment
- Experience of writing or editing exhibition and catalogue text

Terms and conditions

Salary: up to £30,000 per annum, pro rata, depending on experience

Holiday: 25 days per annum, pro rata
Contract: fixed-term (until end of March 2019)
Hours: 3 days/24 hours per week

The museum offers many other benefits including cycle to work scheme, season ticket loan, childcare voucher scheme, free entry to a wide number of galleries and museums in London, free entry for friends and family to the museum, access to a defined contribution pension scheme, a variety of staff discounts including the museum shop and restaurant.

The museum pro-actively seeks to collaborate with institutional partners, individuals and networks to realise its commitment to build a culturally diverse workforce. We positively encourage applications from underrepresented groups. and consider candidates who are suitably qualified and eligible regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief, marital status, or pregnancy and maternity.

Application process

To apply please email a covering letter which addresses the criteria as set out in the person specification, CV and Applicant Information Form to applications@designmuseum.org

Please quote job ref: DiRCur/2018 in the email subject header

Closing date for applications: 18th June 2018, 9.00am

Please note the museum may, at its discretion, close this vacancy earlier. Early application is advised.

Interviews: w/c 25th June 2018

About the Design Museum

The Design Museum is the world's leading museum devoted to contemporary design in every form from furniture to graphics, and architecture to industrial design. For the Design Museum, design is a continually evolving subject which it explores through its exhibitions programme, permanent collection, learning and research activities. It is a way to understand the world and how you can change it. The museum's mission is to create the most engaging, exciting and inspiring design museum in the world.

Thirty-five years ago, Terence Conran established the forerunner of the Design Museum, the Boilerhouse, in the basement of the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) in London. As planned, the Boilerhouse quickly outgrew the V&A and in 1989 it moved on to become the Design Museum, in an architecturally striking transformation of a Thameside warehouse near Tower Bridge. Since then it has emerged as an institution with international status and significance, playing an important role in putting design and architecture on the cultural agenda.

The museum recently relocated from its home in Shad Thames to the landmark 1960s building in Kensington, West London. Leading designer John Pawson converted the interior of the building creating the museum's

new home, giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions, showcase its world class collection and extend its learning programmes.

Our mission, vision and values

Our vision

We want everyone to understand the value of design

Our mission

To create the most inspiring, exciting and engaging Design Museum in the world

Our values

Welcoming everyone to the museum and making them feel it's a place for them

Collaborative engaging with many partners to bring our vision to life

Enterprising working hard to make the museum a financial success and build a strong commercial reputation

Provocative challenging people to look and think afresh about design

designmuseum.org