Researcher role

Part-time, fixed term contract
5 months x 3 days a week (60% FTE)
£35k pro rata
Starting 15th October 2018 latest

CV and covering letter, and 2-page sample of design/research by email
Deadline 26th September 2018
Interviews 1-3 October 2018

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Theatrum Mundi
The Biscuit Factory
SE16 4DG London

Registered Charity Number 1174149
The organisation

Theatrum Mundi helps to expand the crafts of city-making through collaboration between artists and urbanists. Initiated as a research project at LSE Cities in 2012 by Professor Richard Sennett, Theatrum Mundi has evolved into an independent research centre and network. We are now a registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the aim of improving the understanding of cities through education and research. Read more about our aims and background here.

We are a small team that draws on diverse skills to undertake and publish research in different forms, create public and practitioner-focused events, and facilitate creative projects. See a full list of our projects and our publications.

The project

We have recently secured funding from the Ax:son Johnson Foundation to continue our Making Cultural Infrastructure research project. The funding is currently to support a pilot study from October 2018 to January 2019, with a view to a longer-term project over the following two years dependent upon outcomes. This is allowing us to take exploratory, theoretical work published in this report to the next stage, consisting of field work to observe and analyse the spatial and cultural conditions in different forms of creative workspace in several case study cities, and eventually to develop design and planning strategies to support it.

The role

This role is currently offered on a temporary basis to support the pilot stage of the research. There may be the possibility of extending, subject to further funding.

The researcher will lead on the documentation and analysis of creative workspace in a given neighbourhood. This will involve producing drawings of spaces and urban contexts, photographic documentation, collecting background data such as rents, access times etc., and interviewing users about their practices. They will also produce materials for a report on the case study, including theoretical analysis as well as data and strong visual presentation. They may also be asked to contribute in similar ways to other TM projects.

Essential experience

- Spatial analysis (i.e. GIS)
- Architectural drawing
- Qualitative data collection / interviewing
- Fluency in critical studies in urban sociology
- Professional research experience, whether design practice, university, or think tank
- Minimum Master’s level qualification related to one of the following broad areas: architecture, urban design, urban planning, human geography
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to communicate clearly and accurately in English, both orally and in writing, with people at all levels.
- Ability to manage own work efficiently and effectively without supervision

Desired experience

- Previous work on arts and culture in cities
- Production of reports including data and graphic design
- Published writing in academic or other contexts
- Partial or complete PhD in relevant topic
- Language skills: Spanish and/or French