

Position Announcement

Public Interest Design Director

Summary:

The College of Design seeks a highly motivated, proactive, collaborative and creative individual to give leadership to College initiatives in the area of socially responsible or “public interest” design. The director will help build an internationally significant and visible program that will connect to the various public-interest activities already underway in the college and across the University of Minnesota. Needing to work effectively with public, non-profit, and private partners, the director will also have a proven capability of raising external funding to support and grow this work. The director will report to the Associate Dean for Research and Outreach on day-to-day responsibilities and directly to the dean on strategic matters; s/he will work in close collaboration with the Director of External Relations on development and external relations matters.

The successful candidate will have significant experience in public interest design; a demonstrated track record building effective relationships with potential donors or corporations to attract outside funding; demonstrated leadership skills; strong communication skills; the creativity to develop new ideas and initiatives; the strategic leadership skills to develop this new area of focus in the College; and the capacity and willingness to do whatever work it takes to get this done.

First Year Priorities

During the first year, the director will be expected to:

- Assume a proactive, creative leadership role with respect to the full range of public interest design endeavors across the College of Design.
- Build on the initial opportunities assessment by further identifying and articulating opportunities for new initiatives.
- Identify the strengths and talents of college and university faculty and research/outreach staff in the area of public interest design; build skills and foster engagement in programs and projects.
- Identify external partners; continue fund-raising efforts already initiated; attract external funding.
- Become familiar with and immersed in the life of the college; know and appreciate its academic and outreach programs, faculty and research staff expertise, and internal and external stakeholders.

Major Areas of Accountability

- Exert visionary, dynamic and effective leadership; articulate a comprehensive, clear sense of strategy, purpose and shared goals; work closely with College leadership, faculty and research/ outreach staff to establish and communicate effective and proactive public interest design priorities aligned with College and University mission and goals. Act as a catalyst across the College regarding socially responsible and public interest design programming and projects.
- Develop strategic partnerships with external stakeholders and companies and organizations in local, national and international settings across a broad range of cultures and communities to advance public interest design efforts of the College; attract external funding. Position the College on a national and international scale to be a recipient of funding; write grants to major funders in this area of work.

- Build effective relationships with College faculty and research staff; build knowledge and capacity among faculty and staff; and promote the integration of innovative public interest design strategies into the fabric of the College. This includes the delivery of socially responsible design education, outreach and service.
- Serve as a mentor and coach to faculty and research/outreach staff, as well as external partners in the design and delivery of socially responsible and public interest initiatives.
- Engage external partners, the public, etc. in public interest design initiatives on a local, national and international scale.
- Identify public interest design opportunities on a regional, national and international scale to engage designers, students and the public.
- Identify and implement internal and external opportunities to promote and enhance the reputation and visibility of the College through its faculty and student engagement in public interest design efforts.
- Develop, promote and lead a fellowship program to develop skills in socially responsible leadership and entrepreneurship. This may include fund-raising, selecting and mentoring fellows, and handling all logistical aspects of the program; i.e., monthly seminars, training opportunities, an annual public lecture, demonstration of projects, etc. Market the program to students and partners.
- Future goals include the development of an educational component for undergraduate and/or graduate courses, which may include on-line delivery to a global student body already working in the field. Facilitate the design and development of educational aspects of the initiative. Work closely with faculty and instructional staff in the development related curriculum. Facilitate the marketing and overall evaluation of educational programming.
- Work closely with the College's External Relations team to share stories of College initiatives, student participation, external partners, etc.
- Establish metrics to determine success of public interest design programs. Analyze data, synthesize reports and prepare summary reports for college leadership and external funders.
- Oversee strategic planning and budget planning process; oversee any program budgets.

Travel is required within the Twin Cities metropolitan area, and may be required on a national and international basis.

Qualifications and Selection Criteria:

Required:

Bachelor's degree in one of the design fields or a closely related discipline. At least five years experience in public interest design. Demonstrated ability to translate and prioritize strategic ideas to tangible public interest design results. Demonstrated track record building effective relationships with potential donors or corporations/organizations to attract outside funding. Strong strategic leadership skills. Evidence of strong organizational and project management skills. Superior communication skills, with the ability to work effectively with the College's many constituent groups. A good listener and strategist who is comfortable receiving input from many sources, and is able to analyze and formulate disparate information into a sound, well-organized plan. Ability to clearly and persuasively communicate concepts and ideas for a variety of audiences

crisply and concisely, and serve as a representative of the College. Evidence the ability to lead teams and to work effectively and collaboratively with multiple groups and diverse communities and cultures. Demonstrated record of creative and proactive projects and initiatives. Demonstrated ability to be decisive and resourceful, with the organizational sensitivity to gain the support and confidence of faculty and staff. Results oriented, adept at planning, prioritizing, organizing and following through.

Preferred:

Masters' degree in a design or related field. Evidence of ability to lead and influence a diverse group of colleges and students. Proven leadership and the ability to resolve conflict and gain consensus among people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. Experience mentoring students and/or faculty in public interest design. Grant-writing experience. Results oriented, adept at planning, prioritizing, organizing and following through. Ability to facilitate a learning process in socially responsible leadership and entrepreneurship. Experience with national and/or international public design initiatives. Familiarity with or work experience in a design organization or educational institution.

Appointment: This is a 100%-time, twelve-month annually renewable academic administrative appointment at the Program Director (#9340) level, with an initial appointment of two years and a probationary period of six months. Reappointment is contingent upon successful performance and is subject to annual review. In addition, there will be a comprehensive review at the end of the appointment term. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. The desired starting date is as soon as possible.

Application Process: Application procedure is online. Applicants should 1) complete an application online at: <https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=103692> (Requisition #178658) and 2) submit the following materials: a cover letter outlining your interest, experience and qualifications; current resume; a statement regarding your ideas for translating the College's vision and strategic goals into actionable, measureable and cohesive public interest design initiatives (no more than 10 pages submitted as pdf files); and contact information for four professional references. Priority consideration given to applications received by July 9, 2012. Inquiries about the position may be addressed to the Search Committee Chair, Trevor Miller, 612-625-6566 / tamiller@umn.edu. Inquiries regarding the application process may be submitted to Carrie Vigen, HR Specialist, 612-624-1721, cvigen@umn.edu,

College of Design
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