

ROLE DESCRIPTION

ASF-UK ASSOCIATES

DECEMBER 2019

Closing date for applications - Monday 13th January 2020



Architecture Sans Frontières-UK, Impact Hub, 27 Dingley Place, London EC1V 8BR

Background information

About ASF-UK

ASF-UK is a charitable organisation that aims to influence the production of the built environment by initiating learning and capacity-building activities that promote more socially just and sustainable practices of urban and environmental change. The work of the organisation is structured into three programmes:

- Change by Design
- Resilience by Design
- Challenging Practice

Across the three programmes, the main form of operation of ASF-UK consists in organising collaborative and participative action-learning workshops in partnership with local NGOs and grassroots organisations. Workshops focus on: building the capacity of workshop participants; generating and highlighting locally embedded, transformative practices; and contributing to the on-going activities of partner organisations.

Our approach

ASF-UK's objectives are focused on three areas: Training and Capacity Building, Live Projects and Advocacy.

1. Training and Capacity Building

Ensure that an understanding of the core principles behind community participation, appropriate design, urban resilience and sustainability becomes an integral part of the education and practice of built environment practitioners by: working with universities and bodies (such as RIBA) to influence the way built environment disciplines are taught; creating capacity building opportunities through independent-learning initiatives, seminars, and action learning workshops; and producing and disseminating learning resources.

2. Live Projects

Support emergency and development programmes to ensure that they lead to equitable built environment processes and outcomes, by forging relationships with the governments, civil society organisations and community groups running initiatives, and encouraging and facilitating the involvement of built environment professionals with a people-centred and participatory approach.

3. Advocacy

Influence urban policy and planning processes by mainstreaming methodologies and practices focused on democratic and resilient city-making aimed at producing more equitable and sustainable urban development processes.

CHANGE BY DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Salary: Voluntary position, travel expenses covered

Time commitment: Minimum of 20 hours per month

Location: UK based, you will be required to attend some meetings in London, with the majority of work carried out remotely. In the medium term, the position will offer opportunities for work abroad, for instance on an international workshop.

Change by Design – an introduction

Change by Design unites a series of workshops and seminars developing and disseminating participatory design methods that contribute to the empowerment of urban marginalised groups and communities.

The programme is concerned with advancing the thinking and practice of participatory design in ways that contribute to the democratisation of city-making and to addressing social and spatial inequalities. Activities focus on contested urban sites such as informal settlements and inner city areas that have been earmarked for regeneration, both in the global south and the UK. Through its commitment to action-learning and knowledge co-production, Change by Design uses spatial design and planning skills to support community groups in developing plans and strategies that foster the production of more equitable cities.

In 2017, the Change by Design programme will focus on the collaboration with its partners, Citizens UK in London and Development Action Group in Cape Town, South Africa. Both partnerships focus on enhancing the capacity of community-based organisations to engage with complex urban regeneration processes, and on the production of educational tools that make planning and policy issues more accessible to local communities.

About the roles

The Change by Design programme is seeking two new Associates to join the team. At least one of the new team members will have a proven track record in the field of community-led design & planning and participatory city making. The other Associate could be less experienced, however we would be looking for someone who is engaged, willing to learn and committed to train.

As an Associate in the Change by Design team, your tasks will be varied and wide-ranging, depending on the project that you will be focusing on. Working closely with the other Associates in the team, you will be required to help with the preparation and implementation of learning & capacity development initiatives and live projects both within the UK and internationally. Your responsibilities will include coordination with local partners, designing training sessions, facilitating workshops and giving presentations, as well as fundraising, event planning, advertising, and communication. You will be required to record and disseminate information to a variety of audiences, through written and visual work. After the workshops, you would play a pivotal role in writing ASF-UK reports and publications.

As well as your tasks relating to the Change by Design programme, as an Associate of ASF-UK you will also be asked to contribute to the running of the whole organisation, helping to organise events, writing bids, fundraising, and attending meetings.

You will receive relevant training, including the Challenging Practice Stage A: Learning in Action seminar.

About you

Personal qualities:

We are looking for volunteers that are enthusiastic, committed to the ASF-UK vision and mission, proactive, with the ability to work independently but also a clear disposition to work collectively within a team

Qualifications:

We are looking for volunteers who have a background in one or more of the following areas: urban planning, urban design, architecture, social development, urban studies, international development, humanitarian, education, strategic and service design, design for social innovation, public art, information design.

Required – experience / interest working in:

Participatory design and planning
Community-led settlement planning and upgrading
Community-led and self-provided housing
Community-driven processes
Urban regeneration
Urban conflicts
Community mobilisation
Urban pedagogy
Public education and training

How to apply

Please submit: 1) a covering letter (max 2 pages) outlining which position you are applying for, your motivation for joining ASF-UK and the Change by Design team specifically, what relevant experience you have, and what you feel you can contribute to the organisation and the programme, (2) a CV, and (3) contact details for two referees (we will not contact them without your permission).

Please email the above to changebydesign@asf-uk.org

Closing date for applications: 5.00pm Monday 13th January 2017