Job Title: Graduate Facilitator, Center for Socially Engaged Design (C-SED)
Start Date: September 2022

About C-SED:
We live in a complex world. Complex communities. Complex individuals. Complex technologies and systems attempting to address complex challenges. At the Center for Socially Engaged Design, we believe complexity can only be approached with multiple, diverse perspectives. How? By asking intentional questions. By engaging with others. By considering the broader context of design. By applying rigorous, collaborative design processes. By co-creating solutions with the people and communities who will use them. The result? Solutions that are more contextually relevant. More sustainable. And more complete.

The Center for Socially Engaged Design (C-SED) uses evidence-based pedagogical methods in an adaptable, curated, customizable curriculum that integrates learning and practice experiences to meet each designer where they are on their design journey. Our goal is that all students leave Michigan with the demonstrated skills to design equitable solutions in partnership with diverse communities of end users.

What is Socially Engaged Design:
Socially Engaged Design involves designers reflecting on themselves and communities of people at every stage of the design process. It is dynamic and iterative. Socially Engaged Design is people centered and incorporates knowledge about the broader social, cultural, economic, environmental contexts in which a design solution exists and pushes designers to analyze how power, privilege, and designers' own identities shape their approach and impact.

Job Description
The Center for Socially Engaged Design (C-SED) is seeking master's and doctoral students to facilitate and manage engagement with faculty and student teams utilizing C-SED resources. Facilitators will gain knowledge in socially engaged design practice, experience in conducting workshops, planning and implementing educational experiences, and developing customized design content. The diverse groups that utilize C-SED (including students + faculty from engineering, information, business, education, public health, and more) will provide facilitators with opportunities to develop a broad skill set in interpersonal communication, thoughtful engagement, and effective organization which apply to experiences in academia and beyond. The work itself includes the facilitation of content in curricular and co-curricular contexts as well as working with C-SED staff, faculty, and other facilitators to update and develop content. Furthermore, facilitators will be part of the C-SED community and will interact with other facilitators, students, staff, and faculty members who are developing new models and approaches to work in socially engaged design. At C-SED, Graduate Facilitators and the expertise they bring to the center are key elements in the ongoing development and expansion of our educational offerings.

Graduate Facilitators will:
- Lead workshops on socially engaged design topics and concepts for courses, student teams, and faculty groups (this is a new area of growth for C-SED)
- Identify C-SED resources to effectively meet group needs
- Curate and customize C-SED content as appropriate
- Coordinate with other facilitators, C-SED staff, and consultants to support engagement
- Develop personalized plans for faculty and student teams to utilize C-SED resources
- Meet regularly with C-SED staff members and other facilitators as a member of the collaborative C-SED learning community
- Consult with student teams to provide guidance on C-SED resources and utilization
- Support other C-SED engagement experiences as needed (examples: Design Jams, Socially Engaged Design Trainings)
- Support C-SED in developing and refining socially engaged design content

The ideal candidate has/is:
- A Bachelor's Degree in any field.
- Enrolled as a Master's or Doctoral student in a design-related discipline* the F22 and W23 semesters (We believe any discipline could be understood through a design lens. *examples could include: engineering, architecture, art & design, education, information, business, anthropology, public health, social work, public policy).
- One or more relevant design experiences and/or can describe their experience and interests in terms of design (ex: designing products, services, social interventions, creative projects, curricula, web interfaces, etc.) with a specific population, community, or client.
- A strong interest in design processes
- Past experience in facilitation, teaching, mentorship or leading a small group or team
- Excellent communication skills including strong writing and interpersonal skills
- A strong interest in social justice and social impact
- Able to work at least 5 hours per week

We are looking for someone who exhibits these mindsets:
- Comfortable working in ambiguous, self-directed circumstances
- Practices curiosity and openness in learning new skills and approaching new situations
- Eager to learn and apply diverse design perspectives and willing to challenge/encourage students to do so as well
- Committed to creating and fostering a safe and comfortable learning and work environment

Hours: 5-10 hours per week, minimum 5 hours per week
Compensation: $18/hour starting. Rate increases to $21.50 in second year and a max of $25 by third year.

How to Apply:
Please upload a Resume/CV and Personal Statement using this form:
https://airtable.com/shrsFTsfNuYS3Efaz

Prompt for Personal Statement:
We would like to get to know you and your experiences and goals. To that end, in 1-2 pages, please share both your design process experience and goals.

      a. Design Process Experience
- Describe one to two experiences that are characteristic of how you personally approach or think about design.
- What design processes, principles, or tools are reflected in the experience(s) that you described?
- Reflect on what you learned from the experience.

      b. Professional and/or Personal Goals: Please comment on your professional and/or personal goals and explain how this position might assist you in reaching those goals.

Applications DUE APRIL 24, 2022
Questions? Get in touch! c-sed-info@umich.edu

Incoming Graduate Facilitators will participate in a full-day weekend training in mid-September.