



INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR CITTÀ DELLA SCIENZA FABLAB MANAGER/COORDINATOR

Position Title: FabLab Manager/Coordinator

Full/Part-Time: Full Time

Duration: 2 years (expected to continue)

Gross salary: around € 45.000 per year (*additional benefits available for extra Campania region applicants*)

Available: Immediately

Posted: March 23, 2015

Closing Date: The position will remain open until filled

Location: Città della Scienza, Naples, Italy

Contract type: Fixed-term contract / Consulting contract

CONTEXT

Fondazione Idis- Città della Scienza (CdS) is a private no-profit making foundation aimed at building a new knowledge-based economy based on the dissemination of scientific culture and the exploitation of territorial resources, in order to promote socioeconomic development and a greater social cohesion. The activities of IDIS CdS have been lasting for more than twenty year and are based on an original combination of different and synergic functions that includes a Science Centre, a Business Innovation Centre with an Incubator, an Advanced Training Centre and a Congress Centre.

- The Science Centre is an important tool for education and dissemination of scientific culture through exhibitions, meetings with scientists, campaigns and activities to promote science and technology, projects connecting science and society at national, European and international dimension. The Science Centre is the first interactive scientific museum in Italy that hosted about 350,000 visitors per year until a fire destroyed its four pavilions last March 4th, 2013, arousing emotion and solidarity worldwide. The rebuilding process is ongoing.
- The BIC - Business Innovation Centre provides spaces and services for hosting startups and spinoffs and supporting the creation and development of innovative businesses. The BIC is focused on a cluster approach, where each settled company develops its skill in a particular segment of the production chain in the following sectors: Creative Industries; Manufacturing 2.0; Smart Cities and Green/Blue economy; New generation ICT; Bioeconomy.
- The Advanced Training Centre is one of the most important reference points in the national and international panorama of education and non-academic training, as well as for the training of professionals for innovative jobs.
- The Conference Centre - the most significant in Southern Italy - is a modern, charming and prestigious location with versatile spaces and highly specialized services for organizing conferences, gala events, conventions and temporary exhibitions. It owns modular and multi-functional spaces, exhibition areas, large outdoor equipped areas, whose total capacity is about 2.000 seats made up of 13 rooms with a variable capacity between 10 and 1.000 seats.



In the framework of the reconstruction process of the new science centre destroyed by the fire, the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research has approved and funded a project, named "Città della Scienza 2.0 – New Products and Services for knowledge society", whose object is to realise one of the biggest FabLabs in Italy, located in Città della Scienza complex. The project, that will last 2 years, is now at a starting line. The aim of the project is to create an official FabLab (i.e. complying with the rules of the Fab Charter), a permanent structure that would represent either a cutting edge centre of excellence in the international panorama and a tool of exchange and interaction with the local community.

CdS FabLab will be a new workshop / laboratory on advanced design and digital fabrication to realise R&D, prototyping, advanced training, education, business creation and innovation activities, based on "maker" technologies and methodologies: activities and experiences about the application of advanced design and manufacturing system both in the new CdS museums and in other external contexts, including industrial ones.

Specifically, the FabLab activities will be articulated into two main branches, as follows:

- A "self-directed" activity, referred to the museum, that will consist in designing, testing, producing and maintaining part of the hands on exhibits for the new Science Centre with a maker multidisciplinary and collaborative approach, starting from the questions and curiosity of the public and with the involvement of students, researchers, enterprises. The first activity will regard the design and realisation of some exhibits for Corporea, the first part of the new science centre, focused on human health, to be opened in 2016. The second step will be focused on the exhibits for the rebuilt science centre to be opened in 2018.
- An "external" activity, that will consist in acting as an international centre of advanced design and digital fabrication, aimed to promote local development through education activities, advanced training, R&D projects, startup creation and business innovation.

CDS FabLab will be strongly active in the international maker community and linked to the best experiences worldwide. Some good collaborations have been already settled in USA (San Francisco, Boston) and China (Beijing, Shenzhen).

In particular, CdS is partner of a Italy-USA cooperation project financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in agreement with the Ministry of University and Research and sponsored by the Italian Embassy in the United States of America. The partners are Città della Scienza and the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Museum in Boston, in collaboration with ASTC Association (Association of Science and Technology Center) in Washington, gathering the major Science Centre North America. The project aims to develop a program of exchanges, pilot activities and technology transfer based on mutual understanding and sharing of maker experiences, approaches and methodologies.

CDS has also a strong cooperation activity on science and technology with China under the aegis of the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research – MIUR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – MAE, the Ministry for Economic Development – MISE. In this framework, CDS is the main Italian partner in the organisation China International Technology Transfer Convention, that will be held in Shenzhen and Beijing in April 2015. In Shenzhen, CdS will organise the 50% of the Italian pavillon of 3D Printex Expo & Summit, to promote new collaborations on the following “maker-related” topics: new materials, design & 3D printing, smart city, new energy & clean tech, big data, internet of things, intelligent manufacturing, micro system & electronic future medical technology, modern agriculture.

PURPOSE

The Fab Lab Coordinator will be responsible for the overall operation of the CdS FabLab and the development of programs and services which meet the needs of the FabLab users, taking into consideration the varied backgrounds and technical skills of those users.

In particular, he/she will be responsible for: managing the use of the space, the maintenance of the equipment; facilitating clients/users’ access to the FabLab services and equipment and supporting them in the realisation of their projects; collaborating in the design, prototyping, production and maintenance of hands on exhibits for CdS science centres and in the development of R&D, education and training programs; promoting partnerships with external organizations.

He/she will instill a sense of passion about the FabLab in all users and partners.

This position will work closely either with CdS staff and community to support the development and operation of programs involving Science Centre public (families and schools), research and enterprise community, local stakeholders, public audiences and international partners.

The successful candidate will run the Fab Lab on a day-to-day basis and mentor students, teachers, designers, creative talents, professionals, researchers, enterprises through their projects and ideas, and put his/her knowledge at their service and favouring their creative expression.

Duties will include: establishing protocols for safe and effective use of the lab; monitoring of safety conditions: equipment maintenance; supplies inventory; record keeping and schedule maintaining; budget management.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The FabLab coordinator will be responsible for:

- Contributing in the initial setting up of CDS FabLab (definition of required equipment and human resources)
- Planning and drawing up the yearly workplan according to the objectives and the guidelines defined by the project manager of Città della Scienza 2.0;
- Contributing in the design, production and maintenance of exhibits for CdS new science centres and, more in general, CdS exhibition areas;
- Managing the delivery of Fab Lab programs, including learning experiences for school, youngsters, community and public groups in the FabLab, and advanced training activities for professionals;
- Planning and managing R&D, cooperation and exchange activities at regional, national and international level;

- Coordinating the activities to support inventors, professionals, creative talents, researchers, startups, artisans, businesses to develop their ideas of innovative products/services/solutions;
- Serving as a liaison with internal staff, external program partners and members of the global FabLab network and developing and managing relationships and partnerships with the best FabLabs and makerspaces at regional, national and international level
- Managing all aspects of the daily technical and administrative operation and use of the FabLab;
- Ensuring the maintenance of the space, the equipment and the tools in good and safe conditions and providing technical support for FabLab hardware and software;
- Being updating about the new means, practices, events, methodologies, tools regarding the digital designing, prototyping and fabrication;
- Leading staff, volunteers, and interns working in the FabLab;
- Organising individual and collective training actions to explain how FabLab equipment work and teaching collaborators and users of the lab to engage in creation, exploration, and innovation;
- Participating as team member in assigned working groups and project teams as assigned;
- Work with CdS management and staff to develop funding proposals and to identify and catch private and public financing opportunities, with the aim to maximise the self-sustainability of the FabLab;
- Coordinating and organising information, communication and promotion activities and events, exploiting the results of FabLab activities, and collaborating on the content production to be disseminated by the means of traditional and new media and social networks;
- Maintaining departmental responsibilities (report preparation, meetings, email, phone, etc.)

The candidate will realise the above mentioned activities through a full and proactive collaboration either with CdS staff (in particular President and CEO office, Business Development office, Science Centre, Business Innovation Centre, Advanced Training Centre) and community of peoples and subjects part of the network of CdS, such as research centres, universities, labs, startups, businesses, etc. and will be fully involved in the main CdS events and initiatives.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

Experience working in and/or using a fablab/makerspace. Advanced degree. Previous teaching experience. Working experience in manufacturing or industrial technologies. Management experience. Experience with machine shop tools.

Additionally preferred qualifications include: Italian language; another language apart from English.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree in a technical field, e.g. Computer Science, Information Systems, Electronic or Mechanic Engineering, Design, Architecture, or other related fields;
- Four years of recent (within 3 years) professional work experience in a technical field, e.g. Computer Science, Information Systems, Engineering, or other related fields;
- Theoretical and practical knowledge and experience about the advanced computer graphics, design software and the new prototyping and fabrication technologies from a mechanical and electronic point of view;
- Good knowledge of Linux, electronics and programming languages;
- Familiarity with CAD/CAM and/or Printed Circuit Board Design software. Experience running and maintaining PCs;
- Proficiency in common desktop applications (web browsing, word processing, image editing etc.) required;
- Fluency in English.

The FabLab Manager and the FabLab itself will cross the boundary of multiple disciplines including education, arts, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science and manufacturing engineering. The ideal candidate will have a background that is just as diverse and will be eager to embrace new concepts and technologies when appropriate.

HUMAN REQUIREMENT

- Proactive team-player, and passionate about helping a diversity of people learn through discovery;
- Demonstrated leadership skills;
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills;
- Desire to seek and pass on knowledge to others;
- Analytic and problem-solving skills;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to work in a team-based environment and manage multiple tasks concurrently;
- Demonstrated flexibility, collegiality, and initiative, and a commitment to customer service and service excellence;
- Teaching and learning abilities.

WORKING TERMS AND CONDITION

The working location is Città della Scienza, in Naples. The candidate is expected to work from Monday to Friday. If required, he/she might work some nights, weekend, or holiday.

Immediate availability required. Two are the possible contracts: Fixed-term contract or Consulting contract, according the mutual convenience of the two parts. The contract will last two years, but is expected to continue. The gross salary is around € 45.000 per year (*additional benefits available for extra Campania region applicants*)



CALL DEADLINE

The position will remain open until filled.

WAY OF APPLICATION

Candidates can apply sending an updated CV by email to: contursi@cittadellascienza.it

Applicants must include in their CV the following information: 1) Employment history: name of company, period employed (from month/year to month/year), job title, summary of job duties and 2) Education: school name, degree type 3) Titles and detailed information regarding knowledge and experiences on the above mentioned requirements.

For questions and assistance, please send an email to contursi@cittadellascienza.it.

More information on Città della Scienza on:

<http://www.cittadellascienza.it/>