

Community Designer

Full-Time, Exempt

Remote Acceptable

Salary: \$55,000 - \$70,000

Rhizome seeks a candidate with an understanding of UX design, a passion for digital culture, and a background in community outreach and engagement for the role of Community Designer.

A new role funded by a Change Capital grant from the Mellon Foundation, the Community Designer will research communities around Rhizome's offerings and those offerings themselves to iterate Rhizome's various digital properties: rhizome.org, the ArtBase archive, the web archiving service Conifer, bespoke exhibition websites, and more. In doing so, the Community Designer will use principles of UX design, service design, and brand development.

The role is offered at a transitional moment for Rhizome, a 25 year-old 501c3 non-profit organization that champions born-digital art and culture. In recent years, Rhizome has developed new programs that have expanded its activities, without an overall strategy for making these varied activities legible to audiences. These programs serve diverse audiences and communities, and Rhizome requires better tools and strategies through which to guide and implement its community engagement.

At outset, the Community Designer will be onboarded to various aspects of Rhizome's work (publishing and web presentation, accessioning workflow, etc.), get to know key internal stakeholders at Rhizome and our longtime affiliate the New Museum, and undertake research of and outreach to Rhizome's various communities. The Community Designer will also interface with, and assist in the implementation of Rhizome's redesign of rhizome.org, led by Laura Coombs & Mindy Seu.

From there, the Community Designer will have wide latitude to design and implement new work across Rhizome's digital programs to best communicate our work and reflect the needs and usages of communities around the organization.

As this is a new role at rhizome.org, we expect the final job description to be influenced by the candidates who apply. **This is to say, if you feel like this is the job for you, regardless your exact experience or matching each qualification, please apply!**

The role comprises the following activities:

1. Design

- The Community Designer will, through design and information architecture, structurally increase the legibility of Rhizome's programs and how they relate to Rhizome's mission, to raise Rhizome's profile as an art and research institution.

- The Community Designer will, from a holistic institutional perspective, package in a consistent voice and style, Rhizome programs, services, and knowledge, in the frame of Rhizome’s institutional history and the histories of fields and communities Rhizome engages with.

The goals of these activities are to articulate Rhizome’s mission and values, and to signal clear entry points for existing and emerging communities, and peer institutions for engagement and collaboration.

2. Community Engagement

- The Community Designer will research and understand the interests and needs of established and emerging communities related to Rhizome’s mission.
- The Community Designer will help refine digital service offerings to match Rhizome’s programs with the communities it engages with or plans to engage with.

The goals of these activities are to enable fluid engagement and matchmaking with existing and emerging communities, and to create and refine services that enable communities, and peer institutions, to act in accordance to Rhizome’s mission.

Required skills

- Experience with designing digital products using established techniques from information architecture, user interface design, and digital branding.
- Familiarity with digital design and prototyping tools; basic understanding of tools for user information gathering and evaluation.
- Ability to build relationships with user communities, advocate for their needs, and match them with institutional capabilities.
- Excellent communication skills, ability to produce prototypes, reports and work plans.
- Highly structured and self-directed worker.
- Passion for Rhizome's mission.

*****Rhizome is an Equal Opportunity Employer and candidates from groups generally underrepresented in our field are especially encouraged to apply.*****

Application deadline: December 13, 2021

Email cover letter and resume to jobs@rhizome.org

Please Note

Rhizome requires those hired into this position to provide proof that they have received the COVID-19 vaccine. Any individuals subject to this requirement may submit for consideration a request to be exempted from the requirement (based on a valid religious or medical reason) on forms to be provided by Rhizome. Such requests will be subject to review and approval by the Organization, and exemptions will be granted only if the Organization can provide a reasonable

accommodation in relation to the requested exemption. Note that approvals for reasonable accommodations are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis and availability of a reasonable accommodation is not guaranteed. This vaccination requirement is based, in part, on recently established government requirements.