

## **Future Cities Catapult**

### **Design Futures Researcher**

**£30,000 per annum**

**Full time, 6-month contract to permanent**

<b>Location:</b>	Central London
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Futures Director
<b>Working Hours:</b>	Full time (9.30-5.30 Monday to Friday)
<b>Contract:</b>	Fixed contract, 6 months, 1 month notice period
<b>Holiday:</b>	25 days per annum, plus statutory holidays.
<b>Equal Opportunities:</b>	The FCC strives to be an equal opportunities employer and commitment to this process will be expected.
<b>Date Written:</b>	25 November 2013

## **1. About Us**

We are the Future Cities Catapult, a global centre of excellence on urban innovation. A place where cities, businesses and universities come together to develop solutions to the future needs of our cities.

### **What's the big idea?**

We're one of seven "Catapults" launched by the UK's Technology Strategy Board. The aim for each of them is to become a world-leading innovation centre in its own specialist area.

As you can guess by the name, our Catapult is all about urban innovation. In particular, we're focussed squarely on the challenge of urban integration: how cities can take a more joined-up approach to the way they plan and operate. To improve quality of life, strengthen their economy and protect the environment.

### **What we do**

Based in the heart of London, our role is to get people working together to solve real challenges faced by real cities right now.

Cities sharing what's worked for them in the past. Companies and universities working together. New innovations being road tested at scale. New solutions getting to market. Financiers, lawyers and city governments teaming up to remove barriers to innovation. The Future Cities Catapult is a neutral space where all this happens.

We're making London the place to come for cities that need help with urban innovation. And we're also driving future economic growth in the process. Because we're based in London we unlock global markets for British business, and help UK businesses create the products and services that cities need around the world.

### **Our culture**

The Future Cities Catapult is a start-up. We are all deeply committed to our mission, and you will need to share that commitment. You will have to be happy working in a fast-moving and sometimes chaotic environment. Our culture is open, collaborative and relatively non-hierarchical. Oh, and we try to have fun too!

## 2. About the role

The Future Cities Catapult is looking to hire a Design Futures Researcher. A Futures Researcher is already in place in the futures team, and focuses their work on research into futures techniques and technologies related to cities. This new role will complement that with a focus on design futures, and the role of this emerging area in city development. The role will be to support the work of our design and futures teams by identifying, carrying out, analysing and communicating strong research that bears relevance to the broader Future Cities Catapult work. In particular:

### **Responsibilities**

- Provide insightful research into cutting-edge design future trends, innovations and activities in the UK and globally
- Mapping of design future expertise and emerging talent across UK and globally, to provide clear insights on the emerging design futures industry, and providing opportunities to engage with, tap into and multiply the effect of this community
- Develop a Future Cities Catapult design futures stakeholder network, and engage with those and leading organisations or individuals to help bring their expertise into the Future Cities Catapult
- Feed into regular Future Cities Catapult digests (internal and potentially external) detailing emerging design futures trends and initiatives
- Develop and maintain a repository of design future artefacts and products, help promote them where appropriate

- Help bring a design futures approach to all the Future Cities Catapult work areas by engaging with colleagues in all workstreams and in specific projects

## **Outcomes**

Each member of our team has a shared responsibility to help take the Catapult from launch to 120 staff, £30 million turnover, a global reputation and a measurable impact in innovating city solutions.

## **The role-specific outcomes are:**

- Evidence of strong research provided to Future Cities Catapult around design futures and the relevance to cities
- Design futures research provided to Futures Cities Catapult staff eg through regular digests
- Design futures stakeholder map developed and various key stakeholders engaged
- Repository of design futures artefacts and products populated and searchable

## **3. About You**

### **Competencies**

- Degree in design-related study, ideally with some experience of design for cities
- Understanding of emerging design futures industry and relevance to city development
- Strong research skills, gained through university study or work experience

### **Desired Skills and Experience**

- Skills in design and using design to help future-building scenarios
- Proven background in design futures and interest in how design helps us create sustainable future cities
- Ability to communicate your work to colleagues in interesting and engaging ways
- Ability to operate in a dynamic environment with many varied priorities and multiple projects underway. Ability to respond to tight timelines and evolving work programmes. The Future Cities Catapult is a dynamic new start-up, so the desired person must have the ability to thrive in fast-paced environment and provide high-quality support to a wide variety of project stakeholders.

**To apply please send your CV and a brief cover letter to [jobs@futurecities.catapult.org.uk](mailto:jobs@futurecities.catapult.org.uk) by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2013**  
**[www.futurecities.catapult.org.uk](http://www.futurecities.catapult.org.uk)**  
**Twitter: @FutureCitiesCat**