

OTHER FUTURES

Job Posting – Artistic Director Other Futures Festival

Application deadline: March 4, 2022

On Freelance basis

Other Futures is an Amsterdam-based biannual multi-disciplinary arts festival, exhibition and event series that strives to steer and contribute to critical conversations of our shared humanity and beyond. The online and offline activities serve as a meeting point for a growing international community of artists, cultural practitioners, and thinkers to enact and inspire changes. It is a platform that assembles and nurtures new and emergent thinking and voices from all corners of the world to collectively question and imagine possible paths to a more equitable society. Founded by Brigitte van der Sande after her research on the critical potential of science fiction in 2014, Other Futures is a growing community of people who are curious, open to new experiences and encounters, positive about their own role in building other futures.

The second edition of the festival was postponed to November 2021 from its original date in April 2020 due to the pandemic. It followed the successful first edition held in Melkweg and other locations in 2018, which drew 3,000 visitors and 72 participants on stage from over 31 countries on the themes of Africa and its diaspora. The second edition's focus was on the future of a multispecies society, and was organised in partnership with De Brakke Grond and took place during Museumnacht. In spite of the COVID-related restrictions, the exhibition and festival last October/November gathered a diverse physical community of 2,000 people and more than 50 contributors from all over the world on stage and live-stream. Other Futures is embedded within a larger global network of future thinkers and makers. The festival has been building its reputation nationally and internationally with its visionary programming in the fields of contemporary art, visual culture, film, critical thinking, music and performance, literature and game design.

About the role

The Other Futures Foundation is looking for a new Artistic Director to succeed our founder, who has stepped down as scheduled after the second edition in November 2021. We are looking for an engaged, entrepreneurial and passionate artistic director who combines a solid knowledge of interdisciplinary contemporary art and culture, with a strong awareness of current social and political discourses in local and global contexts. Other Futures is a project organisation that operates without structural subsidies, with plans to establish structural funding in the coming future. The festival is led by an Artistic Director, who, together with the Managing Director, works closely with a dedicated and resourceful team of freelancers and volunteers. Since the debut edition, the festival has collaborated with national and international cultural and academic partners, such as Het Nieuwe Instituut (Rotterdam), the Plurality University Network in France and ASEF, the Asia-Europe Foundation, alongside an expert network in various fields.

The Artistic Director is responsible for developing the artistic content for Other Futures festival and leading a team of curators. The successful candidate (she/they/he) will work closely with the festival Managing Director and will regularly report to the Other Futures Foundation's Board. The successful candidate will ideally start in April 2022.

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The Artistic Director will be responsible for:

Artistic Strategy

- Has an innate passion for speculative vision, writing and thinking by makers who are invested in creating other futures;
- Holds a cutting-edge vision on culture and arts, in connection to urgent societal issues;
- Can develop and implement a creative and strategic long-term vision for the festival which reinforces the festival's mission and vision;

Management

- Can co-lead with the Managing Director a team of freelance curators, marketers, designers, producers, technical experts and the artists;
- Has extensive experience in fundraising and working with national and international partners;
- Together with the Managing Director, the artistic director will develop an external communications strategy to reach a diverse audience;

About the Artistic Director

- Is entrepreneurial and comfortable with working with uncertainty;
- Has a proven commitment to the non-profit arts sector and experience with handling challenges of working with a small, event-based organization, ideally in the Netherlands;
- Has a minimum of three years' experience in organizing festivals or multi-disciplinary arts events with international practitioners and thinkers;
- Has excellent communication skills both in writing and speaking in English and preferably in Dutch;
- Will lead Other Futures towards setting up sustainable long-term support and infrastructure together with the Managing Director

Other executive duties include drawing up and implementing the (long-term) strategic plan, budgets, and annual reports together with the Managing Director. The board of Other Futures also welcomes applications for those who want to steer the festival as a duo. Preferably the candidate(s) is/are based in the Netherlands.

What we can offer

We offer an invitation for a daring and adventurous festival organiser to work with a committed, and dynamic team in one of the first experimental multidisciplinary festivals in speculative fiction in the world. This is a leadership position where you can develop and express your ideas with your appointed team of curators at a festival that has gained a reputation for being 'non-conformist' and 'unique' within a highly dynamic arts environment in Amsterdam. You work with and report to an engaged and active board.

We want to be very clear about the fee: there is no funding at this point. As a project-based organisation for a bi-annual festival, the managing director together with the new artistic director will be responsible for securing sufficient funding for the next festival and their own fee. It is

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therefore really important that you have an entrepreneurial mindset and are aware that this work needs time investment before funds are secured. It also means the working hours are flexible, depending on what stage we are and what the project requires.
We do follow the Fair Practice Code as much as possible.

How to apply

Interested candidates should send a CV and cover letter as attachment (in Dutch or English) latest by March 4, 2022, indicating how you heard about the job the posting and the acknowledgment of the financial challenge, by email to: saskia@otherfutures.nl, addressed to Saskia Lous, Managing Director. Please put "Artistic Director, Other Futures Festival" in the subject line of the email.