****

**Job Description: Design Assistant**

**Project Summary**

The AIGA Minnesota Design for Good initiative has partnered with the Humphrey Graduate School of Public Affairs to connect policy students to design professionals, with the goal of promoting a deeper and more innovative approach to problem solving for the public good. A team of consultants—a senior design strategist supported by a design assistant and Humphrey Graduate student —will be working with CAPI, a community-based direct human service implementer of anti-poverty programs for refugees and immigrants. CAPI has reached out to the Humphrey and AIGA to help them consider how they might leverage one of their programs—the food shelf—to have a broader impact on the lives of the clients who use this resource.

The ideal candidate has a passion for applying her/his design skills to problem solving in the public interest. We seek someone who is empathic, curious, highly collaborative and open to exploring innovative ideas that may go beyond visual solutions.

In helping CAPI expand the capacity to serve its clients, we plan to demonstrate the value of involving designers both early and deeply in the problem solving process. Implementation is key: this project will be deemed a success if the proposed solution is feasible, and ready for implementation.

**Key activities**

The design assistant and Humphrey intern will support the design strategist in working through each stage of the design thinking process: from designing and implementing research to generating, prototyping and testing creative solutions:

* Participate in discussions with CAPI staff to understand mission of their organization, and how they are currently addressing the needs of their clients
* Work with staff in identifying research participants
* Work on the design and implementation of the research: Research will be primarily qualitative (interviews, focus groups, participant observation, document review), and principally focused on the organization’s clients. Additional fact-finding will involve interviewing subject matter experts. Some secondary research will also be required.
* Co-facilitate one or more design thinking problem-solving workshops. Workshops may include CAPI staff, other subject matter experts and CAPI program participants.
* Develop, test and refine the ideas generated in the workshop.

**Required**

* BFA or BA in Design
* Demonstrated understanding of design thinking approach to problem solving
* Current AIGA member, or commitment to join the organization if selected to work on project.

**Preferred**

Experience in working with immigrant and refugee communities

Hmong language skills (the ability to speak Hmong is an added advantage because the client communities are primarily Hmong and some of the research will require an interpreter).

**Skills**

* Active listening
* Ability to drive expansive thinking as well as focused solutions
* Ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures and socio-economic backgrounds

**Duration**

Tentative start date is June 17

Compensation commensurate with experience

Project requires approximately 100 hours work over ten weeks (or more)

The work will involve working with the project team during business hours

**To apply**

Submit resume as well as well as cover letter that describes your interest and qualifications for this project. Include information on experience you have had with design thinking approach to problem solving

Submit applications and/or questions about the project and application process to

designforgood@aigaminnesota.org

**Application deadline is May 31**