



THE DIGITAL HUB

Open Call

The Digital Hub Co-Designer-in-Residence: Neighbourhood Tech Lab

1. Overview – Context

The Digital Hub is offering an exciting and unique residency opportunity to an innovative co-designer/co-design facilitator.

This residency will start before the end of 2025, run for four months and will be based on The Digital Hub campus in the heart of Dublin 8. A regular presence on-site is expected.

The “Neighbourhood Tech Lab” residency will bring together local residents, community groups, social enterprises, schools and The Digital Hub’s ecosystem of creative, technological, and entrepreneurial organisations to co-design and prototype solutions to local challenges affecting people living, studying and working in Dublin 8.

Themes will be selected in collaboration with the community and may include:

- Active Neighbourhoods – Movement in Everyday Life
- Healthy Food Futures – Access and Awareness
- Digital Health Literacy – Access for All
- Wellbeing Through Play – All Ages, All Abilities (Intergenerational wellbeing activities that support both physical and emotional health).

Participants will work with the resident designer to explore ideas, learn digital fabrication skills, and create working prototypes.

Closing date for Expressions of Interest is **13th of October 2025**.

2. Scope, Nature and Deliverables of the Residency

The “Neighbourhood Tech Lab” residency will entail:

• Design Exploration and Co-Creation:

The resident designer will facilitate collaborative workshops and design sprints with local residents, students and workers integrating accessible technologies such as 3D printing, sensors, AR/VR mockups, and low-cost electronics into the design process.



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- **Prototype Development:**

Small-scale prototypes will be produced and tested in the Dublin 8 community settings.

- **Community Engagement and Skills Building:**

Local participants will gain experience in design thinking, creative problem-solving, and maker tools, fostering confidence and capacity for future innovation.

- **Showcase and Dissemination:**

The residency will culminate in a public showcase at The Digital Hub, presenting prototypes and documenting the process through video, photography, and an open-source toolkit for replicating the model.

3. Objectives of the Residency Programme

- Provide time, space, and resources for a co-designer or co-design facilitator to develop community-focused practice at the intersection of design, technology, and social innovation.
- Create meaningful engagement between The Digital Hub and Dublin 8 residents, students and workers.
- Produce practical prototypes that address real-world local needs and challenges.
- Develop a model for co-design residencies that can be replicated in other communities and for different challenges.

4. Residency Offer, Support and Fees

The residency offers:

- A fee of €10,000 for the resident designer/facilitator (VAT inclusive).
- Production budget of €6,000 for materials, equipment, venue access, community engagement, and showcase costs.
- Office/desk space on The Digital Hub campus.
- Access to The Digital Hub facilities and community.
- Networking and collaboration opportunities with startups, technologists, creatives, and local organisations and ecosystems such as Smart D8.



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- Support from The Digital Hub team in brokering introductions within the Dublin 8 network.

5. Application Process

Applicants should submit:

- Updated CV.
- Portfolio of relevant work, especially projects involving co-design or community engagement.
- Cover letter including a high-level outline of how you would deliver the “Neighbourhood Tech Lab” residency, and how it would benefit both The Digital Hub community and Dublin 8.

How to Apply

- Please send your application materials (CV, portfolio, and cover letter) as a single PDF file (maximum 10 MB) by email to info@thedigitalhub.com with the subject line: Neighbourhood Tech Lab Residency – [Your Name].
- Applications must be received by 23:59 (Irish time) on 13th October 2025.
- Only electronic submissions will be accepted.
- Please ensure all files are clearly labelled with your name.
- Shortlisted applicants may be invited to attend an online or in-person interview at The Digital Hub in October 2025.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome once the selection process is complete.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on:

- Quality, creativity, and feasibility of the proposed approach.
- Track record in design thinking, facilitation, and community engagement.
- Capacity to deliver tangible outputs within the residency period and budget.
- Willingness to collaborate and contribute to The Digital Hub’s creative ecosystem.



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7. Eligibility

We welcome applications from co-designers who possess:

- Proven experience in applying design thinking methodologies to real-world challenges.
- Proficiency in relevant design software and emerging technologies.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work in a collaborative environment.
- A passion for pushing the boundaries of creativity and technology.

The designer must be resident in Ireland/Europe.

The designer must be available to commence and undertake the residency before the end of 2025 and to have a regular presence on site at The Digital Hub.

8. General Conditions

Late submissions will not be accepted.

All materials submitted should be clearly labelled with the applicant's name and contact details.

The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection.

Designers may be asked to supply the names and contact details of referees as part of the selection process.

The Digital Hub reserves the right not to award commissions and, in this instance, reserves the right to pursue other selection processes.

Submissions will not be returned.

9. Terms and Conditions

The Digital Hub will not insure equipment belonging to the designer or their associates.

The designer must undertake an induction covering The Digital Hub procedures, events management requirements and adhere to The Digital Hub Health & Safety guidelines.

The designer will be responsible for the security of their personal property on The Digital Hub campus.



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The appointed designer will have to supply an up-to-date tax clearance certificate prior to signing the contract and for the duration of the commission.

Applicants should note that fees awarded are VAT inclusive, (whether VAT liability lies with the designer or the Commissioner).