

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR (UNBOX)

Duration: The requirement is for a little over a year starting March 2012 and leading upto UnBox 2013 (likely to happen in early 2013/Feb-March). However, depending on performance and outcome, this could transform into a more permanent role for UnBox.

Location: The position will be based in Gurgaon, India and will involve frequent travel to and within Delhi

UnBox Overview

UnBox (www.unboxfestival.com) is the first festival of its kind in India that celebrates emerging forms of professional & creative practice with an intent to inspire & facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations and dialogue. The festival delves into a wide array of themes cutting across social impact, design for reform, contemporary arts, social entrepreneurship, inclusive habitats, participative governance and others, each curated to bring new perspectives from across the world and locate them within the dynamic and complex landscape of India.

UnBox is now two years old (2011 and 2012) with the most recent edition concluding on Feb 5th, 2012 in New Delhi. The festival blended work and play, bringing together attendees from across the world for lectures, panels, workshops, debates, brainstorming, performances and travel. While the conference created a space for participants to discuss and re-think the practice of design, business and development, four parallel cultural festivals gave them a chance to explore creative platforms and emerging forms of artistic and cultural innovations.

In a short time-span, UnBox has been widely recognized as a pioneering event that bridges disciplines and dives deeper into the possibilities of collaborative practice. The festival is conceptualized and organized by the Box Collective - a group of four creative practices that exemplify these principles.

For a comprehensive outline of events and format, browse through the UnBox 2012 program schedule here (<http://issuu.com/ayushchauhan/docs/unbox-handbook2012>).

Also watch a film that captures the spirit of UnBox (<http://vimeo.com/37183067>)

In short, UnBox 2012 comprised of a Conference, Fellowships, Public Events & five Partner Festivals — EyeMyth, BeatRepeat, Technodrome, BlowUp & FoodLab—each of which have been summarised below for a quick read.

UnBox Fellowships: The UnBox Fellowship brings together an accomplished and multi-disciplinary group of young professionals for an immersive multi-day trip to one of several chosen projects across the country. The fellows work on their respective projects with the host organizations and eventually reflect on and discuss their experiences at the UnBox Festival.

UnBox Conference: The keystone UnBox event is a two day Conference that furthers the practice of innovation & interdisciplinary collaboration through keynotes, discussions and workshops anchored by leading and emerging practitioners.

Beat Repeat: Beat Repeat is a literature festival that brings interdisciplinary perspectives to the spoken and written word using electronic music, cinema, dance, new media and space design.

Technodrome: TechnoDrome is an urban arts festival focusing on electronic music, VJ-ing and digital art. It locates, creates and hosts new projects centered around artistic collaboration and cross-cultural exchange between local and international artists.

Eye Myth: Eye Myth is a festival that celebrates music visualizations through films, performances, and installations. As an annual event since 2010, it has showcased inspired approaches and techniques.

FoodLab: In the tradition of playing with different media and creative processes, Unbox 2012 created a laboratory framework to experiment with food design & concepts. The lab was a collective of invited artists who brought their diverse experiences and ideas to the festival.

BlowUp: Blow Up is a platform to encourage photographers to show their work in public using effective and affordable means. More importantly, it is a way for the general public to engage with photography freely and in a way that makes art accessible.

Public Events: In addition to each of the above facets of the festival, UnBox 2012 teamed up with other individuals, institutions and collectives that were keen to independently host events that would coincide with the core programming above. These events cut across themes of architecture, public art, print design etc and happened simultaneously at different venues across the city of Delhi.

Job Purpose

The Box Collective comprises of four creative practices - [Quicksand](#), [Codesign](#), [BLOT](#) & [Blindboys](#) - each with independent work streams and mandates. While UnBox is a collaborative effort between these four studios that happens once annually, there is an urgent need to anchor UnBox and sustain the momentum throughout the year.

Aspects of the festival that require sustained focus and effort include:

Financial Sustainability: UnBox is a self-funded initiative by the Box Collective. One of the most critical ambitions of the festival is to become self-sustaining over the coming years. This would entail supporting not just the expenses of putting together the event but also of the team (including yourself) that would have the responsibility of managing and executing the festival. For the initial period of the assignment (6-8 months), the expenses will be underwritten by the collective.

Ongoing Communication and Outreach: With a highly successful first edition of UnBox behind us and a much anticipated second edition well underway, the UnBox community is steadily growing. The spirit of UnBox lies in ongoing discussions, dialogues and meet-ups that can yield long lasting partnerships, enroll new members and generate additional momentum leading up to the next edition of UnBox. There is also a great opportunity to leverage happenings from the most recent festival edition to evangelize the cause of interdisciplinary collaboration and action amongst a wider community.

Partnership Building: UnBox will continue to open itself to new partners and collaborators making the festival experience richer and more eclectic. Building partnerships with newer collaborators both across the globe and within India is an essential part of the vision for UnBox. It's also the most effective way to add new thought and solicit support towards making UnBox bigger and more vibrant.

Festival Planning: In addition to this, as the festival preparations get more intense closer to the next edition of UnBox, a key requirement would be that of coordination between various partners and taking the lead on various aspects of festival planning including but not limited to programming, logistics, fund raising etc.

As the festival director for UnBox, your role will be to ensure that activities on all three fronts described above are sustained and tangible outcomes are achieved under each.

Job Responsibilities

As the Festival Director for UnBox, you will coordinate the activities that would help sustain momentum around UnBox and that would facilitate the next edition of UnBox. While you'll be required to work with key members of the Box Collective, you will be mentored most closely by Director, Quicksand. The key responsibilities would include:

Financial Sustainability

- › Raise funds from corporate sponsors, cultural institutions and other patrons who are either already associated with UnBox or are likely partners to this platform.
- › While managing funds is not foreseen as an immediate responsibility, being aware and managing the financial health of the event is extremely critical.

Ongoing Communication and Outreach

- › Manage the communication channels of UnBox including web and social media ensuring that they are up to date with relevant content. Some of this content will be sourced from various partners of UnBox while some other will have to be generated.
- › Conceptualize and execute ancillary UnBox events through the year that provide a means to engage with the community and that tie in with the central themes of UnBox.

Partnership Building

- › Establish contact with new partners globally and within India with the objective of adding new content to UnBox and also broadening the scope of activities
- › Solicit support from media and brands for long term partnerships that can help scale UnBox

Festival Planning

- › Coordinate with the members of Box Collective on issues of programming and content finalization for next UnBox
- › Take the lead on critical components of logistics and start mobilizing the necessary resources for the same
- › Maintain and manage the project work-flow ensuring that deadlines necessary for a smooth execution of the next edition, are met well in time

Qualifications

Successful candidates will be passionate about interdisciplinary collaboration and about creating a platform that can inspire and inform such exchanges and dialogues. You'd have a strong work ethic, a mix of experience that cuts across entrepreneurship, project management and curation preferably in an area where you were responsible for creation of a similar platform (although not necessarily in a similar domain).

You would be the kind of person who thrives in a collaborative, multi-disciplinary, startup environment with minimal supervision. You would have worked in cross-cultural settings and would be equally at ease talking to leading business thinkers and established artists on the one hand, and to vendors and contractors on another. You would be able to think on your feet and be resourceful enough to mobilise necessary support for completing the task at hand. You'd also be skilled at multi-tasking and managing multiple project deadlines all at once.

Some specific qualifications you would have are

- A Bachelor's or Master's degree in liberal arts, international relations or business administration from a leading Indian or International University
- Relevant experience in running/managing festivals with a sound understanding of the Indian culture & work ethos will be highly valued.
- 7+ years of work experience in project management and/or entrepreneurship irrespective of the domain of work.
- A genuine and demonstrable interest in interdisciplinary work, inter-cultural collaborations and some exposure to ideas of design thinking
- Highly networked and connected to a global community of professionals, artists, academics
- Experience of managing communication and media with some hands-on skills of managing online communication
- Excellent written & oral communication skills in English. The knowledge of any other language would be a definite plus

- Great attention to detail and ability to source information across organizations & geographies accurately and quickly
- Some evidence of independent creative work - such as writing, photography, films, theater, dance - would be viewed very positively
- A strong entrepreneurial bent with a bias towards action and getting things done

Compensation

A compensation package commensurate with your skills & experience will be designed for you. This would include a fixed and a performance based remuneration.

It may be worth mentioning here that we are looking for young professionals who are excited at working with a like minded cohort of entrepreneurs and shaping what is arguably a one of its kind platform in India with potential to become global. We strongly advise only those candidates to apply who are comfortable with the risk of entrepreneurship both in terms of immediate remuneration and long term reward.

Get In Touch

In case this resonates with you, please get in touch with Ayush (ayush@quicksand.co.in) with an updated resume and a thoughtful cover letter. Examples of work that demonstrate your interest in this job opening would be highly valued. We look forward to hearing from you.