



Neurodiversity Design Project
The “U Dimension” Workshop
September 15 – October 15, 2021

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2 pages

The Residency for the People (RftP) is organizing the second workshop for neurodiverse people in and around Eindhoven. We use design and making as a tool to find our place and voice in the world. Are you neurodiverse and interested in taking part in one of our practical design projects?

Neurodiversity and design

Here at the RftP we believe that neurodiverse people are designers by default and that the design field can benefit from their talent and contribution. Society is slowly getting used to the idea that neurodiversity is far more present than we think. The tables are turning, some employers and schools starting to understand that there is not only one way to work and learn and that unconventional voices and approaches should be heard and included. We want to provide a platform to neurodiverse people to express their unique selves and that adapts to their needs and abilities. Not the other way round. Design and making provide an ideal language: they are individually practiced and collectively appreciated and understood. During practical workshops, we will figure out how you can use design as a tool to be who you are and to make what is meaningful to you. You will be invited (but not required) to share your experiences as a neurodiverse human in day-to-day life, and how they influence the way you see and shape the world.

The “U Dimension” workshop

To draw and to build you often need an instrument of measure, like a ruler. These instruments are practical because people agree among themselves what it is they measure. At the same time, it can be difficult to learn how and when to use them. The *U Dimension Workshop* invites you to imagine and create your own measuring tool. Think of what you want to measure – it can be length, weight, time, or anything else – and come up with your own tool. This tool can be anything, it does not have to be a physical instrument but can instead be an imaginary and intangible method. You can use the measuring tool to make something but if you feel that making is unnecessary, you can use it for field research, measuring all kinds of things or documenting and relating a trip or an experience. You can make it just for yourself or you could also collaborate with a friend, family, an expert, a colleague, etc.

Course of the workshop

The workshop will last one month and will be led by François Chambard, founder of NYC-based design studio U M Project and regularly collaborating with neurodiverse designers, assisted by Daisy Dawson, a young advocate for neurodiversity in design. We are also collaborating with Stichting OOK Begeleiding, whose guides might assist you, especially if you are normally guided by them. We will meet the first week in our “design house” and every week after that at our workshop in Eindhoven or in other locations in and around Eindhoven. During the first session, examples of conventional and unconventional tools of measuring, methods and applications of measuring will be provided. Throughout the whole residency, we will always be available to answer questions, assist with the process of creating and making. The process and participating are more important than the result. At the end we will all meet to discover everybody’s work. We will just celebrate the moment. And if you are up to it, we will organize an exhibition shortly after to share the greatness with the world during Dutch Design Week.

Open call

Join us in the second neurodiversity design workshop. Anybody who is neurodiverse can apply. You are not too young or not too old. No need to be an artist or designer; you may not know it, but we are all designers. You preferably live in Eindhoven or nearby. You do not need to have ever built something but if you have, send us one or more pictures. Tell us why you’d like to participate and what gets you going in life. Tell us if you have special interests and needs and we will find a way to accommodate them. We will select 2 or 3 participants. If you cannot make it this time, there is always a next time.

Your application can be sent in any format you feel comfortable with: email, video, phone call, meeting in person, etc.

The deadline for applications is August 20th. The selected residents will be informed by August 27th. The residency will start on September 15th and will end on October 15th. There is the opportunity to exhibit your projects during Dutch Design Week between October 16th and October 24th. This is something we will discuss and prepare during the residency and is on a voluntary basis.

Each participant receives 350 euros in fee, plus 200 euros for material costs.

Apply to the *U Dimension* workshop or ask for more information about Residency for the People

Send an email to either one of these addresses:

francois@residencyforthepeople.com

opencall@residencyforthepeople.com

About Residency for the People

Residency for the People (RftP) is based in Eindhoven (www.residencyforthepeople.com). RftP is inspired by an art and design tradition, the “Artist-in-residence”. We turn it into an inclusive platform that provides all types of people with a space, time, and support to bring their (too often) unrecognized or uncelebrated talents and passion to life. Normally, an Artist-in-residence program is only meant for artists or designers to work on a specific project or their practice. But RftP is open to anyone – including you. Your plan doesn’t have to be artistic either. The only thing that matters is that you really want to make it happen. Like in many other artist-in-residency programs, the participants are paid so that their time and skills are valued. Currently, RftP only offers workspace and no place to stay, which is why we are looking for participants from the vicinity of Eindhoven.

About Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity is of strong interest to RftP as it is an area with great talent and human potential too often misunderstood or unrecognized. “Neurodiversity is a concept where neurological differences are to be recognized and respected as any other human variation. These differences can include those labeled with Dyspraxia, Dyslexia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Dyscalculia, Autistic Spectrum, Tourette Syndrome, and others.” (Source: National Symposium on Neurodiversity at Syracuse University, 2011). By creating this platform, we want to create and explore a model of how we can adapt our way of working and sharing concepts with a neurodiverse person, and how it can benefit everybody.