Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics
Technologist for the Public Realm

Brief Job Description:

The [Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics](#) (MONUM) was formed in 2010, and serves as the City of Boston's civic research and design team. We tackle projects that cover a range of topics, which includes everything from civic engagement to City infrastructure to public health. We work across departments and communities to explore, experiment, and evaluate new approaches to government and civic life. Civic innovation is more than just increasing government efficiency. It's also about improving the experience and well-being of people. So we ask: "How does Boston create more opportunities for more residents to shape their City and participate in civic life?" Our team brings a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences to the table in hopes of answering that question.

MONUM is seeking a Technologist for the Public Realm who can work creatively to address the most pressing challenges of using technology in our civic spaces. Most importantly, the 'Public Technologist' will help the City to create new approaches to civic engagement around technology, assist in the creation of policies that enable testing of new tools, develop educational materials, create service level agreements to ensure that any technologies or services are utilized in alignment with the City's equity goals and ensure the privacy of Bostonians and visitors to the city. This includes utilizing on-going community planning and co-creation activities to inform alignment of technology use with community vision statements.

This person will also lead planning and execution of [the $4.7 million Verizon Smart Communities program](#). Based within MONUM, this individual will work closely with the Streets Cabinet and the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT) to identify Verizon Smart Communities technologies and services that have 1) demonstrated proven value for addressing community challenges 2) can be used to improve quality of life in Boston 3) Deliver against our public data principles and increase transparency.

Over the last decade MONUM and city partners have been wrestling with what it means to be a "smart" city and how we can best engage with our residents to discover those answers. To assist in that effort, the City created a [smart cities playboo](#)k, launched a [Smart City RFI](#) to better understand the landscape of potential partners, developed a [civic research agenda](#), and began a two-year long research project called [Beta Blocks](#). Most recently, we have collaborated on [public data principles](#) and deployed tests of [DTPR signage](#). This position will help further this research and utilize the learnings developed to date to inform

policies, deployment, and engagement efforts. It is an opportunity to tap into the expertise of communities and elevate their voices in this domain of "smart" cities.

The ideal candidate for this role will be comfortable leading experiments in civic participation with a focus on equity and inclusion, and developing iterative deployments to meet the needs of residents and city departments. One driver for success in this work will also be the ability to compellingly tell the stories of the City's efforts, as there is a lot of "noise" in the 'smart cities' space and, for many people, the conversation around technologies (smart or otherwise) in the public realm may not seem urgent or relevant.

To ground this job description in values, here is an incomplete, over-simplified glimpse into some of the things we hold dearest as a team:

Trust + be trust-able. We aim to practice what we preach. We trust our partners (internally and externally) and work to earn their trust in return.

Be delightful. There's a lot going on out there in the world. We believe in the value and heart of finding moments of delight in the everyday.

Reframe innovation as care. What if we thought about innovation not as "moving fast and breaking things," but rather, as an exercise in care— caring for, caring with, caring about—and centered *that* approach as the novelty that we're trying to institutionalize?

Lead with curiosity. An important role we often play for our partners is to bring a beginner's mindset and ask the unasked questions. Our curiosity helps us learn more about the people, places, and prototypes we love.

Engage in reliability + grace. We show up (sometimes before our partners even ask us to). We try to do so with humility, vulnerability, and grace.

Err toward entrepreneurialism. There's a million reasons why something can't be done. What if we lean toward a can-do spirit of "why not"?

Grounding our work in justice, equity and anti-racism. We're wondering what role our team can play in advancing an aspirational practice of antiracism in local government, given our specific perspective as the civic innovation team.

Responsibilities:
Primary Responsibilities and Tasks

- Co-create opportunities for civic engagement around new technologies as they relate to relevant community issues
- Support the Mayor's Office and other city departments in the navigation of technology uses as it relates to data privacy, transparency, and experimentation
- Work to build collaborations among municipal stakeholders towards a better united framework on the introduction of technology in the public realm
- Facilitate communication and knowledge-building across departments

- Work with Verizon staff members and city agencies to identify the role each will play in implementation, operation, and maintenance of technologies
- Lead experimentation of different technologies, processes for deployment, and incorporation of community feedback.
- Research and brief City leadership about the data and privacy considerations of each technology considered within the context of its potential use in Boston
- Manage public outreach related to each phase of a project
- Speak on behalf of the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics on panels and conferences relevant to this work
- Support the City in the implementation of a scaled up deployment of DTPR signage
- Craft and implement policy on the use of technology in the public realm, data collection, and methods for increasing access and transparency to the process.
- Lead development and execution of a plan to leverage Verizon Smart Communities technologies to improve quality of life, safety, and equity in the City of Boston

Minimum Entrance Qualifications:

- Candidates should be strong relationship builders, comfortable with risk, and passionate about solving hard civic challenges with creative, original solutions.
- Candidates should be comfortable hosting participatory community events and constructing effective outreach programs.
- We look for people with a track record of execution. We want team members who are comfortable both working alone and in a highly collaborative office.
- We look for people who have an innate ability to construct strong relationships with community partners and represent the City of Boston.
- We seek individuals with subject matter expertise in areas such as design, public policy, privacy law, technology, social justice, urban planning, mobility, and community engagement, as well as broad curiosity about cities. Ideal candidates will have experience being able to blend those subject matters and an opportunity to build skills around their growing edges.
- Ideal candidates should be "self-starters" and comfortable with charting their own course in complex and seemingly hierarchical organizations. Experience working within local government is appreciated, but not essential.
- Must be proficient with the Google Suite, spreadsheets, and have strong written and verbal communication skills. Visual storytelling and design skills are also appreciated.
- Additional language proficiency in one of the City of Boston's top ten commonly requested language accommodations is preferred
- A diverse set of work experience in this field is preferred, appropriate educational substitutions may be made, such as a Master's degree in urban planning, public policy, community development, law, or a related field.

Apply by completing the application here:
https://tinyurl.com/t4pr2021

This position will report to the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics and work closely with DoIT, the Streets Cabinet (Transportation & Public Works), the Environment Department, and the Mayor's Policy Team.

City of Boston Residency is Required

An Important 2021 Disclaimer: Despite all our learnings from the 2020 pandemic, this position requires you to report in-person 5-days a week at Boston City Hall. That may change at a later date pending the results of a City of Boston Future of Work Task Force recommendations and actions.

Terms / Compensation

Non-Union/Salary Grade: [range: $80,699 - $104,852]
Hours Per Week: 35 hr
Position is grant funded through October 2023