



Toy Design and Inclusive Play

18th International Symposium, Workshop and Exhibition
Berlin, Germany, 14th to 28th January 2019

Call for Applications:

Berlin, 4th July, 2018

18th International Creativity Workshop “Toy Design and Inclusive Play“

Design and Development of Innovative Toys for People with and without Disabilities

The 18th International Creativity Workshop by the Berlin-based, non-profit association “Fördernd durch Spielmittel e.V.” („Support and Challenge through Toys“) will be held from **14th to 28th January, 2019** in Berlin. The aim is to develop new toys for children and adults that increase their joy of playing, support inclusive education and contribute to ecological sustainability.

We offer an exceptional two-week experience, and we invite you to apply for participation in our upcoming 18th Creativity Workshop.

Together – Inclusive

For two weeks, participants will be in close contact with people with disabilities, learning directly and practically from their skills and needs, and taking along this inspiration into the toy development process in the workshop. In close contact and communication with the children and adults it will be possible to develop new toys and toy ideas, which bring pleasure, invite to playful learning and in addition assist in the development of motoric, sensory and communication skills.

Together – Interdisciplinary:

The participants will come from different professional backgrounds. We invite designers, toy experts, therapists, teachers working with disabled children, psychologists, facilitators and carers as well as students of different disciplines to apply. Through this interdisciplinary composition the participants will learn from each other and from their different professional approaches.

Together – Intercultural:

The participants will come from different countries and continents. Their encounter will offer different views on function and production of toys, on handicaps and special needs, on inclusion and participation. Living and working together allows the possibility of exchanging thoughts and of mutually including ideas from different cultural backgrounds into the development of toys.

Toys and Play

According to WHO estimates there are about one billion people with disabilities around the world, half of them children.

Play is crucial for all children, helping them to develop their knowledge of the world, their practical and social skills. Toys facilitate access to culture and society, they help to establish relations among people of diverse needs and potentials.

Also for adults with special needs and for the elderly, materials for play and activity are an important aspect of everyday accomplishment, affirmation and interaction with other people.

Creativity Workshop Details

Toys and other objects that children and adults with special mental and/or physical needs like to play with have to meet high demands. They have to 'really work' in variable settings. Therefore, we carry out the Creativity Workshops in close cooperation with facilities, in which people with disabilities live, play, learn and work.

We are convinced that the best way to develop new toys is in conjunction with their future users – with the children who are going to play with them, since these are the real experts on toys, on playful learning and exploring. This user-oriented approach of product development has often led to surprising new toy ideas.

Directly after the Creativity Workshop an interdisciplinary group of experts invited by the organisers assembles to review the workshop results. The group chooses the most interesting toys, taking into consideration their educational or therapeutic value and innovative character as well as their possible application in inclusive processes and educational settings.

These toys may be modified and copied and then tested by people with and without disabilities. The organisers arrange for further development of the toys, with some of them appearing in published form as do-it-yourself instructions, while others may serve as models for toy-making workshops with different groups of people or in global learning contexts. Some of the designs may be even further refined to be transferred into small-scale series production, where possible in social enterprises, e.g. in sheltered workshops.

Since being founded in 1991 "Fördern durch Spielmittel e.V." has coordinated a total of 17 International Creativity Workshops all over the world, with each Workshop resulting in the development of many new toys or toy ideas.

Over the years, a broad national and international network of partners has been established – both of institutions and individuals – who are active on behalf of toys and play for people with disabilities. Today, the association has members in 27 different countries.

In 2019, the Creativity Workshops will be run in Berlin for the very first time. We will receive support from the UNESCO and cooperate with "Pfefferwerk Stadtkultur gGmbH" and „VIA Verbund für integrative Angebote Berlin gGmbH“.

We are looking forward to you applying to participate in the 18th International Creativity Workshop. **The deadline for submitting your application is 17th September, 2018.**

Katherina Richter
Member of the Board

Siegfried Zoels
Managing Director

Programme of the 18th International Creativity Workshop

Date:

14th – 28th January, 2019

Place:

Berlin

Aims:

During the Workshop, participants will develop innovative toy ideas and produce models. After the Workshop phase, some of the newly developed toys will be modified, copied, tested or further developed. The participants consent to the organisers using their work (including models and drawings) within the terms of the “Agreement on the Use of Workshop Results” for non-profit activities. The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) will remain with the designer.

Agenda:

14th January

Arrival of the participants

15th / 16th January

Symposium

Experts from various areas will present their perspectives based on research and practical experience and provide guidance in, for example, the life and work with people with disabilities, on inclusion or on the role of toys, play and creativity in social processes.

In addition, participants and tutors from all over the world will introduce themselves and will report on their own various experiences and activities. So, the participants get to know each other and their work as designers, toy developers, artists, teachers, therapists etc.

17th – 26th January

Workshop

The participants spend a day in facilities for children and adults with (and without) disabilities. Based on this experience they will develop their project(s) – a toy for a specific person, for a group, or a game, prepared for a specific preference, interest or pedagogic aim.

During the course of the workshop, we encourage and expect the participants to design and make prototypes of new toys. Equipment and materials will be available for making prototypes in different materials.

The design work itself is inspired by the close contact with the future users. The focus here is not on their limitations but on their capability: What are they able to do? What do they enjoy? And how transform these aspects into a toy?

The Creativity Workshop offers the opportunity of a continuous international and interdisciplinary exchange of ideas, experience and skills between the participants, which enables them to master this challenge. Experienced tutors are also present to give advice and help where needed.

27th January

Exhibition of the Workshop Results

The results of the Creativity Workshop will be publicly displayed and presented by their inventors – the participants in the Workshop. Children and adults involved in the toy development process, their families and assistants will be invited to the opening of this exhibition as well as representatives of social companies, institutions and organisations and other people interested.

The presentation and display of the workshop results also serve the purpose to raise awareness among social companies, e.g. sheltered workshops, and encourage them to expand their product range. We are aiming at further developing some of the toys to get them ready for production.

28th January

Departure of the Participants

Participants:

This is a worldwide call for applications. Twenty applicants will be chosen to participate in the Creativity Workshop. Applicants could be, for example, designers, engineers, architects, toy developers, teachers and carers, therapists, psychologists or child development specialists. People with disability experience of their own and students within these areas are also welcome to apply.

Working languages:

English and German

Costs:

There will be no workshop fee. We will provide a wide range of working materials. We will also provide food and accommodation during the period of the workshop. Travel costs have to be borne by the participants; those participants from developing countries or Eastern Europe are eligible to apply for a contribution to their travel expenses.

Accommodation:

The participants will be accommodated in the Pfefferbett Hostel Berlin (www.pfefferbett.de), run by the social company VIA Unternehmensverbund.

Application Deadline:

17th September 2018

Application Materials:

- Application Form and Supplements
- Curriculum Vitae
- Agreement on the Use of Workshop Results – with your signature as scan or photo

Direct to:

workshop @spielmittel.de