About the US COVID Atlas

The US COVID Atlas Project aims to bring a human perspective to a world saturated with COVID-19 data. The US COVID Atlas (USCovidAtlas.org) is a free, interactive data visualization tool connecting COVID-19 data with community health contexts to deliver insights about the pandemic across the country. Since launching in March 2020, the Atlas has grown to include dozens of customizable variables and visualization options, allowing users to quickly and easily visualize the pandemic over time and place. We are now inviting inclusive considerations of lived experiences through an oral histories curation effort, integrating human stories with our extensive quantitative database. The Atlas is led by the Center for Spatial Data Science at University of Chicago with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

About the Oral Histories Project

The Atlas is embarking on a new oral histories curation effort to elevate the human perspective alongside the data of the pandemic. We will invite submissions of short video, audio, or other forms of media from across the US to link voices of people and places impacted by the pandemic. This may also include linking existing oral history projects as an integrated platform.

We seek proposals from creative producers with experience in project management, oral history collection and/or documentary production as collaborators on this project. Video production expertise is required. Empathy for the diverse experiences of COVID-19 across the US is essential. Experience with ethnographic, journalistic, and/or documentary-style work is preferred. Experience working with non-English speaking populations and integrating multilingual translation is desired. This will include planning and co-development of oral history curation approaches, outreach support and creative thinking to generate submissions, and production of 100 featured, professionally edited short audio-visual elements to integrate as a new component on the Atlas. We seek partners interested in collaborating with our multi-stakeholder team, including our staff, advisory board, and users.
**Scope of Work:**

With guidance and input from the Atlas team, the contractor would be responsible for:

- Co-development of submission approach and methodology, including content prompts
- Advising on technical best practices and design strategies for submission
- Support and advising on outreach in a social-media savvy landscape
- Review, edit, and prepare 100 short video and/or audio clips for integration in the Atlas web platform
- Develop and implement an archival plan to package final multimedia features

**Budget:** $20,000-$30,000

**Format of Proposal:**

- **Proposal and Cost Estimate** (1-2 pages). Your proposal should include:
  - Summary of why you are interested in working with the US COVID Atlas, and why you would be a good fit;
  - Cost and timeline estimate;
  - Names and contact information of key project staff

- **Link to portfolio and/or description of previous audio-visual production work**
  (relevant topics include: oral history projects, health equity, social justice, community organizing, impacts of racism, structural inequities)

- **Production video pitch** *(optional; 3 minutes max.)*

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- Overall organizational mission fit with the US COVID Atlas project goals and objectives
- Completed (and/or underway) video production work, including relevant themes, formats, and previous collaborations or clients
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate with multi-stakeholder teams, particularly in nonprofit contexts
- Cost estimate
**Estimated Project Timeline:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Task Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 3, 2022</td>
<td>Contract begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January - March 2022</td>
<td>On-boarding, conceptualization, and submission infrastructure development</td>
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<tr>
<td>March - November 2022</td>
<td>Infrastructure implementation and submission collection, supporting outreach and publicity strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2022 - April 2023</td>
<td>Review, edit, and finalize 100 featured oral histories for integration with the Atlas web platform; Develop and implement archival plan to package final multimedia features</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30, 2023</td>
<td>Contract completed</td>
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**Submission:**

Proposals will be accepted through **Friday, November 12, 2021, 11:59pm CST**. The project work contract will span approximately January 3, 2022 through April 30, 2022.

Proposals can be submitted by email to Susan Paykin ([spaykin@uchicago.edu](mailto:spaykin@uchicago.edu)) with the subject **Atlas Oral Histories Proposal**.

**Contact:**

Email Susan Paykin ([spaykin@uchicago.edu](mailto:spaykin@uchicago.edu)) with questions or concerns -- or **schedule a 15 minute meeting** to chat.