

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Fourth Purpose Consultant

Background & Deliverables

Columbia World Projects (CWP) mobilizes Columbia University's researchers and scholars to work with governments, organizations, businesses and communities to tackle global challenges.

Columbia World Projects is embarking on a new, multi-pronged initiative focused on the Fourth Purpose of the University. The Fourth Purpose, as described by Columbia University President, Lee C. Bollinger, is the advancement of human welfare through the complex process of merging scholarly knowledge and our distinctive intellectual capacities with groups and institutions beyond the University that have the capacity and resources to bring about change, and are dedicated to doing that work in partnership with Columbia. This mission both complements and interacts positively with the three more traditionally articulated purposes of universities—research, education and service. As part of this, CWP seeks a consultant to support the development of an initial catalogue of University work that is emblematic of the Fourth Purpose, consistent with the gaps and opportunities identified in the [Fourth Purpose Task Force Report and Recommendations](#) released in February 2021.

The consultant will conduct a thorough desk review of work across the University that brings research and scholarship together with external partners and practitioners, in pursuit of social impact. The consultant will use this content to expand on an initial data set and create a database of as many relevant examples as possible, identifying important information for each entity and using analysis of emerging patterns to guide the further development of the database structure. The consultant may also be asked to engage CWP and other university stakeholders to “user test” the database structure and refine it in line with feedback.

Key Deliverables:

- Desk review conducted;
- Database created;
- User testing conducted and recommendations synthesized.

Qualifications

Qualified applicants will have familiarity with Columbia University and experience with independent research or desk studies. Prior experience building databases and working with users on database design is not required but would be helpful. In addition:

- Experience conducting a variety of qualitative analyses and assessments;
- Experience working on high-profile projects and/or in global organizations;
- Proven success gathering and analyzing moderate to high volumes of data.

Consultancy Details

- The consultancy is expected to take place beginning November 2021 and terminating in January 2022 and require an estimated 10-15 hours per week.
- Depending on prevailing University safety mandates, communication between CWP and contracted consultant is expected to be virtual.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should send a cover letter describing how they would approach this scope of work along with their CV/Resume, an overview of their topic/fields of expertise and the range of their daily rates to CWP-Consultants@columbia.edu with "Fourth Purpose Consultant" as the subject of the email.

Columbia University is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer. It does not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, sex, gender, religion, creed, national and ethnic origin, age, citizenship, status as a perceived or actual victim of domestic violence, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran, or any other legally protected status.