City Controller’s Office

**Mission:**

The City Controller works to promote the effective and efficient operation of Philadelphia government by identifying cost savings, recommending best practices and modernization, and exposing fraud and mismanagement.

**Organization Description:**

The City Controller is a popularly-elected City official and serves four-year terms. The City Controller is the Chief Auditor of the City of Philadelphia and the office is independent of the Mayor and City Council, charged with auditing their operations. The Finance, Data, and Policy Division within the office supports a more accessible and engaging digital presence for the Controller’s Office, working to illustrate how the City of Philadelphia spends taxpayer money through transparency, reports, data visualizations, dashboards and other tools.

**Website:**

[https://controller.phila.gov](https://controller.phila.gov/)

**Current Technology Capacity:**

We have an IT director in charge of the office's IT. Our website was re-designed by Yikes last year, so we work directly with them to manage the website. The website also hosts interactive visualizations and reports done directly by the Finance, Data, and Policy team.

**Main Contact Person(s):**

Nick Hand

nick.hand@phila.gov

**Project Description:**

We are envisioning a data portal allowing users to search City contracts easily, similar to the site for Pittsburgh: https://www.openbookpittsburgh.com/. The website could allow for searching contracts, as well as other related datasets, such as registered lobbyists and campaign finance reports (depending on the scope/timeline of the project design). This would be a crucial way for Philadelphia to increase financial transparency and would be an important public check on potential fraud and mismanagement. In terms of a timeline, I think something around 1 year (or sooner) would be ideal for us.

**Project Success Metric:**

The completion of the public-facing search interface for the contracts would be a great achievement and push forward the City's transparency in a meaningful way. Contract data is one of our office's most requested datasets by residents, so it would have an important impact on the city.

**Ability to Pay:** Yes