

## **Project Proposal**

### Description

The Living Archive is an online archive that displays queer stories from Loyola Marymount University to help fill the gaps in the institution's records and history. LMU's Inclusive History and Images Project is also dedicated to amplifying underrepresented voices in its archive collection, but there are a few pain points with navigating LMU's online archives in general. For example, the interface to view items in fullscreen is slow and the collection filter often unintentionally resets. The Living Archive also seeks to provide a more interactive experience for the user to better facilitate exploration of these stories, especially for those unfamiliar with viewing historical records. For the next semester, the most important additions to the archive include: customizable data visualization charts, a user submission form, and an admin approval portal. The in-site admin approval portal would be for future maintainers of the site, as ideally, this project could be maintained without needing direct access to the codebase/databases. These features would be implemented onto the existing Next.js app through D3.js for data visualization, Node.js and the existing Google Firebase for user submission data, and Google Firebase authentication for the admin access. The end user is anyone interested in LGBTQ+ history at LMU, so likely anyone from the LMU community (students/faculty/staff/alumni), though this project aims to be accessible to all regardless of prior knowledge of LMU history or experience in working with archives.

### Justification

This project is a true culmination of my LMU experience. Within computer science, my career interest is in web development, so I have already enjoyed working on this project and look forward to expanding it. This project would not have been created without my experiences as a Women's and Gender Studies minor, as this originated as a research project from a WGST alumni. I have also been able to tie in knowledge in design and my experiences as a Studio Arts minor, using it to help facilitate the UI/UX design. And because the nature of this project is directly tied to LMU, I hope it is also interesting and inspires curiosity from the general LMU community.

I will continue to draw on what I learned in previous CS classes, like Interaction Design, Web App Development, and Database Systems. This project will also provide enough technical challenges for me, as I will be working with D3.js for the first time and creating two new systems of user interaction (the submission and approval functionalities). However, I am confident that I can develop the project in one semester, as my prior experiences with similar technologies can hopefully reduce the learning curve.