

Powers of Time - Studio Assistant

TLDR: Seeking a studio assistant (remote) to support the execution of Powers of Time, a creative project that explores the relative speeds through which animals and other beings experience time. \$25/hr for 5 hrs/week for 6 months.

Hello 🙋, I'm Colin

As a creative, I'm a songwriter, writer and poet, and I use my creative practice as a way to digest and process life experiences. As someone who has worked in technology for 20 years, I often integrate visual media as a complement to words and music in the service of expanding empathy towards a more inclusive story of our times.

Some examples of past work include:

- [Premixing the Commons](#): My voice and lyrics were sampled by 100s of musicians, resulting in the collaboratively produced "Premixed" album, and a 10-city "Free Culture" tour promoting participation in the Creative Commons.
- [Who gets to live in peace?](#): spoken word + documentary photography piece about those engaged at the edge of the law in Durham, NC.
- [Flag Relations](#): explorations of the American flag that balance respect for the flag while also becoming more inclusive of our real history.

Context: What is Powers of Time?

Ever since I was a kid, I've been fascinated by our relationship to time. Now squarely in the middle of life with young children and aging parents, I've become acutely aware of the passage of time in different ways. Living in a rural place since 2020 also has me observing more closely the rhythms and cycles of the natural world. I've spent the last few years educating myself about how different species and cultures experience of time and memory.

The name Powers of Time was inspired by the seminal video produced by the Eames office in 1977 called [Powers of Ten](#) that demonstrated the relative size of things. Inspired by this project, my vision is to produce an immersive experience that enables people to appreciate the relative speeds of existence. Imagine the stretched out moments of an adult mayfly that lives an entire life in a single day, the time-lapsed view from a redwood tree that lives for 2,000 years, or the evolution of a mountain range over millions of years.

So far, the project has largely been in the research phase and has included research into animal and plant experience as well as explorations of emerging AR/VR technologies that could be useful for the project. I've also prototyped two specific components of the project in the form of physical and illustrated clocks exploring the full life of organisms living at different time scales, and a series of up close portraits over the life of my maternal grandmother.

1. [Life Clocks](#) - Lifespans of different organisms

A series of physical and illustrated clocks that explore the full life of organisms that live at different time scales. The prototype Life Clock is composed of internal thoughts from my own life.

2. [Life Portraits](#) - Infinite life profiles

Imagine a profile pic - but instead of one snapshot in time it animates through up close portraits to give the more holistic face of a life. The first prototype is of my maternal grandmother Fran Hermann.

What support I'm looking for

What I'm looking for: studio assistant, remote anywhere 3-5 hrs / week.

I'm looking for someone who is very organized, who can help translate the broader vision for the project into something concrete and who can help develop a project plan for Powers of Time - prioritizing the right tasks, connecting the dots between the existing prototypes and the larger immersive experience and helping with some execution to move the project forward.

Outcomes could include a presentation that explains the project, V2 prototypes of the life clocks and life portraits and/or a convening to bring together interested stakeholders (eg experts in animal and plant experience, time and memory, VR/AR designers on the cutting edge of enabling multisensory experiences). At the end of this phase the project should feel concrete and inspiring and be positioned to successfully attract and fund the ideal team to make the full immersive version.

Roles & Responsibilities

- In collaboration with Colin, set weekly or biweekly goals for the project and identify the top priorities to move the project forward.
- Provide input into the structure and design of content for the project and public facing materials. Execute specific discrete tasks related to moving the project forward (this could include anything from structuring a presentation, drafting a script for a TED-style talk or outlining an agenda for a potential convening)
- Help think through the role that audience engagement should play at different phases of the project, and help guide Colin to begin sharing this project publicly.
- Outreach to specific potential advisors or contributors to coordinate calendars and setup meetings, including follow up actions where appropriate.

Compensation

\$25/hr for 5 hours / week, paid monthly. Intention is to work together for 6 months.

Work Exercise

Purpose of this exercise is to find a good fit by exploring how you would approach working together.

Assignment: Review the project summary above, the example [Life Portrait](#) and [Life Clock](#), as well as the brief summaries about the [nature of time](#) and [example lifespans](#).

Then write a brief recommendation (no more than 200 words) for the following:

- How would you approach organizing these different aspects of the project together for an initial project website?
- Summary of a potential process to follow over the next 3 months, including the first 3-4 steps to make meaningful progress in the first month of working together.

Submit assignment through [this google form](#) to apply for the role.