An AI of Our Own: Innovating AI to Include Diverse Ways of Knowing - Project Coordinator JD

Project Background:

"An AI of Our Own: Innovating AI to Include Diverse Ways of Knowing" is a 3 year initiative designed by Living Arts International in an attempt to leverage the potential and exponential growth in AI technology to create adaptive and responsive systems wherein cultural heritage is preserved in a way that goes beyond traditional wikis, written datasets, and western methodologies of knowing and documenting. Rather than trying to fit the diverse heritage of the global south into a system which was not built for it, we propose to create "an AI of our own," which leverages existing technological expertise and advancements of the global north but invites them to go beyond and envision a multi-cultural, diverse, and inclusive digital future.

AAOO launched in spring 2024 in attempt to explore innovative solutions to the stated issues, with the concept note developed in a collaborative workshop, drawing on research and conceptual work LAI has been conducting since 2021. Four main pillars of the project were identified: Connect, Nurture, Fund, and Co-create, which have guided activities thus far.

In summer 2024, LAI commissioned a research project to understand the current landscape of digital heritage and AI in Asia and Africa, culminating in a report (final publication expected mid-Feb). In November 2024, LAI assembled a diverse working group of 6 individuals from different countries, backgrounds, and expertise, including data rights, computer science, technological storytelling, culture management, and philosophy. The working group focused on the development of a manifesto, which aims to define the values and methodology of AAOO and guide the launch of a pilot case of the AI in Cambodia and potentially other countries.

The pilot case is planned to be a proof-of-concept for the manifesto, after which the replicability and scalability of the project will be assessed and adjusted if necessary to keep AAOO growing. Additionally, AAOO aims to leverage the manifesto as a guiding policy document for advocacy and build the consortium of stakeholders that will drive the future of AAOO.

Purpose:

The Project Coordinator's role is closely linked with the deliverables of a recent grant received by AAOO, with three main goals: Build the AAOO consortium, leverage the manifesto document in advocacy and visibility, and guide the project towards the launch of the pilot case(s).

They should be proactive and creative, exploring a variety of possibilities to enact the pilot case in connection with the manifesto, such as helping identify community partners in Cambodia, technical support, design or co-create potential trainings or capacity sharing sessions, etc. They will work to ensure that the project's ways of working (Community-centered, responsible, responsive) are upheld throughout the project. They shall strive to maintain the project's commitment to centering and recentering the community at all stages. Finally, they will guide internal and external communications and ensure that the project remains within the budgets provided.

Responsibilities:

The Project Coordinator shall:

- Identify a clear outline and timeline for accomplishing the objectives of the project and ensure the project progresses in a timely fashion;

- Ensure that the project ways of working (community-centered, responsible, responsive) are upheld in all aspects;
- Ensure that the project remains within the budget and adjust project activities if required;
- Guide communications in line with the strategy.

Required Skills and Competencies:

The ideal Project Coordinator for this project will have:

- At least two years of project coordination experience (arts and cultural experience a significant advantage),
- A decent understanding of AI systems and the global discourse around bias, representation, and AI ethics,
- Excellent collaboration and communication skills,
- A demonstrated commitment to ethical standards in partnership and community management,
- The ability to coordinate with multiple stakeholders,
- A creative and innovative outlook.

Candidates from the global south are preferred.

Dates and Compensation:

This is a remote, full-time position. The initial contract will be April 1-August 31, 2025, with a monthly salary of $1500-$2000 based on experience.

How to Apply:

Candidates should email their cover letter and CV with the subject line **"AAOO Project Coordinator"** to gillian@cambodianlivingarts.org and phloeun@cambodianlivingarts.org.

Candidates are encouraged to read the 2 concept note and Landscaping Research Report attached with the call.