

## Arizona State University Invites Historically Silenced Indigenous Voices to its Journal of the Plague Year Archive

**Phoenix February 25, 2021** – The Journal of the Plague Year (JOTPY) seeks to confront historical silences traditionally associated with Indigenous Peoples by inviting them to [submit their COVID-19 experiences](#) to its digital archive using the hashtag **#IndigenousPOV** and if applicable, **#student**.

In its efforts to meaningfully engage voices so often lost to archival silences, JOTPY requests Indigenous submissions sharing their own pandemic perspectives. Submissions could include how the pandemic has impacted tribal traditions, or about challenges receiving resources to combat the virus. Other examples are stories of solidarity, strength, loss, and survival. ASU graduate student and JOTPY curatorial intern, Robin Keagle, created the Indigenous Point of View (IndigenousPOV) collection to give them a platform to tell their stories. Keagle stated that this population has been devastated on a scale disproportionately larger than others and that although the archive has collected many Indigenous stories, the majority are from the media's perspective, not from tribal members themselves. JOTPY seeks to remedy that by preserving the Indigenous Point of View for future generations. Keagle stated, "An ASU Indigenous Student organization, IndiGenius, suggested the collection name which perfectly encapsulates what JOTPY wants to protect and preserve, Native Voices. We are living through a rare moment in history so if we have an opportunity to push back against traditional Indigenous archival silences, then we must do so."

The Journal of the Plague Year archive was created by Arizona State University and collaborates with over 50 partners across the world. Throughout history, archives were often created to preserve the accounts of those in power while marginalizing or silencing the perspectives of the powerless. Collecting and curating accounts from all races and ethnicities, JOTPY refutes this archival exclusivity through its mission to preserve COVID-19 experiences from all walks of life. It currently contains over 12,000 diverse global submissions from Black Voices, the LGBTQ+ community, social justice advocates, and K-12 and university students as well as many more.



Mural by graffiti artist, Ivan Lee

JOTPY is committed to curating all IndigenousPOV submissions with thoughtfulness and respect. Stories can come in a variety of forms such as oral interviews, social media posts, news articles, text, photos and memes and can be submitted to the archive [Share Your Story](#) page. Please include the hashtag **#IndigenousPOV** and if applicable, **#student**. If preferred, submissions can be kept anonymous. For information, or to arrange an oral interview, please reach out to Robin Keagle at [rjkeagle@asu.edu](mailto:rjkeagle@asu.edu).