

Mobilize!**Mini-Grants for USC Students**

America is at a crossroads as it prepares for national elections with extraordinarily high stakes. The COVID-19 global pandemic has cast a profound urgency upon an already charged debate about healthcare; mass unemployment is pushing us to interrogate longstanding labor inequities that often divide along racial lines; unprecedented protests against entrenched police brutality and systemic racism are giving us a glimpse of an alternative vision of public safety. What's more, early outcomes from those protests have already proven that now, more than ever, young people truly have the capacity to change the world. In the months ahead, the actions that USC students choose to take will help determine the path that America charts through this historic moment.

To support this, **USC Arts in Action is introducing “Mobilize!” a program offering mini-grants of up to \$500 for students looking to channel their creativity into activism and political engagement projects. Students of any major and year of study are eligible to apply.** Funds can be used to support work addressing a range of issues, including but not limited to: voter engagement, COVID-19 responses, efforts to reshape law enforcement, strategies to address systemic racism, and environmental and housing justice. We will also consider arts projects that focus on issues not listed here.

Here are some examples of the ways in which our mini-grants can be used:

- purchasing materials for creating visual art in support of protests or other public service campaigns
- producing a workshop/training on how artists can help increase voter turnout
- creating arts therapy packages for people who have been severely impacted by the shelter-in-place order
- production of online film and performance media that reimagines law enforcement
- curation of a virtual arts installation investigating gentrification and displacement

We are especially interested in supporting work that is collaborative and involves non-USC partners. Students who are awarded mini-grants will be expected to participate in a November roundtable event, at which they'll reflect on their work and explore additional opportunities for collaboration.

To apply, **send a one-page letter to William Warrener at artsinaction@usc.edu**, covering the following points:

- **What?** Clearly explain what your project is and the issue(s) it addresses

- **Why?** Why are these issues important?
- **How?** Describe how your Arts in Action mini-grant will be spent
- **Who?** Tell us who you are, and who your key collaborators are
- Any other information you feel to be important

In crafting your proposal, we encourage you to discuss your project with someone who has a connection to the issue and can provide initial feedback. This could be a faculty member, staff from a campus organization, students who're engaged in similar work, or partners from an L.A organization or collective.

Letters will be reviewed by staff from Arts in Action and Visions and Voices, after which we will contact you with feedback and to let you know if we'd like to discuss your idea via a Zoom meeting.

Mobilize! proposals will be accepted for the duration of the 2020-21 academic year. Proposals are reviewed on or close to the 15th of each month.

If you have questions, email William Warrener, Lead Producer of USC Arts in Action, at warrener@usc.edu.