

USC Arts and Climate Collective – Guidelines for Submissions

In the leadup to Earth Day 2021, USC is launching the Arts and Climate Collective.

This exciting new pilot program awards funding and uplifts the work of USC students who are passionate about using the arts, media and culture to address urgent issues of environmental justice and imagine sustainable communities and systems.

During this pilot round, we are making awards of up to \$1,000 in addition to mentorship and networking support to students and/or teams of students for new or in-progress arts and media projects with a range of possible outcomes.

Working together, our Collective aims to deepen understandings and shift behaviors, relationships and policies related to climate emergencies and university sustainability efforts. **We will invite awardees to publicly present previews of their work – whether a preview or the final version - during the week of Earth Day 2021 (April 22nd)** and will support you as you continue your projects throughout the spring and summer.

How to apply...

Got an idea? We want to hear from you! All current USC students are eligible and encouraged to apply. Awards will be made to individuals or small teams. Applicants should send a one or two page letter detailing your project to artsinaction@usc.edu. **Submissions will be reviewed and grants awarded on a rolling basis from March 22nd until March 29th, 2021.**

You may supplement your letter with team bios, work samples and/or presentations as desired. We encourage team formation and collaborations with external partners.

Invited applicants will participate in a follow-up conversation to discuss your proposal prior to any award being made.

If awarded funding, we will ask you to provide a summary of your accomplishments and findings after your project concludes.

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What makes a strong proposal?

Proposals will be assessed based on your ability to demonstrate:

- a clear articulation of what your project is hoping to achieve
- a capacity to inspire and support further dialogue and action, whether among students, partners, or the general public
- a nuanced understanding of your chosen particular climate or sustainability issue
- a process and timeline that are appropriate for meeting your project's goals

If you're searching for inspiration, examples of suitable projects include (but are definitely NOT limited to):

- Production of a short film that collates and presents students' visions for their sustainable futures
- A podcast series exploring environmental justice community activists in the University Park or HSC neighborhood
- Creative visualizations and storytelling to compellingly interpret environmental health data produced by USC researchers
- Design and creation of a student-led website or other platform to house culture and climate submissions from the wider community
- Curation of a student Earth Day social media campaign that engages the Earth Day theme: *Restore Our Earth - Thinking beyond climate adaptation to rebuild ecosystems and natural system processes.*"

Want to know more?

[Sign up to attend](#) our drop-in informational session from 10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. on March 22nd, hosted by the Collective's organizers: Annenberg Innovation Lab, Arts in Action and the Office of Sustainability. Attendance at the session is not a requirement for submitting a proposal but may allow us to help you to clarify your ideas. You're free to come and go at any point during the session – we're looking forward to hearing what you're interested in!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to William Warrener, Lead Producer, USC Arts in Action at warrener@usc.edu.