

**Announcement of Grants for Arts in Action 2022
Request for Preliminary Proposals**

OVERVIEW

Arts in Action plants seeds for positive social change by activating intensive arts projects between LA community partners, faculty, and students.

Part of USC Visions and Voices, Arts in Action supports and creates work that builds upon USC's commitment to remedying society's most intractable problems. Projects span a wide range of art forms to address systemic oppression and social issues including homelessness, mass incarceration, the COVID-19 pandemic, systemic racism, sustainability and climate justice, educational inequity, and multiple forms of violence.

Arts in Action projects are often participant-driven, challenging the separation between "artists" and "audiences." We prioritize artwork that grows from a shared process, where the collaborative act of creating the work is a core part of the project's impact and value.

ARTS IN ACTION GRANTS

USC faculty and students working with community partners are invited to submit preliminary proposals for Arts in Action 2022 for projects beginning no earlier than February 1, 2022. These grants will activate community-based projects that address social issues, bring people together, facilitate dialogue, and create spaces to imagine and design future change.

Given continuing uncertainty regarding in-person gatherings in 2022, projects should maintain contingency plans for executing their activities via online or physically distanced formats.

Eligible disciplines include the visual arts and design, dramatic arts, cinematic and media arts, music, dance, and architecture. Projects involving multiple art forms are welcome and encouraged. Interested teams of faculty and students should send:

- A preliminary proposal (500 words) that clearly describes the project, its objectives and anticipated outcomes, and its relationship to the Arts in Action mission.
- A 100-word abstract that clearly describes the project workings (e.g. a series of workshops, a piece of collectively created public art, a youth program in partnership with local schools etc.).
- A one-page biography plus contact details for each team member.

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m., on October 8, 2021, to artsinaction@usc.edu. Your entire proposal should be comprised of a single Word document or PDF.

Following an initial review of the preliminary proposals, the advisory committee will provide applicants with information about the full application and review process.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- Faculty and current students from across USC are invited to apply. Proposals that include at least one faculty member from one of USC's six arts schools are encouraged and will be prioritized.
- Teams comprised of faculty or students from multiple USC schools are encouraged.
- Projects that centrally involve students of any level are strongly encouraged.
- Students submitting a proposal must identify at least one faculty mentor as a key member of the project team. Faculty mentors should be willing to discuss the project with Arts in Action staff following the preliminary proposal stage, if requested (students should also take note of Mobilize!, Arts in Action's new mini-grants program exclusively for students: <https://artsinaction.usc.edu/take-action/>).
- Project outputs should include at least one free public-sharing event, whether a workshop, performance, or service activity. Multiple public outputs that span the lifetime of the project are strongly encouraged. Preliminary proposals are not required to have all outputs identified.
- Projects should include at least one community partnership. Work that takes place off campus and in community settings is strongly encouraged.
- Given continuing uncertainty regarding in-person gatherings in 2022, projects should maintain contingency plans for executing their activities via online or physically distanced formats.

WHAT MAKES A STRONG PROJECT?

1. Understanding of the issue: Does the project demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to an intractable social issue or problem?
2. Partnership: Has or will the project be developed with adequate participation from community partners, will it engage students directly, and does it fully address their needs? (See 'Modes of Participation' grid on page 4 for further guidance.)
3. Project feasibility: Can the project's team and method realistically meet the project's objectives?
4. Impact: How will the project contribute to positive and ongoing social change? Will the project contribute to students' development as socially engaged artists and citizens?
5. Outputs and visibility: Will the project be visible to the wider public?

KEY DATES:

October 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.: preliminary proposals due
Early November: applicants invited to submit full proposal
Early December: full proposal due
Early January 2022: awardees notified
February 1, 2022: earliest date for project commencement

CURRENT ARTS IN ACTION PROJECTS

In 2021, Arts in Action is supporting eleven faculty/and or student-driven projects. Grant amounts ranged from \$3,000 to \$28,000. More information about all Arts in Action projects can be found at artsinaction.usc.edu/project.

- *I Too Am: Critical Makers Lab* asks South L.A students to reflect on who they are and how they can represent themselves, their community, their story through several media making projects.
- *Kaufman Connections* is a 24-week hip hop dance program that introduces elementary students to the choreographic process through weekly, one-hour sessions of integrated dance instruction at 32nd Street Elementary School.
- *Warrior Bards - Veterans Exploring Ancient Drama* provides an opportunity for military veterans to explore and perform their experiences of service through engagement with ancient Greek tragedies.
- *University Park Slow Jams* is a creative call to action for safer pedestrian streets around University Park featuring artistic street spectacles in support of residents using their voices to fight traffic violence.
- *Héroes de la Comunidad* is a community-produced zine and a series of public art murals designed to help keep MacArthur Park residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, led by local youth artists.
- *Architecture and Advocacy* seeks to increase the representation of systematically marginalized people in design professions through a series of cost-free design charrettes for local high school artists.
- *Peace Pods* is a design challenge to create solitary spaces for healing through physiological and sensory means in collaboration with Open Paths Counseling Center, for eventual use in clinics serving marginalized communities.
- *Memorial to Black Lives* negotiates sites of trauma and resilience as a starting point to consider practices of memorialization in the 21st-century, featuring community story circles in collaboration with local artists from Willowbrook in South L.A.
- *Sacrifice Zone: Los Angeles (SZ:LA)* is a transmedia theatre and film project uplifting local environmental justice campaigners' fight against 'sacrifice zones'—the places in our city that have been devastated by ongoing problems such as oil drilling and industrial toxins.
- *Here, My Voice* supports hard-of-hearing people in (re)discovering embodied ways to experience their voice through a series of tailored workshops in collaboration with the Hearing Loss Association of America.
- *Our Stories Matter* is a multi-episode podcast and documentary produced in partnership with Trauma Informed L.A., foregrounding arts, activism and storytelling in the process of healing.

Appendix: Modes of Participation Grid

This breakdown of “modes of participation” has been created by the James Irvine Foundation. We include it as a helpful resource for applicants seeking further guidance on what constitutes a strong community collaboration. “Participants,” in the case of Arts in Action, refers to community partners. We support projects that fall within categories 3 through 5.

Mode of Participation	Participant Engagement	Content Contributed by Participants	Presented or Culminating Artistic Product	Examples	Role of Arts Professionals
1. Observational: participants receive finished work presented by arts professionals	Watching/ Viewing	None	No contribution by participants	Performance/ Exhibit	Sole Author, Presenting/Exhibiting Content
2. Observational Learning: participants receive finished work with explicit learning or enrichment component	Learning	None to minimal	No contribution by participants	Educational component to performance/exhibit	Sole Author, Presenting/Exhibiting Content
3. Co-Presentation: participants share in presentation/ exhibition of artistic work	Doing/ Practicing with guidance or instruction	Minor choices and suggestions	Participants play an instrumental role	Play with community actors; artist-driven community mural	Leading/Directing, possibly participating
4. Co-Creation: participants share in creation of new artistic work	Contribute content to artistic product	Major artistic input	Final product is shaped by contributions of participants	Creation and performance of a play based on stories of a community	Gathering input, directing, guiding, presenting/exhibiting content
5. Participant - Driven: participants engage directly in the creative process, with or without involvement of arts professionals	Doing/ Practicing	Maximum artistic input	Product not necessarily required	Art-making workshops or classes where participants create or present work	Lightly facilitating/organizing