

USC Arts and Climate Collective 2021-22 – Submissions Guidelines

Building upon [our spring 2021 pilot](#), we are excited to make our second call for applications to the USC Arts and Climate Collective.

This exciting new program seeks to uplift the work of students and to build a diverse community of people at USC who are passionate about using the arts, media and culture to address urgent issues of environmental justice and sustainability.

In 2021-22, we are making awards of \$1,350* in addition to providing 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. We are enthusiastically seeking to support a variety of artforms and disciplines including but not limited to dance, music, architecture, visual arts, film and media, theatre, creative writing and podcasts.

Working together, our Collective aims to deepen understanding and shift behaviors, relationships and policies related to climate emergencies and university sustainability efforts. Awardees have the opportunity to develop their work by receiving guidance from faculty experts, and participate in monthly workshops featuring guest artists, scholars and environmental justice organizers.

We will invite awardees to publicly present previews of their work – whether a preview or the final version - during the week of Earth Day 2022 (April 22nd) and will support you as you continue your projects throughout 2022.

*Awards may be subject to tax withholdings - \$1,350 is the gross amount awarded

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. **Applications will be accepted between September 17th and October 29th, 2021 and awards will be announced during November.**

[To submit a proposal, applicants should complete this Google form.](#) You may supplement your letter with team bios, work samples and/or presentations as desired. We encourage team formation and collaborations with external partners, although individual projects are accepted as well. Once you've submitted an application, we may contact you to discuss your ideas in greater detail.

If awarded funding, we will ask you for additional information for the ACC website as well as a summary of your accomplishments and findings after your project concludes.

What makes a strong proposal?

We understand that your project may change and evolve during the course of its development as you encounter fresh perspectives and respond to challenges. This is a natural component of complex work and we do not therefore expect you to have every detail confirmed at the point of submitting a proposal.

Frequently, strong proposals provide a clear articulation of what the project is hoping to achieve and give consideration to how they will inspire and support dialogue and or action, whether among students, partners, or the general public. They demonstrate a genuine passion and/or interest in the sustainability issue that they're seeking to address and include some details of a process that is appropriate for meeting the project's goals. Strong proposals often feature meaningful collaboration with others (whether partners, faculty or fellow team members).

Looking for inspiration?

Take a look at the [students and projects](#) that currently comprise the USC Arts and Climate Collective, and read more about their work in [this piece from USC News](#).

To give you an idea, in 2021 the Collective's projects have included:

- A photography and storytelling exhibition in partnership with high-schoolers from Las Fotos Project that explores Boyle Heights' struggle for environmental justice, and where it stands today
- The Resilience Project, a series of short artworks that blend choreography, spoken word and original music to engage audiences with the scope of sustainability challenges and offer tangible solutions
- "If You're Feelin' Civic", a BIPOC community-led podcast and digital movement based in Phoenix, Arizona that centers environmental, social, and racial justice in its content, including critical community conversations that share perspectives on fighting for change.

Join us for [Regenerate: Communities for Climate Justice](#), a celebration of the first cohort and exploration of arts, climate change and community on October 6th.

Want to know more?

Sign up to attend one of our drop-in informational sessions hosted by the Collective's organizers: Annenberg Innovation Lab, Arts in Action and the Office of Sustainability.

Sessions will be offered on:

Friday October 8th, 12:00 P.M.

Wednesday October 20th, 6:00 P.M.

Attendance at these sessions 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 them – 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.