

Mobilize! Awards for USC Students - 2021-22

Many current instances of impactful civic activism center young people's leadership and courage at their core. Extinction Rebellion's resistance to climate fatalism; Hong Kong students' protesting of human rights violations; Youth Justice Coalition's challenge to L.A.'s current system of mass incarceration – these movements span issues and continents and are unwavering in their determination to achieve change.

USC Arts in Action's Mobilize! program offers awards of up to \$600* 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. All artforms are eligible for consideration.

We offer two deadlines for applying to Mobilize! each year – one on October 31st, and another on March 31st.

We are especially interested in supporting work that is collaborative and involves teams, potentially including non-USC partners. Students who receive awards are expected to:

1. Participate in a late spring roundtable event, at which they'll have an opportunity to reflect on their work with peers and explore additional opportunities for collaboration.
2. Meet with Arts in Action's Lead Producer three months from the date that they received their award to share progress and challenges. (We understand that projects are often complex and do not expect you to have met all your goals)
3. Complete a short summary report six months from the date of your award.

*Awards may be subject to tax withholdings - \$600 is the gross amount (pretax). Arts in Action is also obliged to verify that a student's financial aid will not be negatively impacted prior to making any award.

Looking for inspiration?

Funds can be used to support work addressing a range of issues, including but not limited to: voter engagement, public health messaging, mutual aid, 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.

You can read about the student projects that Mobilize! has previously supported on [page 14 of our recent report](#). Highlights include:

- The production of the GEN-ZiNE Election Guidebook for new voters, educating and engaging young and new voters ahead of the 2020 presidential election.
- *Till the end of the World*, a documentary series highlighting U.S. Generation Z climate activists, organizers, and educators to encourage an international audience to take action against climate change.

- Healing the Healer, a multi-session workshop series that integrated storytelling for social change through a guided discussion using anti-racist, healing justice, holistic, and mindfulness approaches.

How Do I Apply?

To apply, send a one-page letter to 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 award 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 meeting.

If you have questions, email us at artsinaction@usc.edu.