

MOBILIZE! AWARDS FOR USC STUDENTS SPRING 2024

Crossing continents, current events, and issues, much of today's fiercest and most powerful civic activism stems from the courage, leadership, and imagination of young people: Extinction Rebellion's resistance to climate fatalism in the U.K., Hong Kong students' protesting of human rights violations, Youth Justice Coalition's challenge to the current system of mass incarceration in Los Angeles.

To promote and channel the power of youth to affect social change, USC Arts in Action's Mobilize! program offers awards of up to \$500* for current students to channel their creativity toward activism and political engagement projects.

USC students of any major and year of study are eligible to apply, and all art forms are eligible for consideration. Projects can be by individual students or collaborations with recognized student organizations. We especially encourage collaborative work involving teams, including non-USC partners. Deadlines to apply are in October and March.

How To Apply

To apply, send a one-page letter to artsinaction@usc.edu by **11 p.m. Sunday, March 24**. We advise covering the following points:

- What? Clearly explain your project 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.
- Also include any other necessary information.

Before sending your email, we encourage you to discuss your project with someone who has a connection to the issue and can provide feedback. It could be a faculty member, staff from a campus organization, peers engaged in similar work, or partners from a local organization or collective.

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the Arts in Action and Visions and Voices, who will contact you with approval or feedback and steps you can take for approval.

Expectations

Students who receive a Mobilize! grant are expected to:

- Share progress with the lead producer at Arts in Action. We understand that projects can be complex and do not expect all goals to be met.
- Complete a survey within six months from the date of your grant being awarded.
- Participate in a roundtable event before the end of the school year, where you will have an opportunity to reflect on your work with other grantees and explore opportunities for collaboration.

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

—The Arts in Action Team

*Awards may be subject to tax withholdings. 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?

Mobilize! grants have been awarded to support USC students whose work addresses issues such as voter engagement, public health aid, systemic racism, police reform, and environmental and housing justice. You can find out more about past grantees on [page 14 our recent report](#) and read about types of projects below:

Events. At “Water Drop LA,” a student volunteer shared the local organization’s efforts to provide clean water to unhoused residents, farmworkers, and other marginalized communities, also inviting members of Polo’s Pantry, a mobile food pantry, to discuss the nuances of mutual aid, and showcasing the work of like-minded poets, musicians, dancers, and artists.

Workshops. Inspiring mindfulness of our bodies and addressing the chronic back pain that can come from sedentary lifestyles and habitual screen use, the “Back to Basics” workshop taught participants basic yoga stretches to combat it, followed by a creative body mapping activity bringing attention to pain points.

Art installations. The “Emotion Room” was an art activation that served as a communal and cathartic space for the USC student community to express their feelings of self-expression and vulnerability and address their emotional well-being.

Zines. *It’s Not Just Hair: An Exploration of a Black Woman’s Relationship to Her Crown* is an online publication about identity, aesthetics, and discrimination structured into three parts: history, information, and identification.