

## REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS FACULTY AND STUDENT GRANTS FOR ARTS IN ACTION 2024

### OVERVIEW

The mission of USC Arts in Action is to plant seeds for positive social change by creating and supporting intensive arts projects between community partners and USC faculty and students. Embodying USC's six unifying values and building on the University's commitment to addressing society's most intractable problems, projects span a wide range of creative disciplines to tackle systemic oppression and social issues, including homelessness, mass incarceration, systemic racism, sustainability and climate justice, educational inequity, health and wellness, and multiple forms of violence.

Arts in Action invites USC faculty and students to submit preliminary proposals for community-based projects that address social issues, bring people together, facilitate dialogue, and create spaces to imagine and design future change. Awarded grantees should begin their projects no earlier than February 1, 2024.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

- Faculty and current students from across USC are invited to apply. Please note that the primary applicant's home department or school must manage funding for awarded projects.
- 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.
- Students submitting a proposal must identify at least one faculty mentor as a key project team member. Faculty mentors should be willing to discuss the project with Arts in Action staff following the preliminary proposal stage if requested.
- **Returning Applicants**
  - Returning applicants may apply for funding for the same project for up to three consecutive years. We are especially interested in projects demonstrating growth and highlighting a new phase or development. Repeat funding is not guaranteed.
  - All grantees must complete the required grantee report at the end of the project. Returning applicants who have not completed the report will not be considered.
  - Returning applicants are not restricted from applying for and receiving additional Arts in Action grant funding if those funds are used for a new project. Applicants must demonstrate that the project serves another community, occurs in different spaces and times, and achieves fundamentally distinct programmatic outcomes.

## ARTS IN ACTION GRANT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

### Primary Criteria

- **Art Component.** Eligible disciplines include visual art and design, dramatic arts, cinematic arts, media arts, music, dance, and architecture. Projects involving multiple art forms are welcome and encouraged.
- **Collaboration.** Arts in Action projects are 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 a project’s impact and value.
- **Community Partnership.** All projects should include a minimum of one community partner. The proposed project should be developed with participation from the proposed partner(s), benefiting or addressing the needs of the community they serve.
- **Addressing a Social Issue(s).** The proposed project or applicant must demonstrate understanding and knowledge of the social issue(s) the project is addressing and identify the impacts of the proposed project.

### Additional Criteria

- Projects that center students’ involvement, provide opportunities for meaningful experiences, and further develop their artistic practice are strongly encouraged.
- Project engagements may include a free public sharing event, such as a workshop, performance, or service activity. Multiple public engagements and opportunities should be made available throughout the project. Preliminary proposals are not required to have all artistic engagements identified.
- Projects should include at least one identified community partnership, but preliminary proposals are not required to have community partners confirmed.
- Work that takes place off campus and in community settings is strongly encouraged.
- Proposals that demonstrate the feasibility of achieving the overall objectives and aspirations of the proposed project.
- Faculty proposals are not required to include a class component.
- Awarded projects are expected to credit USC Arts in Action in all printed and web material (i.e., flyers, posters, programs, websites, etc.) related to their funded project.

### WHAT WE DON’T FUND

- Faculty courses and Maymasters are not funded by Arts in Action, but project proposals may include a course component. If a course component is included, courses should be open to students outside the department. Proposals that include courses offered to all USC students will be prioritized.
- Arts in Action cannot fund standalone projects such as film productions, event-based projects (i.e., conferences, concerts, festivals, fairs), and art commissions. Events may only be included when intended as a project engagement that demonstrates the collaborative process and supports the project’s larger purpose. (See the “Modes of Participation” grid

on page 4 for further guidance. Arts in Action supports projects that include modes of participation 3 – 5 on the grid.)

## HOW TO APPLY

Interested teams of faculty and students should send the following:

- A 500-word preliminary proposal that clearly describes the project, its objectives and anticipated outcomes, and how it aligns with Arts in Action’s mission.
- A 100-word abstract that clearly describes the project (e.g., a series of workshops, a piece of collectively created public art, a youth program in partnership with local schools, etc.).
- Each team member’s biography and contact details, including email and phone numbers.

**An information session will be offered on Wednesday, August 30, at 2 p.m. via Zoom.**

To attend the session, RSVP to [artsinaction@usc.edu](mailto:artsinaction@usc.edu) by Monday, August 28.

**Preliminary proposals should be sent to [artsinaction@usc.edu](mailto:artsinaction@usc.edu) by Monday, October 2, 2023, at 11:00 p.m.** The entire proposal should be in a single Word document or PDF.

Following an initial review of preliminary proposals by the Arts in Action Review Committee, applicants invited to submit a full proposal will be provided with information about the application and review process. \*If invited to submit a full proposal, applicants must submit a letter of support from their school’s chair or dean.

## KEY DATES

August 30, 2023, at 2 p.m.: Information session

October 2, 2023, at 11:00 p.m.: Deadline for preliminary proposals

Late October: Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal

November 30, 2023: Full proposals due

January 2024: Awardees notified

February 1, 2024. Earliest date for project commencement

## Appendix I: Current Arts in Action Projects

Arts in Action is currently supporting eight faculty/and or student-driven projects—grant amounts range from \$5,000 to \$30,000. Information about 2023 Arts in Action projects can be found at [artsinaction.usc.edu/project](https://artsinaction.usc.edu/project).

## Appendix II: Modes of Participation Grid

This breakdown of “modes of participation” was 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
<b>1. Observational:</b> participants receive finished work presented by arts professionals	Watching/ Viewing	None	No contribution by participants	Performance/ Exhibit	Sole Author, Presenting/Exhibiting Content
<b>2. Observational Learning:</b> 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
<b>3. Co-Presentation:</b> 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
<b>4. Co-Creation:</b> 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
<b>5. Participant - Driven:</b> 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