USC Arts & Climate Collective 2022 – Submissions Guidelines

Scroll to the bottom for information about **upcoming information sessions!**

Program Overview

We are excited to make our third call for applications to the Arts & Climate Collective at USC!

This exciting 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.

We award $1,350 (pre-tax) in addition to providing mentorship, programming and networking to students and/or teams of students for new and in-progress arts and media projects. We enthusiastically seek to support a wide variety of forms and practices including but not limited to dance, music, architecture, visual arts, journalism, film and media, technology, theater, design, creative writing and podcasts.

Working together, our Collective aims to deepen understanding and shift behaviors, relationships and policies related to the climate emergency and university sustainability efforts. Awardees have the opportunity to develop their work by receiving guidance from faculty experts and each other; to participate in workshops featuring guest artists, scholars and organizers; and to connect with others who have complementary interests, perspectives and practices.

Awardees are invited to publicly present their work – whether a preview or the final version - around Earth week 2023 and will continue to be part of the ACC community thereafter.

How to apply...

Got an idea? We want to hear from you! All current USC students (regardless of discipline or degree program or stage) are eligible and encouraged to apply. Awards will be made to individuals or small teams. **Applications will be accepted between August 29th and September 18th, 2022 with awards announced in October.**

Submit a proposal via this Google form. The application is designed to be helpful for planning your project and quick to complete. It asks for…
- Demographics: class standing, school department(s), and program of study
- An overview of your proposed project
- Explanation of the problem you're trying to address
- Intended audience
- Your plan (or initial steps)
- What you hope to achieve

- Possible partnerships
- What you are looking for
- How your identity/identities shape your interest in sustainability (this question is optional)

You may supplement your letter with team bios, work samples and/or presentations. We welcome team formation and collaborations with external partners in addition to individual projects. 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?

It depends…but frequently strong proposals provide a clear articulation of what the project is hoping to achieve, giving consideration to how they will inspire and support dialogue and/or action. They clearly consider their target audience, even though their work may have broader reach. 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. They acknowledge (and perhaps address) project risks and uncertainties. Because the work is hard to realize alone, strong proposals often feature meaningful collaboration with others (whether partners, faculty or fellow team members).

We expect that your project will change and evolve during the course of its development as you encounter fresh perspectives, hidden opportunities and respond to emergent challenges. This is a natural component of complex and ambitious work and we do not therefore expect you to have every detail confirmed at the application. Indeed, it is this process that makes the ACC community so valuable to creators.

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](#).

Watch the video about [Cohort 1](#) here and [Cohort 2](#) here!

Follow us on Instagram @artsclimatecollective

To give you ideas, in 2021 and 2022, the Collective's projects 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 Resilence 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.

• USC In*terra*-gate, a multi-media process piece engaging in a critical spatial analysis of the University of Southern California campus and surrounding neighborhoods to unpack the ways in which development patterns, urban design, and land relations impact the experiences of USC and non-USC affiliated community members in the area.

• *Little Life*, a series of naturalist poetry and prose written on hand-recycled paper containing the materials and memories that inspired them. It was produced following one of many writing workshops in the series "Prose Overgrows," aimed at inspiring LAUSD students to engage in their own creative reflections on the environment.

Join us for *Regenerate: Communities for Climate Justice*, a celebration of prior awardee's progress and exploration of arts, climate change and community on October 3rd. More information coming on our social media pages.

Information about the financial award

Awards are subject to tax withholdings. $1,350 is the gross amount awarded, and the amount that students receive after taxes is generally around $1,000.

While awardees are announced in October, disbursing funds takes time. Awardees should expect to receive funding in December 2022 or January 2023.

Funding can be used for all sorts of things! Here are some examples of what prior awardees have used theirs for:
- To hire an animator for a short documentary
- To compensate folks with lived experience and lived expertise to ethically include their perspectives in a podcast
- To pay for equipment rentals, post-production costs, gas, costumes, makeup, and meals on set for a short film
- To fund partnerships with community orgs

Want to know more?

Information Sessions will be offered on:

#1 Wednesday, August 31, 2022 1 PM - 2 PM

#2 Friday, September 09, 2022 12 PM - 1 PM

#3 Thursday, September 15, 2022 5 PM - 6 PM

Zoom Link:
https://usc.zoom.us/j/98031136809?pwd=dGo5TWw1OVlEMSs2TkQrV1dZdjZvZz09

Password: ACC

Attendance at these sessions is not a requirement for submitting a proposal but may help to clarify your ideas, identify potential partners, make new friends and otherwise get a sense of the ACC. You're free to come and go at any point – we're looking forward to hearing what you're interested in!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at ArtsCC@usc.edu