

# Art for Science Rising

## Call for Entries

**WHAT:** The Union of Concerned Scientists will award grants to artists across the country who submit winning proposals for public-facing art that highlights the role science plays in protecting our health and safety, and the critical role we all play in ensuring that science isn't sidelined. The art and accompanying actions will be staged as part of Science Rising, a national movement working to ensure that science is front and center in decision making processes that affect us all.

**BACKGROUND:** Every day, our health and well-being depend on decisions that are based on science. We rely on evidence-based public policy for everything from the safety of the food we buy at the store to the quality of the air we breathe.

But science can be manipulated for political and financial gain. If we're not paying attention, research budgets get slashed, industry lobbyists replace scientists at agencies like the EPA, and politically inconvenient findings are suppressed. Science Rising is mobilizing people to get involved and take action to make sure science and evidence are part of our government's decisionmaking process.

*It just took us about 100 words to describe this idea. And that's why scientists need artists.*

We want you to create public-facing art that communicates why science is vital to our democracy—and inspires people to take action for science. UCS will partner with many of the selected artists in promotional efforts.

**GRANT AMOUNTS:** \$10,000 per artist. We will award up to \$50,000 in total grants. Materials should be included in the grant amount, but a supplemental materials budget will be considered.

### ART GUIDELINES:

1. We are looking primarily for outdoor work, visible and bold, in public areas. For example, paintings on buildings, sculptures in parks, video projections, large-scale photography, multimedia installations, or something else beyond our imagination. Something that will be seen by large numbers of people, in a location of your choice. A limited number of high-visibility, high-trafficked indoor locations will also be considered.

2. Because we are a nonpartisan nonprofit, we cannot accept partisan commentary or work that supports or opposes candidates for office, or current officeholders.
3. The art should be entirely or mostly visual. That is, we won't accept songs, poems, or other written work. However, you may include music, movement, or written elements in your pieces if you desire.
4. The art should communicate how crucial science is to our health and safety. The work should have urgency and specificity. We are not looking for generic pieces about how science is cool, or good for the planet.
5. Because we want to inspire people to take action, we encourage you to include at least an element of hope and optimism. Edgier submissions will be considered, but please stay away from despair.
6. The artwork must be produced so it can be documented through photography, video, and/or audio recording. We plan to share images of chosen works with a wider audience on social media.
7. We care about accurate representation and will not consider submissions that rely on stereotypes about scientists, gender, or race.

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:** Please include in your submission:

1. A one-paragraph statement about why you feel you are a good candidate for this grant.
2. A description of the art you would like to create and how it would be staged. This should not exceed 500 words.
3. Background on yourself and images of 10 previous works. Please specify medium, size, and year of creation. For any public-facing art you've created, include a description of the location in which it is installed. (500 mb per EntryThingy standard protocol)
4. A proposed budget for creating and staging the work. The \$10,000 grant is inclusive of materials, but there is the potential for a supplemental materials budget if the project warrants it.
5. Estimated timeline. Final product must be staged no later than October 1, 2018.
6. Confirmation of availability of the public space, venue, building owner, or wherever else you might stage the art. Include a short description of how you will gain official permissions/permits, and how long the art will be installed (length can vary).
7. Ways your project can engage members of your community in the Science Rising movement. Outreach to diverse audiences is encouraged.
8. How your piece might inspire people to take action to support science.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: May 15, 2018

ART INSTALLATION DEADLINE: Any time up until October 1, 2018.

SUBMIT ENTRIES AT: [www.sciencerising.org/art-for-science-rising/](http://www.sciencerising.org/art-for-science-rising/)

RULES AND INFORMATION: The artists will own all rights to their work, including any decision to sell a piece after February 1, 2019. UCS has full rights to promote all art and images in perpetuity, including online, in fundraising materials (such as free calendars), etc.

EVALUATION PROCESS: A jury of artists and science communicators will select the grantees based on the visual impact of the proposed art, the potential to inspire action, the ability to reach large numbers of people, and how it may reach diverse audiences. We will inform those selected by June 1, 2018.

ABOUT US: The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planet's most pressing problems. Joining with people across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future. Learn more at [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org)

Science Rising is an independent, nationwide mobilization effort set to take place throughout 2018 in the run-up to the midterm elections. It is not a march—it is a series of local actions, events, and activities designed with one purpose in mind: to ensure that science is front and center in the decisions that affect us all. Learn more at [www.sciencerising.org](http://www.sciencerising.org).

For additional questions contact: [artforscience@ucsusa.org](mailto:artforscience@ucsusa.org)