

ARTS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Community Connections - Graduate Fellowships
Call for Applications
Deadline: May 27, 2021

The arts offer a unique way to understand the world that connects and surrounds us. Far from being mere ornament, the arts enable us to step out of our ordinary field of vision. We experience different perspectives; we are moved, inspired and renewed. An authentic experience with the arts can be transformative. More than this, the arts can be a key element in bringing people from divergent viewpoints together to create vibrant communities, in which many voices are heard and welcomed, and society itself can be transformed.

The newly launched Arts and Community Engagement initiative in the UC San Diego Division of Arts and Humanities is pleased to announce the second round of a Community Connections, a fellowship competition for graduate students. Community Connections projects seek to create meaningful partnerships with community organizations, with an eye toward education, engagement and/or divergent experiences with the visual and performing arts. The awards will enable students to carry out clearly defined projects related to the student's area of interest, in collaboration with community partners, providing students with an opportunity to build community through the arts while also gaining practical experience that may influence the students' areas of research, academic focus or career trajectory.

The fellowships are student-initiated. Applicants must identify the community organizations with which they will work, and the parameters, objectives, goals and expected outcomes of their proposed activity. Strong proposals will include equity, diversity and inclusion in the narrative. We encourage creative projects that expand UC San Diego's impact in the community. Note: once accepted, significant changes to proposals (e.g., new partner organization, alternate activity) are not permitted.

We invite you to explore the work of the five inaugural Community Connections Fellows on the Arts and Community Engagement webpage: [Community Connections Fellowship \(ucsd.edu\)](https://www.ucsd.edu/artsandcommunityengagement/fellowships).

Eligibility: Full-time, enrolled UC San Diego arts (departments of Music, Visual Arts, Theatre and Dance, Literature-Program in Writing) master's degree, MFA, Ph.D. or DMA students who are in good academic standing.

Award Amount: The stipend will be up to \$3,000. The award is intended to support costs associated with the project. The timing and method of distribution will be determined after discussion with the student's home department.

Award Period: Activities can begin as early as June 15, 2021 and should be brought to completion by January 15, 2022.

Application Process: Please submit an electronic application with the following information:

- Project Narrative (two pages maximum). This should include a description of the activity, your evaluation plan, and a paragraph of how the intended activity is consistent with the vision and mission of Arts and Community Engagement.
- CV (two pages maximum)
- Collaboration letter from your community partner
- Simple budget
- Contact information (phone number and email) for two references

Please send all application materials in a single PDF file (and any questions) to sbedia@ucsd.edu with a subject line, "Community Connections Graduate Fellowship: [Name of Applicant]".

Award Process: Awardees will be notified by June 10, 2021. Arts and Community Engagement will coordinate with the students' home department to transfer the funds.¹

Reporting Process: We will be asking Fellows to keep us informed about the progress of your projects with short updates on a bi-monthly basis, so that we can spread the word about your project to a wider audience. These updates can take many forms: a short paragraph, images, video/soundcapture, etc.

We will also ask for a final report to be submitted in January 2022; a short paragraph and any media that you would like to share. You are encouraged to submit supporting material in other formats (audio/video/photographs) in order to help us gain a better understanding of your project.

If there is a community activity associated with the event, please contact us with the information and we will do our best to attend. Additionally, this report will be compiled as part of our annual submission to the Division of Arts and Humanities dean, and the content may be used on our website and additional digital platforms.

¹ The stipends are payable upon approval from the individual student's home department to ensure that the stipend will not exceed the Graduate Division or departmental maximum earnings limit.