



Announcement of Faculty Grants for USC Visions and Voices 2026–2027

Request for Preliminary Proposals

Focus:

A key priority of USC Visions and Voices is to affirm what is most meaningful and most enduring within the human spirit. As the original announcement of Visions and Voices put it, “There is a difference between knowledge transfer and an academic community. Knowledge transfer you can get anywhere. But we are interested in creating the best possible environment and culture for education, for transformation.” Visions and Voices calls upon all USC students to engage the arts and humanities—regardless of a student’s areas of study.

Visions and Voices embodies the values of the university and provides students with an outstanding opportunity to examine their own relationship to these values on a personal level. The arts and humanities bring these values to life, illuminating their complexities and nuances.

During the past 19 years, Visions and Voices has presented an exciting and diverse series of events each year, all funded by the Provost’s Office. The series continues, and each year includes many wonderful programs proposed and developed by faculty. *We are now requesting preliminary proposals from USC faculty for the 2026–2027 event series—the 21st season of Visions and Voices.* These events will continue to broaden the engagement of USC students with the arts and humanities and affirm the university’s commitment to the central role these disciplines play in public life.

As we plan for next year, we encourage you to be creative and propose events that are not only of high quality, but also imaginative and impactful. Events can span a broad array of formats, including performances, lectures, screenings, workshops, and dynamic conversations. Each event should facilitate discussion of USC’s six unifying values through a meaningful encounter with the arts and/or humanities. We encourage well-defined individual events but will also consider series of two to three events across the year. Performance events will need to incorporate a formal discussion or reflective component. All events should address a broad audience with a primary focus on USC students and also enhance USC’s profile as a leader in the arts and humanities. The Provost’s Office will provide substantial funding for several faculty-initiated events during the 2026–2027 academic year. While grant amounts vary, budgets typically range from \$10,000 to \$40,000. Executive Director Daria Yudacufski and her team will work closely with grant recipients to support and promote each event. However, primary and substantial responsibility for event planning and production will reside with the grant recipient. Budgets will be managed by the grant recipient’s school.

Preliminary Proposals

Faculty or teams of faculty who are interested in applying for these funds should submit a preliminary proposal that clearly describes the event and its relationship to the initiative's goals; an abstract; and a biography for each team member by Monday, October 6, 2025. The link to the application is included below. In the proposal, please describe the event, why it would be of interest to students, how it will contribute to their exploration of USC's unifying values, and how it facilitates meaningful faculty/student interaction. Events that include student organizations, individual students, or staff as team members are particularly encouraged as are events that dovetail with curricular initiatives while also reaching beyond a single school. Following an initial review of the preliminary proposals, the faculty advisory committee will provide select applicants with information about the full application and review process.

Informational Session

Monday, September 15, at 1 p.m.

Zoom details will be shared with those who RSVP.

Applicants are encouraged to participate in this informational session and Q&A to learn more about Visions and Voices, the event production process, and what it takes to create a successful proposal and event.

To RSVP, email visionsandvoices@usc.edu

Deadlines

Monday, October 6, 2025, 5:00 PM: Preliminary proposals due

December 2025: Request for full applications sent out to successful applicants

January 2026: Full proposals due

March 2026: Successful applicants notified

April 2026: Event dates, times, and locations finalized

Assessment Criteria

Primary Criteria:

1. Quality and perception: How will the event be of high quality, and how will it be perceived as such?
2. Discussion of core values: How does the event relate to USC's six unifying values, and how will it incorporate discussion and reflection on these and related values?
3. Student interest and participation: How will the event attract broad student interest? If students are members of the team proposing the event, how have they been involved in conceptualizing the event? How might students be part of the event itself?
4. Feasibility: Can the event be successfully produced and completed in the estimated time?

Secondary Criteria:

1. How will the event promote faculty/student interaction?
2. How does the event connect to broader curricular goals?
3. How will the event enhance USC's reputation as a leader in the arts and humanities?

How to Apply

USC Visions and Voices is using [Common Grant Application](#) to manage the faculty grant process. Please register or begin your 2026–2027 application at one of the following links:

- [Register as a first-time user](#)
- [Log in as a returning user](#)

Contact Person

Contact Professor Tara McPherson, Faculty Committee Chair, at tmcphers@usc.edu with questions.

USC's Six Unifying Values

At USC, **six unifying values** support our University's mission. As Trojans we will:

Act with integrity in the pursuit of excellence. Embrace our vibrant community and promote well-being. Engage in open communication and be accountable for living our values.

- **Integrity: *We do the right thing***
Our words, decisions and actions align with and are guided by our values, honesty, and ethical principles.
- **Excellence: *We bring our best selves***
Our words, decisions and actions align with and are guided by our values, honesty, and ethical principles.
- **Community: *We all belong***
We are a vibrant learning community. We thrive because we know that differences are strengths, and that mutual respect and equal opportunity are central to successful learning, research, and creativity. Discrimination is not tolerated.
- **Well-being: *We honor the whole person***
We create a caring culture that fosters our ability to thrive in mind, body, and spirit as essential to the sustainable pursuit of USC's mission.
- **Open Communication: *We share openly and honestly***
We actively listen and communicate in a clear, honest, timely and accessible manner and provide opportunities for safe, respectful dialogue and interaction.
- **Accountability: *We take responsibility***
At all levels of the university, we set clear expectations and take responsibility for our actions, decisions, outcomes, and consequences.

More detail can be found [here](#).