

APPLICATION INFORMATION



The Artist + Researcher Exhibition (ARx) aims to bring local science communication to a broader audience allowing for complex topics to be understood by the masses.

This program is focused on a true **collaboration** between one researcher and one artist. *This is not a commissioned piece of art.* This is a true master class for both the researcher and the artist to come up with an idea for a piece of art that represents research. The topic / muse is led by the researcher and the fabrication is led by the artist, but both should play a role in all aspects of this program.

The program allows for selected participants to play a role in who they are teamed up with and once paired each team is given an honorarium for supplies and 9 months to work together to create their piece. Each team's piece will be displayed at multiple venues as a collection. There will be at least two events where each team will be asked to give a 5-minute presentation about their experience, the process and the meaning behind the piece.



Through collaboration expertise can transform into collective wisdom.



Collaboration is the foundation for the Artist + Researcher Exhibition (ARx) Program. ARx brings together the creative power of artists and the intellectual rigor of researchers to translate complex scientific concepts into accessible, engaging concepts through art. The dynamic process in which ARx participants engage creates a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary collaboration, where scientists inspire the reason and process behind creating art, while artists amplify understanding as well as the impact of potential outcomes within research.

We invite individuals to apply who can enter the experience with an open mind and willingness to work in a true collaboration. The positive feedback from former participants are all connected to a willingness to let go of what they thought would happen and push themselves towards a transformative way of listening, thinking, creating and talking about science and art.



ARx PHX: Past Participant Experiences

Bill Dambrova

Artist, ARx1: Invisible War

"In general I think artists and scientists should team up to brainstorm and get different perspectives on the scientists' science and the artists' art the way we did with your program. Our brains can be very different in terms of how we learn and perceive things.

The feedback [our team received] from sufferers of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) was very positive and I was told by my researchers that for some just seeing the artwork helped them in certain ways.

My painting made the cover of the Open Journal of Occupational therapy and I was interviewed by a writer for an article in the magazine. Stuff I talked about with my researchers made it into NAU's magazine as well."

Mary Lucking

Artist, ARx2 Message in a Bottle

I applied to the program with the hopes that I would get some insight into an interesting world that was new to me. It did that in spades. The project opened up new creative directions in my work, and connected me with interesting, passionate people in downtown Phoenix.

Two of the pieces I made were a technical stretch for me, so I reached out to a local jewelry teacher for help in bringing my pieces to life.

Suzanne Whitaker

Artist, ARx2 "Now, Go Be Normal"

"As an artist, I think of myself as a communicator, using visual images (and words, at times). I am a sponge for information about so many things and my gift is that I can transmute issues, information, thoughts, emotions, into visuals that others can respond to. But, for me, the benefit of a program such as this is having learned one more or many things that I didn't know before. In this specific case, I knew nothing about the foster care system. I am the one who grew the most from the knowledge I gained from the research. And my heart expanded in the process. That is the largest impact of all. I am better for it."

Anne Titlebaum

Associate Professor, Educator Scholar, University of Arizona College of Medicine - Phoenix
Biological Anthropology, ARx2 Message in a Bottle

"The process made me more aware of what different audiences find interesting about the research process and results. I have also become more aware of how I discuss/describe my research, so that I may tailor my discourse to my audience. I presented 2 talks so far at national/international meetings, and there will be one more in years to come."

Chad Strecher

Assistant Professor, ASU College of Health Solutions

Behavioral Economics, ARx2 Future Health Outcomes: The Rise of Experimental Behavior Health Economics

"ARx has expanded the types of information and approaches that I am currently utilizing in my research studies. Our work also sparked new ideas about a future where wearables could become fashionable and provide an outlet for creative expression, which has expanded the types of behavioral mechanisms that I am considering targeting through interventions that use wearable health devices. Additionally, our discussions forced me to distill my research agenda and findings into a few key points, which has proven to be very helpful for my tenure personal statement, talking to new researchers at conferences, and talking with NIH program officers."

Vinodh Narayanan

Clinical Professor and Medical Director, TGen - Center for Rare Childhood Disorders
Rett Syndrome, ARx2: The Mirror

"I gained a new perspective in the disorder, Rett syndrome. How others may see the children and adults affected by this disorder. Opened my eyes and made me more sensitive to what patients and families are going through."

THE PROCESS

ARx comprises four seasons: Preparation Season, Collaboration and Fabrication Season, Launch Season and Opt-In Tour Season. The first three seasons are required and the fourth is optional. ⚠️ - denotes attendance is required

PREPARATION SEASON

The Preparation Season is where participants apply, are selected, engage in a speed dating style meet and greet with the full cohort to find who they connect with. Participants vote on who they would like to work alongside and then the Phila ARx Committee uses those votes to pair teammates who have a mutual interest in working together.

TIMELINE

September 22, 2025: ARx PHL Application Open

October 15, 2025: ARx Application Close

October 20, 2025: Selection Committee Meeting: ARx Participant Selection

November 3, 2025: ARx Applicants notified via email

⚠️ **November 7, 2025:** Deadline for headshot and personal bio to be included in a look book sent out prior to the Meet & Greet event. Participants are also asked to register for a mandatory virtual meeting to go over the program's requirements.

November 13, 2025: Participants are emailed the ARx Look Book

⚠️ **November 20, 2025:** Meet & Greet - An in-person event very similar to a speed dating experience. The purpose of the event is to meet everyone in the cohort and then rank who you would like to work alongside in this program.

January 5, 2026: ARx Committee Meeting: Team Pairing - Using participants preference in teammates provided after the Meet & Greet event, teams will be created with pairs that are as close to participants' top choices as possible.

January 8, 2026: Participants notified via email of their teammate, team number and introduced to where information will be collected throughout the next season. Participants are encouraged to begin collaboration at this time.

THE PROCESS

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COLLABORATION & FABRICATION SEASON

Collaboration & Fabrication Season: Teams are notified of who their teammates are and encouraged to begin collaborating immediately. This could be face to face meetings at the studio, lab, coffee shop or even Zoom. Whatever you choose, it's required to meet at least 4 times. \$1,000 honorariums (\$1,000 per team) are provided in the beginning of 2026 and fabrication begins when your team has decided on a concept. March - May your team is required to register for a studio visit where the Committee members will be invited to join your team in the studio, lab or wherever you choose to discuss the progress of your work, answer questions, offer support and notify you on next steps leading into the Launch Season.

TIMELINE

January - July 2026: Teammates begin collaboration and fabrication

February 2026: Honorarium delivered

(!) **March - May 2026:** Teams host the ARx Committee for a Studio Visit

August 1, 2026: Art Piece is complete and information is collected for marketing, installation and preparation for team presentation purposes

LAUNCH SEASON

Launch Season: This is go time. Your work is completed and we begin the information collection period of this program. We ask you to provide details about the piece, including price, dimensions and installation instructions as well as you and your teammates description of the work, insights on what it was like working together as well as any interesting information you learned about your work, or how you look at your work differently. This information will be used for marketing the program on the website as well as help you prepare to give a collaborative 5 minute presentation about the work live during the opening event series: The First Look, The Deep Dive and the Live event. Artists will be asked to install the work at uCity Square and a second location, TBD.

Launch Season Timeline continued on next page

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LAUNCH SEASON TIMELINE

July 15, 2026: Information and behind the scenes imagery is collected about the piece as well as your teammates' process and experience with the program.

- (!) **End of August 2026:** Installation at uCity Square. Daily Foot Traffic: life science faculty, students. The exhibition will be located in the building's entry lobby which is open to the general public.
- (!) **Early September 2026:** ARx First Look Event. *An invitation sent to friends, family and colleagues and those following the program itself. It is an event considered as a rehearsal event for teammate presentations. Location: uCity Square*
- (!) **Late October or Early November 2026:** ARx Live Event (This is considered the debut event, a larger marketing push is made for this event in addition to being the major fundraising opportunity for the program)

OPT-IN TOUR SEASON

Opt-In Tour Season: From January through June, participants will have the opportunity to exhibit their work at any one of a number of exhibit spaces.

TIMELINE

January - July 2027: Potential exhibition tour locations in the Greater Philadelphia region where participants can opt-in to showcasing their work when locations are announced. For example, locations may include

- Philadelphia Airport
- The Museum of Science
- ICA at Penn

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Artist and Researcher Requirements

- ⓘ • Attend the Meet and Greet event on November 20, 2025.
- Collaboration by participating in regular meetings with your counterpart via Zoom or in person.
- ⓘ • Register and attend a studio visit where the committee meets with your team halfway through the collaboration and fabrication season.
- Sign a media consent form for photography and videos with your likeness to be used for promotion of this program.
- Submit additional information on the completed work in order for the uCity Square team to promote the exhibition and program.
- ⓘ • Attend the First Look event at uCity Square.
- ⓘ • Attend the Live Event at TBD.
- Collaborate with your teammate to prepare and deliver a 5 minute presentation live at the First Look as well as the Live Event.
- ⓘ • Register for a time and show up to film your 2 - 5 min presentation to be edited and placed online on your team's landing page within the ARx website.

Additional Requirements For Researchers

- Must be either a published researcher, scholar or clinician educator engaged in the biomedical, health care, or life sciences field.
- Priority will be given to researchers in the Greater Philadelphia area.
- University affiliation is not required.
- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Participation will include regular virtual and in-person meetings with the artist during the collaborative period.
- Researchers will have first priority to purchase their team's artwork until the public opening.

Additional Artist Requirements

- Priority will be given to those based in the Greater Philadelphia area.
- Must be a professional artist (meaning regularly sells their artwork).
- Must be at least 18 years old.
- Must provide retail price, dimensions, weight and other material information on your work of art.
- Must agree to your piece traveling to different locations August - December 2026 with the option to participate in locations January - July 2027. Locations & venue limitations will be communicated as soon as they are confirmed. With each location, we require that the artist provides installation instructions for each location and sign contracts with each venue the exhibition travels. If desired, we encourage you to insure your work.
- Artwork must be ready for installation prior to the First Look event
- Must provide hardware, instruments, display cases, extension cords and any other material required for the installation or deinstallation of the piece.
- Must be available to install your work at multiple locations and provide detailed instructions for installation. Some venues may provide assistance with installation, but in most instances, the artist will install the work personally.
- Has not participated in the program in the past three years.
- Understand and agree to the special circumstances and requirements when showcasing your work at the show locations.
- ANY ALL MEDIUMS ARE WELCOME (ex. paint, dance, music, video, photo, sculpture, etc.)

Notes from uCity Square

uCity Square is excited to be the initial host for the art that results from this collaboration. Display brings a whole new audience and potential for hands-on interaction with your work.

- Artwork must be family-friendly and appropriate for all ages.
- Artwork must be deemed safe and durable by install team.
- Artists need to acknowledge that artwork will be unsupervised in an unlocked space open to the public.
- For the safety of guests and the artwork it may be secured and protected with a casing or suspended.
- Artwork should be viewable at eye height and no more than 10 feet tall.
- Studio visit with install team to including instruction on how best to install it.
- Liability waiver will be required - uCity Square is not responsible for damage by guests
- Locale will not provide assistance with repair
- 2.5 minute intro videos are ideal
- Accessible description of the research component for a handout or website where guests can learn more
- Artist responsible for active participation during installation
- uCity Square must be credited in marketing and PR
- Timeline for use of photos - in perpetuity
- Interactive experiences are preferred.
 - Including virtual interaction is highly encouraged.

ARx PHL Selection Committee

Committee members were chosen from a range of relevant backgrounds. They are passionate about both the arts and the sciences in Philadelphia, and have strong connections to professionals in the region.

- Angela McQuillan: Artist, Designer, Curator
- Ben Doranz: President of Integral Molecular
- Val Gay: Philadelphia Arts and Culture Chief
- Briana Cannon: Community Engagement Director at the Science Center
- Carsten Skarke: Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine, Penn (Experimental Therapeutics)
- Travis Sheridan: Chief Community Officer, Wexford
- Kiersten Mailler: Knowledge Community Director, uCity Square

APPLICATION PROCESS

The ARx Phl Committee will be scoring applications based on this rubric.

Applications Open September 22, 2025

Applications Close October 15, 2025

Committee selection meeting October 20, 2025

ARxPhl applicants notified no later than November 3, 2025

VIDEO SUBMISSION

If you would prefer to submit your application via video, Make sure your video presentation follows this order:

- State the question first
- Provide your answer.

Submit video by emailing Kiersten Mailler
kiersten.mailler@wexfordscitech.com

Rubric for Artists and Researchers ARx Applications

Name: _____

Total Score _____ /24

	0	1	2	3	4
A Level of excitement for program	None	Limited	Neutral	Moderate	Exceptional
B Experience with collaborative projects	None	Limited	Basic	More than some	Very collaborative <input type="text"/>
C Ability to Communicate	None	Limited	Neutral	Moderate	Exceptional
D Interest in trying something new / personal growth	None	Limited	Neutral	Moderate	Exceptional
E Inspirational narrative	None	Limited	Standard	Moderate	Very impactful
F Level of commitment to this program	None	Limited	Standard	Moderate	Exceptional