

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY  
**RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM**

The UC San Diego Research Communications Program invites applications for mini-grants for projects that communicate about science and mathematics to non-specialist audiences, including the media, policy makers, teachers, K-12 and community college students, parents, general publics and lifelong learners.

**Who may apply?**

UC San Diego faculty in the Physical and Biological Sciences. Faculty may apply individually or as a co-PI with postdocs, students or others. Individuals are permitted to be part of more than one proposal submission.

**What kinds of projects are eligible?**

Projects may endeavor to communicate specific science or mathematics concepts, to provide insight into the nature or history of the discipline, to tell the story of your research journey, or to increase appreciation for the beauty of science or mathematics. Ideally, the project will illuminate your area of research. The mini-grant may support the creation of a multimedia deliverable or other costs related to reaching public audiences, such as (but not limited to) the following:

- Payment to an artist (or Visual Arts student) to work with you to develop a visual metaphor of your work.
- Salary for an undergraduate ICAM (Interdisciplinary Computing and the Arts Major) student to help create an animation about your problem-solving process.
- Funds to record a mathematically themed musical piece.
- Support to develop tools for outreach to neuro-diverse learners.

Public audiences MUST be the primary focus of the project because this is the goal of the grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation that funds the Research Communications Program; however, any deliverables created for publics may also be used at your discretion, for example in undergraduate courses, in presentations to colleagues, as journal cover art or in research grant proposals.

**Review criteria**

The review committee must be convinced that the proposed project will improve the communication of science or mathematics to at least one non-specialist audience. We hope these mini-grants will afford an opportunity to develop new visual metaphors or other creative means that will inspire new audiences.

**Timeline**

Proposals will be considered on a rolling basis.

Projects should ideally be completable within two quarters of being funded.

**Proposal format**

Provide a brief proposal (approximately **one page in total**) with the following information:

1. Concise, lay-language summary of the science or mathematics to be communicated;

2. Audience to be reached and where and how the audience will be reached;
3. Clear description of the project, including anticipated timeline and deliverables;
4. Team members' names, positions and project roles (biosketches not needed);
5. Itemized budget with justification for each item.

### **Other requirements**

The Research Communications Program will meet with each grantee both to check in on project progress and to solicit input on how the Research Communications Program can better support faculty.

The Research Communications Team would like to work with you to record a short video about your work after the completion of the project. Our team can support you with practice and feedback, and cover the cost of producing the video, which does not need to be included in your grant budget. (We are also willing to work with you to develop a short video about your work, even if you do not wish to apply for a mini-grant.)

### **Amount available**

We are anticipating proposals in the \$1,000-\$3,000 range, but larger proposals are permitted. Submit your proposal as a PDF to Sherry Seethaler, [sseethaler@ucsd.edu](mailto:sseethaler@ucsd.edu) . If you have any questions, please feel free to contact her.