

PALLAS: Building a network of artists & scientists

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Many scientific disciplines, including geochemistry, rely on art to communicate key findings with the general public. Artistic works flow through society differently from scientific publications, reaching wide general audiences while also connecting science to local communities. Powerful art can raise emotions and help establish trust in science, especially on critical issues such as climate and environmental change. Additionally, art plays an important role in fostering creativity and inclusion, making science as a discipline more accessible and diverse. Art can promote science literacy, create interest in STEM education, and convey more diverse perspectives on our relationship to the Earth and environment. Despite being critical to scientific communication, art is often undervalued as an integrated part of the scientific process, reflecting societal inequalities between the sciences and the humanities. The use of generative AI—an emerging symptom of the aforementioned attitude—further undermines the importance of the artist–scientist connection rather than encouraging an abundance of art in science. It is thus incumbent upon scientists to integrate artists as valued partners in their science.

We will present our website project, the PortAL Linking Artists & Scientists (PALLAS), aimed towards encouraging active collaboration and strengthening community between artists and scientists. The PALLAS site hosts a directory of artists interested in collaborating with scientists, with individual artist profiles displaying portfolios and contact information. Scientists can search the PALLAS artist directory with filters for art medium and subject matter, facilitating contact with artists.

We will also present recommendations for funding agencies and academic/research institutions to promote and secure future art–science collaborations. In particular, we advocate for scientific proposal calls to include budgets for accompanying artwork and science communication components. We also call for more funding opportunities that bring together interdisciplinary teams of artists and scientists to work towards science communication projects. Finally, we underscore the need for accessible funding for artists-in-residence at research institutions and non-profit organizations, as well as funding for public art showcases involving local artists at institutions and scientific meetings. We hope that these steps will help move the needle toward a better, more inclusive scientific ecosystem.