

Summer Science Exhibition: Art/Science Exhibit call for proposals

Purpose

As part of our Summer Science Exhibition, we are opening a call for proposals for an art/science exhibit around the theme of Light.

This call is open to all practicing artists who have work that would fit this theme.

Overview

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world's most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Royal Society is the national Academy of science in the UK, and its core is its Fellowship and Foreign Membership. The Fellowship comprises the most eminent scientists of the UK, Ireland and the Commonwealth.

The Society's fundamental purpose, reflected in its founding Charters of the 1660s, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

Background

Our annual [Summer Science Exhibition](#) showcases the most exciting cutting-edge science and technology research. It provides a unique opportunity for members of the public to interact with scientists and ask them questions about their work.

The Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition 2015 will be held from 29 June - 5 July at the Royal Society, London. The Exhibition houses 22 exhibits showcasing cutting edge science, as well as a series of public events.

The Exhibition is the Society's main public event of the year and is open to members of the general public as well as students and teachers, scientists, policymakers and the media. Last year the Exhibition saw over 14,000 visitors during the week.

In addition to the scientific exhibits and events, each year we host an art/science exhibition, which aims to enlighten and inspire. The theme of the art exhibit will be Light, in celebration of the International Year of Light.

Last year's theme was Crystallography, and can be seen [here](#).

What we will provide

We will provide the selected artist budget for the installation and promotion of the exhibit, as well as an exhibition catalogue. We will also provide expenses for travel to/from the Society for installation. The exhibition will be viewed by over 14,000 visitors, including secondary school students, teachers, members of the public, scientists, politicians and representatives from funding bodies.

Selection Criteria

Selection will be made by a group consisting of Royal Society Fellows, staff and members of the art/science community. The decision will be made on the following criteria:

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- Quality: Artistry, craftsmanship and presentation should be of high quality.
- Creativity: The project should have a strong visual draw and celebrate the idea of light. We would like the exhibit to entice viewers, encouraging interaction with the theme.
- Alignment to theme: The exhibit should focus on the theme of light, in a specific or broad interpretation. This is based on the International Year of Light, more information can be found at the IYOL15 [website](#).
- Scientific content/context: The exhibit should show strong evidence of art and science collaboration and interdisciplinary exchange.
- Use of space: The exhibit should creatively use the space (see details below), including a mixture of 3D and/or 2D art such as sculpture, installation pieces or images (illustration, painting, drawing or photographic).

Restrictions and space

- Space: The exhibition space is fluid, however it does have some limitations. There are a series of plinths available for sculpture or installation work, as well as wall space.
 - There is wall space for images of a variety of sizes for anywhere from 3-15 images, depending on size and layout.
 - For 3D items, plinths are available in a variety of sizes, with acrylic cases. In some instances, it may be possible to acquire new plinths/cases if the existing supply does not suit. See Appendix 1 for plinth size descriptions.
 - Some images are shown in Appendix 2 to give an idea of the space
 - The windows in the area have been UV filtered, but sunlight exposure can reach between 100-400LUX
 - The area cannot be 'blacked out', therefore work requiring darkness will not be suitable
 - Electrical supply is available, but limited.
- What we are *not* looking for: We are not looking for pieces that do not show clear evidence of scientific context, or anything that is dangerous, extremely heavy or overly fragile.

Submission process

- PDF, named as: [artist/group name]_[name of project].pdf
- Coversheet (2pg max)
 - Name of applicant
 - Contact details (email, phone and website)
 - Title of project
 - Brief description of project (200-400 words):
 - Detailing the project's elements, how it fits the theme, level of interdisciplinary interaction, any interactive elements
 - Construction/installation plan
 - How much will be built on site?
 - Are there any special considerations in hanging/staging the exhibit?
 - What is the timeline for install and de-install?
 - Budget

- Please estimate projected costs for install/de-install and other expenses involved in the display of the work
- Project renderings (3pg max)
 - Include images and examples of the work, in any form (hand drawn, illustrator, photos) in PDF form.
 - Clear enough to convey major design concepts, scale, materials, etc.
- Detailed budget (1pg max)
 - Please outline any expected costs which will be incurred for delivery, installation/de-installation, travel, etc.
- Bio/Portfolio (2pg max)
 - Tell us about yourself, motivation for doing art+science work, interest and involvement with science, previous work (include images or links)

Timeline:

- Submission – Due date for submissions is Friday, 20 March 2015
- Decisions – The winning application will be notified by Friday 27 March
- Review project – We will meet with the winning applicant in April to review the project, go over space, requirements, budget and promotion
- Final approval – The exhibition will be finalised in May
- Installation – Installation will be conducted the week of 22 June 2015
- De-installation – Will be decided based on the needs of the winning applicant and the Society.

Notes:

- We will accept proposals for individual pieces, and are open to the possibility that the exhibition may involve the curation of pieces from multiple artists.
- We will accept pieces that are not yet finished, if they will be completed by the installation date.
- We will accept work which has been displayed elsewhere.
- If you would like to visit the space, please contact Benjamin Palmer at benjamin.palmer@royalsociety.org to make arrangements.