

Amplify Competition: Call for Proposals for Public Art in Response to “Radical Visions: The Art of Protest Posters”

[LINK TO APPLICATION](#)

The Amplify Competition is an opportunity for Smith College students to share their knowledge, stories, and perspectives in a public forum and raise their voices to bring about positive change. This includes opportunities to enter submissions for prizes in the categories of Public Writing, Public Speaking, Multimedia, and Public Art.

This year, the Wurtele Center for Leadership is partnering with the Smith Office for the Arts (SOFA) and the Smith College Libraries to sponsor the 2023-24 Amplify Public Art Competition. We are issuing a Call for Proposals (CFP) for a temporary public art project in the form of an installation to be displayed on the Gallery Wall on the ground floor of Neilson Library in response to the exhibition “Radical Visions: The Art of Protest Posters.” The fall exhibition is a curated set of protest posters selected from the Libraries’ Special Collections, which represent a variety of social, political, and cultural issues. Highlighting the range of artistic forms that protesters have used to inspire change, the exhibition invites visitors to explore how institutions, organizations, and individuals raised awareness about pressing issues of social and political activism.

For the Amplify CFP, we invite proposals that activate the public space of Neilson’s ground floor through a public art response to the exhibit that was featured in the fall. We will select three proposals to feature next to each other on the Gallery Wall after the fall exhibition is removed.

While the CFP calls for projects that respond to the exhibition of protest posters, proposed projects can be posters but ARE NOT required to take that form. Applicants may propose a project in any format that can be hung on the Neilson Gallery Wall. Projects may consist of a single object or a series of multiple objects that relate to one another and the prompt.

Project proposals may explore any number of themes and issues, including but not limited to those represented in the fall exhibition (such as reproductive justice, gender equality, climate change, voting rights, labor activism, etc.). Whatever issue(s) student artists choose to tackle, proposals must be inspired by and/or respond to the fall exhibit in some significant way (applicants will be asked to speak to these connections in the application). For example, applicants might propose an updated or contemporary interpretation of an issue highlighted in the exhibition, or borrow from aesthetic strategies of featured posters in order to tackle a different issue altogether. We encourage creativity in how students make connections and find inspiration.

Project Scope and Objectives

Submissions should be clear and intentional in explaining how the proposed project is inspired by and/or responds to artwork featured in the fall exhibition. How the project achieves this is open, in terms of medium, and students are encouraged to think creatively about how they might use the wall to draw in passersby and activate the space of Neilson's ground floor.

Winning projects will each receive an honorarium of \$500. In addition, SOFA will provide the creators of winning submissions with the necessary technical support to develop and produce their work for exhibition, and the Wurtele Center will cover the costs of materials and production.

The winning projects must be ready to be installed by February 12 and will be displayed for the duration of the Spring 2024 semester. In keeping with this timeline, proposed projects must be able to be produced and ready to install between the announcement of selected projects on December 8 and the deadline for installation on February 12. Winning projects and their creators will be celebrated at the Amplify Public Art Reception on March 4, 2024, 6-7pm.

Students will be responsible for removing their projects at the end of the Spring 2024 semester, in coordination with SOFA and the Neilson Library.

Site

The winning projects will be featured on the ground floor of the Neilson Library, on the Gallery Wall, at the base of the main staircase near the Central Service Point (see below for photos). Each project will have up to 12'x7' of space in which to install their object(s).



1 View of the wall from Central Service



2 View of the wall from the Elevator

Eligibility

All currently enrolled Smith College students are eligible to submit proposals. In keeping with Amplify Competition rules (which allow students to submit only one submission per competition category), students may submit **only one** proposal in response to this call. (Students interested in submitting other work for other Amplify Competition categories may do so.) Collaborative proposals that would incorporate the work of multiple students are welcome.

Application and Selection Process:

Students may submit their proposals via the link below prior to the deadline of **November 20, 2023, 11:59 p.m. EST**. Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of judges consisting of faculty, staff, and alums. Judges will evaluate pieces according to both the Amplify Competition Criteria, as outlined on the [Amplify Competition webpage](#), in addition to how well the project adheres to at least one of the project goals described above.

The winning proposal will be announced on or before December 8, 2023.

Timeline

Monday, September 18, 2023	Application Opens for Submission of Proposals
Wednesday, September 20, 2023 noon–1 p.m.	Amplify Public Art drop-in info session (WITH PIZZA!) <i>Campus Center 102</i>
Monday, November 20, 2023 11:59 p.m. EST	Public Art proposal submission deadline
November 21–December 7	Review of proposals and selection of winning proposals by judging panel
Friday, December 8, 2023	Winners announced
Monday, February 12, 2024	Deadline for winning pieces to be completed and ready to install
Monday, March 4, 2024	Artists' Reception (6:15–6:45 p.m.) Amplify Award Ceremony (7–8 p.m.) <i>Neilson Library</i>

Contact

As you prepare your proposal, if you have questions about accessing resources to produce your project (such as studios, materials, and/or expertise), please contact Erin Cohn (ecohn@smith.edu).