Usolec Company

Sustainability
Consulting and Management

Creative Arts Climate Action Competition

Prepared for SOU Students

Created by Dawn Hightree

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Creative Arts for Climate Action Competition

Official Rules, Guidelines & Faculty Integration Information

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1. Program Overview

The Creative Arts for Climate Action Competition is a Southern Oregon University–focused initiative designed to empower students to use **creative expression as a tool for climate awareness, sustainability, and social impact**.

Through art, music, film, fashion, and performance, students explore climate action in ways that are personal, innovative, and publicly engaged. The competition culminates in **on-campus exhibitions and performances aligned with Earth Day celebrations**, followed by a formal gala where winners are announced.

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2. Eligibility Requirements

- Open **exclusively to currently enrolled Southern Oregon University (SOU) students**
- Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible
- Individual and group submissions are permitted **only if all contributors are SOU students**
- **Outside collaborators are not permitted**
- :Faculty can submit work for students, but not physically work on the submission.
- Students may submit to **more than one category**, but each submission must be entered separately

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3. Accepted Creative Categories

Students may submit original work in one or more of the following categories:

Visual Art

- Painting, drawing, illustration
- Sculpture or 3D work
- Photography
- Mixed media
- Digital or experimental visual art

Film & Digital Media

- Short films
- Digital storytelling
- Animation
- Documentary (short-form)
- Experimental or multimedia video

Music & Sound

- Original songs or compositions
- Instrumental pieces
- Sound design or soundscapes
- Spoken word with musical elements

Fashion & Wearable Art

- Sustainable fashion designs
- Upcycled or recycled garments
- Conceptual or functional wearable art

Performance & Experimental Arts

- Theatre and dramatic performance
- Spoken word and poetry
- Dance or movement-based work
- Multimedia or interdisciplinary performance

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4. Climate Action Earthday.org Theme Requirement

All submissions must clearly connect to **climate action, sustainability, environmental justice, or planetary well-being**. The Earthday.org Theme needs to be represented and judged by the ability to do so

of the theme **"Our Power, Our Planet"** for Earth Day 2026, which emphasizes the importance of renewable energy and the collective responsibility to protect the environment. It calls for individuals, communities, and organizations to unite in advocating for clean energy and sustainable practices to combat climate change and promote a healthier planet. The theme is part of a broader movement to engage the public in environmental protection and to support the tripling of global clean electricity generation by 2030.

Acceptable interpretations include (but are not limited to):

- Climate solutions and innovation
- Environmental justice and equity
- Indigenous knowledge and land stewardship
- Climate resilience and adaptation
- Human relationships with nature
- Future visions of a sustainable world

5. Submission Period

- **Submissions Open: February 1st at 7:00 AM**
- **Submissions Close: April 1st at 11:59 PM**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

6. Submission Requirements

Submission occurs via online form.

Each entry must include the following:

- Title of the work
- Student name(s)
- **A student ID is optional and may be requested by faculty for course verification purposes.**
- Email address
- Phone number
- Academic major or department
- Faculty sponsor (if applicable)
- Category selected
- Artist statement (recommended 150-300 words

- Digital file upload or media link (Google Drive, Vimeo, SoundCloud, etc.)

Note: Physical works and performances must be submitted with **digital documentation** for initial review. Selected finalists may be invited to present or exhibit their work live on campus.

📏 Submission Requirements, Specifications & Earth Day Showcasing

(Applies to All Categories)

All submissions must comply with the following requirements and specifications. Submissions that do not meet these guidelines may be disqualified.

Important: Large audio and video files must be submitted via a **shareable link** (Google Drive, Vimeo, YouTube, or SoundCloud). Please ensure viewing permissions are enabled prior to submission.

🧾 REQUIRED FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

Each submission must include:

- Title of the work

- Student name(s)

- SOU email address(es)

- Academic major or program

- Submission category

- **Artist Statement (150–300 words)**

- Primary submission link (or file, if applicable)

Note: Student ID numbers are optional and may be requested by faculty for course or extra credit verification.

🎨 VISUAL ART (Art / Photography / Mixed Media)

Accepted Formats

- JPG or PNG (preferred)

- PDF (for multi-image series)

Specifications

- Resolution: **300 DPI recommended**

- Image size: **Minimum 2000 pixels on the longest side**

- Color mode: RGB

- File size (if uploaded): **Maximum 20 MB per file**

- Quantity: **Up to 5 images per submission**

3D or Physical Works

- Submit high-quality photographs (multiple angles encouraged)

- Optional short video documentation may be included via link

🎬 FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA

Accepted Formats

- MP4 or MOV (H.264 preferred)

- Vimeo, YouTube, or Google Drive link

Length

- **Minimum:** 1 minute

- **Maximum:** 10 minutes

Specifications

- Resolution: 1080p recommended (720p minimum)

- Aspect ratio: 16:9 preferred

- Closed captions strongly encouraged (required for dialogue-heavy works)

    Do not upload large video files directly to the form.

🎵 MUSIC & SOUND

Accepted Formats

- MP3 or WAV

- SoundCloud or Google Drive link

Length

- **Minimum:** 1 minute

- **Maximum:** 8 minutes

Specifications

- Audio quality: 192 kbps or higher recommended

- File size (if uploaded): **Maximum 15 MB**

👗 FASHION & WEARABLE ART

Accepted Materials

- Design sketches or illustrations (JPG / PNG / PDF)

- Lookbook or concept PDF

- Photographs of completed garments

- Optional short video documentation

Specifications

- Images follow Visual Art specifications

- PDFs: **Maximum 10 pages**

- Optional video length: **Maximum 3 minutes**

🎭 PLAY / PERFORMANCE / EXPERIMENTAL ARTS

Accepted Formats

- Script excerpt (PDF)

- Video recording (link)

- Written performance description

Length

- Script excerpts: **5–10 pages maximum**

- Video documentation: **Maximum 10 minutes**

- Written description (if no video): **500–1,000 words**

🧾 ARTIST STATEMENT (All Categories)

Required for all submissions

- Length: **150–300 words**

- Must describe:

    - The creative work

    - The connection to climate action, sustainability, or environmental justice

    - The intent, message, or question explored by the piece

🤖 AI USE DISCLOSURE (If Applicable)

- Any use of AI tools must be disclosed

- AI may be used only as a **support tool**, not as the primary creator

- Disclosure must include:

    - Tool(s) used

    - How they were used in the creative process

📎 SUPPORTING MATERIALS (Optional)

Accepted Formats

- JPG, PNG, or PDF only

Limits

- Up to **3 supporting files**

- **Maximum 10 MB per file**

Examples include sketches, lyrics, storyboards, research notes, or process documentation.

🌎 EARTH DAY EXHIBITION & PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

(April 22–25, 2026)

Selected submissions may be **invited to showcase, exhibit, screen, or perform** as part of **Southern Oregon University Earth Day programming**, taking place **April 22–25, 2026**.

Possible Showcasing Opportunities

Depending on category and selection, participants may be invited to:

- **Visual Art & Photography**
  Exhibit work in campus galleries or public exhibition spaces

- **Music & Sound**
  Perform live or have recordings featured during Earth Day events

- **Film & Digital Media**
  Participate in public screenings or presentations

- **Fashion & Wearable Art**
  Present garments in live showcases or curated displays

- **Play / Performance / Experimental Arts**
  Perform live, present excerpts, or participate in scheduled showcases

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Important Clarifications

- **Not all submissions will be selected** for Earth Day exhibition or performance

- Selection depends on:

    - Space and scheduling availability

    - Technical feasibility

    - Alignment with Earth Day programming

- **Exhibition or performance is not required** to be eligible for awards

- Some works may be judged **solely through submitted documentation**

Participant Responsibilities (If Selected)

Participants invited to showcase may be required to:

- Confirm availability during **April 22–25**

- Provide additional technical or staging information

- Coordinate installation, rehearsal, or setup times

- Grant permission for public display and event documentation

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⚠️ ACCESSIBILITY & LINK RESPONSIBILITY

Participants are responsible for ensuring that all submission links are accessible and permissions are enabled. Inaccessible links may result in disqualification.

Accessibility accommodations are available upon request.

CODE OF CONDUCT & AGREEMENT

All submissions must comply with the competition Code of Conduct and community standards. By submitting, participants confirm that they have read and agree to all Rules & Guidelines.

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7. Originality, Rights & Use of Work

- All submissions must be **original work**
- Submissions must not infringe on copyright or intellectual property rights

- AI-assisted work must be clearly disclosed
- Artists retain **full ownership** of their work

By submitting, participants grant Usolec Company a **non-exclusive right** to display, promote, and document the work for educational, exhibition, and program-related purposes, with full credit given to the artist(s) unless otherwise clarified.

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8. Judging Process & Timeline

Initial Review

- Judges review all submissions following the close of entries on April 1st
- A selection of finalists will be identified for live presentation, exhibition, or performance

Earth Day Campus Review

- **April 22nd, 23rd, & 24th (Earth Day Programming)**
- Selected works may be:
    - Exhibited on campus
    - Performed live
    - Screened or presented publicly
- Judges may attend performances, exhibitions, or reviews during these dates

Final Deliberation

- Judges complete final evaluations following Earth Day programming
- Winners are confirmed before the gala event

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9. Judging Criteria

Submissions will be evaluated based on:

- Creative originality and artistic quality
- Strength and clarity of the climate action message
- Technical execution
- Emotional and/or intellectual impact
- Relevance to the competition theme

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10. Awards & Recognition

Prize amounts are dependent on fundraising outcomes. These could increase

- **1st Place:** $100
- **2nd Place:** $75
- **3rd Place:** $ 50

March 6th is a fundraiser to raise prize money for the competition. This is the 1st year of development. Usolec Company will be working throughout 2026 to gain nonprofit partnerships for the 2027 and on competition to be eligible for grant funding to increase prize awards for a bigger impact on participant outcomes.

Proposed awards for 2027 include:

- **1st Place:** $2,500
- **2nd Place:** $1,500
- **3rd Place:** $1,000

Additional recognition may include:

- Exhibition or performance opportunities
- Certificates of achievement
- Digital and press promotion
- Portfolio and résumé enhancement
- Possible business support for goods & services

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11. Awards Gala & Announcement

- **Awards Gala: April 25th, potentially only posted online (SOU Student Competition page) due to lack of funding & participation.**
- Winners will be formally announced
- Prizes will be awarded
- Selected works may be highlighted during the event

The gala serves as a celebration of student creativity, climate leadership, and community engagement. This is important for the goal of the competition. With continued development in 2027 and on, with added participation, Usolec Company hopes to build support for a beautiful gala event, preferably on the SOU campus.

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12. Code of Conduct

All submissions must:

- Respect cultural integrity and community values
- Avoid hate speech, harassment, or explicit content
- Align with Southern Oregon University and Usolec Company community standards

Organizers reserve the right to disqualify submissions that do not meet these guidelines.

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13. Faculty Integration & Academic Use (Faculty–Friendly Section)

Faculty participation is strongly encouraged. Faculty may not submit their own work to the competition. Faculty involvement is limited to supporting student participation, integrating the competition into coursework, or submitting student-created work on behalf of students.

This competition may be used as:

- A class assignment
- A final project option
- Extra credit
- An experiential learning opportunity
- A portfolio-building exercise

Faculty may:

- Encourage or sponsor student submissions
- Integrate the competition into the course curricula
- Attend Earth Day performances and exhibitions

The program is designed to support **interdisciplinary collaboration**, **creative inquiry**, and **real-world application of climate education**.

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14. Accessibility & Support

Students requiring accessibility accommodations or clarification regarding submissions are encouraged to contact the Program Director.

15. Contact Information

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