

Inspiring Environmental and Climate Action Through Art

UC Davis Institute of the Environment

Art by and for Communities

The Institute of the Environment's **Inspiring Environmental and Climate Action Through Art** initiative motivates communities to take action through the arts. Through partnerships centered around art as a medium to amplify awareness of and solutions for climate change, the initiative supports student and community outreach and learning opportunities.

Our inaugural project, the California Climate Art Trail, brings together diverse communities of change makers in pursuit of one common goal: to harness the power of art to inspire change. Together, community members are creating a series of murals painted on barns, in community parks and within gardens throughout the state.

The Institute of the Environment is partnering with creative students, youth groups, educators, farmers and energy and agricultural organizations to show how climate change affects agricultural communities and how these communities are responding with resilience.

Philanthropic support will provide immersive and diverse learning experiences for students, expand the California Climate Art Trail and educate the public about climate change. In partnership with visionary philanthropists, we can bring about a brighter future through public art that inspires climate action.



“Action through art helps students make sense of their environment, shine a light on present challenges and share their vision for the future. This initiative gives everyone a voice: students, communities and the people who come together to create the art.”

- Emily Schlickman, M.L.A.
Assistant Professor, Human Ecology

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Art in Action

Leveraging the power of art to reach a large audience, UC Davis launched its California Climate Art Trail project.

“Race to net zero,” “Orchards capture carbon” and “What a climate bargain” are some of the phrases found along a Davis county road. What began as an idea from two members of the local agricultural community has resulted in a partnership that has inspired a course focused on climate action and art, as well as an opportunity to display students’ original artwork.

More than 250 people, aged eight to 80, came together for the inaugural community paint day to replicate a UC Davis student’s illustration on the side of a prominent barn. They lent their time and talent to illustrating a version of the Sacramento Valley strengthened by climate-resilient crops, alternative energy, transportation, wildlife, flood plains and restored wetlands.

Community events like this will be repeated throughout the agricultural valleys of the state. Murals will be tailored to each community—reflecting their climate change priorities, challenges and solutions.

Together, we can bolster art in the Central Valley and make a profound difference in the fight against climate change.

Philanthropic Opportunities

- Endow an artist-in-residence program that attracts creatives to our community
GOAL: \$2.5 MILLION
- Sponsor a community paint day that adds new murals **\$10,000 PER EVENT**
- Sponsor a student competition that sparks creativity **\$5,000 PER COMPETITION**
- Support student activities like scholarships, apprenticeships and research focused on art action
GIFTS STARTING AT: \$5,000



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To learn more about supporting the Institute of the Environment, please contact:

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