At the heart of the Arts, Science + Culture Initiative is a commitment to bring together voices from diverse domains to explore new modes of production and investigation through vigorous dialogue.

Graduate Projects

We’re excited to announce the newest cohort of Graduate Fellows and Graduate Collaboration Grantees!

Our eight Grad Fellows represent the fields of Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science, Anthropology, English, Theater and Performance Studies, Cinema and Media Studies, Music Composition, Molecular Engineering, Visual Arts, Organismal Biology and Anatomy.

Our five Graduate Collaboration Grant teams include UChicago students in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Computer Science, English, Theater and Performance Studies, Geophysical Sciences, and Mathematics.
Research

The WATER Project is a multi-year-long research initiative launched by ASCI. The University-wide program aims to amplify the discourse around the pressing concerns of water—locally and globally—by bringing together scientists, humanists, social scientists, curators, students, community members, and professional arts practitioners. Such a program that brings these voices together currently does not exist on our campus. The WATER Project will cross disciplinary boundaries to establish an “ecology of perspectives” focused on water.

For more information on courses and programs, visit our WATER Project webpage.

Profile

Arianna Gass was an ASCI Graduate Fellow last academic year. This past summer, she used her fellowship funding to travel to England and participate in a Nordic-style live-action roleplay (larp) game called Just a Little Lovin’. She tells us about her experience and shares some photos.
In November, in partnership with the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture, and UChicago Arts, we welcomed the jazz trio **Hear in Now**. Mazz Swift (NYC) on violin/vocals, Silvia Bolognesi (SI, ITALY) on double bass, and Tomeka Reid (CHI) on cello, performed their original jazz-tinged avant-classical compositions to a large crowd in the Logan Center's Performance Penthouse. Thanks for coming out!

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**Upcoming Event**

**S is for Soul Sister**  
Jan 17–March 20, 2020

Exhibition opening reception: January 17  
6-8 pm

**Arts Incubator**  
(301 E. Garfield Blvd)

**Arts + Public Life** presents **S is for Soul Sister**, an exhibition showcasing photographs by **Okunola Jeyifous**, an independent photographer and neurobiologist at the University of Chicago.

2020 will mark 50 years since children living in the Harold Ickes Homes sat for portraits that were used as visual aids in Chicago classrooms and libraries. Inspired by those portraits, Jeyifous has photographed the children of the “Black ABCs” today as adults, celebrating the beauty and historic impact that those images and individuals still hold. Expanding on the definition of portraiture, Jeyifous blurs his practice as a photographer and scientist by creating digital collages. The collages, a combination of overlaid visualizations, includes the individuals' cells laid on top of their classical-styled portraits. This blend of artistic, medical, and clinical styles of portraiture raises questions and critiques about the complicated and often problematic history of science, medicine, and Black subjectivity.

*This exhibition is sponsored in part by the Arts, Science + Culture Initiative. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.*
Images (top to bottom): Katie Wood (MFA candidate, Sound, SAIC) and Grant Macdonald (PhD candidate, Geophysical Sciences, UChicago) work on “Dripping, Creaking, Flowing: Narratives of Hydrological Change in Antarctica.” Film still by Scrappers Film Group; Arianna Gass in character at JALL, photo by Oliver Facey. Hear in Now performing at the Logan Center for the Arts on October 24, 2019.

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