

The Artist + Researcher Exhibition (ARx) is an innovative interdisciplinary program that bridges art and science through transformative collaboration. This unique initiative brings together established local artists and researchers to create compelling visual narratives that make complex scientific concepts accessible to the public.

ARX SAC

APPLICATION OPEN
SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 13, 2025

Photo: Circulation (ARx1)
Danielle Wood + Dr. Michael Murray



“A true integration of **Art + Science** allows for a deeper level of understanding—evoking inspiration, creative problem-solving, connection, expanded communication, and empathy.”

- Dr. Cynthia Standley

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Each year, the program seeks individuals, seasoned in their industry, who are looking to shake things up, learn new skills and commit to a true interdisciplinary collaboration culminating in translating the complexity of local research in to digestible concepts.

SELECTION + TEAM PAIRING

The ARx SAC Selection Committee will choose up to 10 artists and 10 researchers through a competitive application process. Selected participants are then invited to a "speed dating" style meet-and-greet event where they have the opportunity to connect with all other participants and rank their preferred collaborators. The Arts Committee carefully pairs one researcher with one artist based on these preferences to form dynamic creative teams.

COLLABORATION & FABRICATION

Once paired, teams are provided with an honorarium totalling \$3,500 generously donated by the City of Sacramento and Wexford Science + Technology. The honorarium package includes \$1,000 provided by Wexford Science + Technology given to the team and \$2,500 from the City of Sacramento given to the artist. The team will embark on a 9-month **collaborative** journey to conceptualize, fabricate, and install an original artwork that visually communicates the researcher's scientific work. This extended timeline allows for deep exploration, meaningful dialogue, and the development of truly innovative pieces that honor both artistic vision and scientific accuracy.



THE EXHIBITION EXPERIENCE

The culmination of each program year is a public exhibition called ARx Live at the Arizona Science Center featuring all team collaborations. During the launch events, each artist-researcher pair presents their work to the community, sharing insights about their collaborative process, creative decisions, and the meaning behind their piece. These first-hand accounts provide viewers with deeper connections to both the artwork and the underlying research, fostering greater appreciation for both scientific and artistic processes.

The exhibition remains open to the public for several months, with opportunities for pieces to travel to other venues, extending the reach and impact of these unique collaborations.

ARx CORE VALUES

COLLABORATION

Finding individuals willing to work together and co-create across disciplines

COMPREHENSION

Expanding communication models to broaden understanding of science

CONNECTION

Forging new relationships and expanding professional networks

CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

Developing innovative approaches to science communication through an artistic lens

PROGRAM TIMELINE



Meet & Greet

The selected applicants attend a speed dating style event to meet all potential teammates with the goal of ranking who they would like to work with at the end of the event. (November 19, 2025)

Honorarium

Funding given to each team to be used to fabricate, transport and/or install their work (\$1,000 to the team, \$2,500 to the artist)

Studio Visit

The midway check in point of the program. Each team will schedule one hour for the ARx committee to join them and discuss how the project is going, where they're stuck and where they need help. The committee will then give them an overview of what to prepare for next. (April 6 - 10, 2025)

Art Sales and Commission

The artwork is owned by the artist by default, with each team finalizing the specifics of ownership. All artwork has the opportunity to be sold by this program. If a piece is sold the artist receives 100% of the sale of the piece.

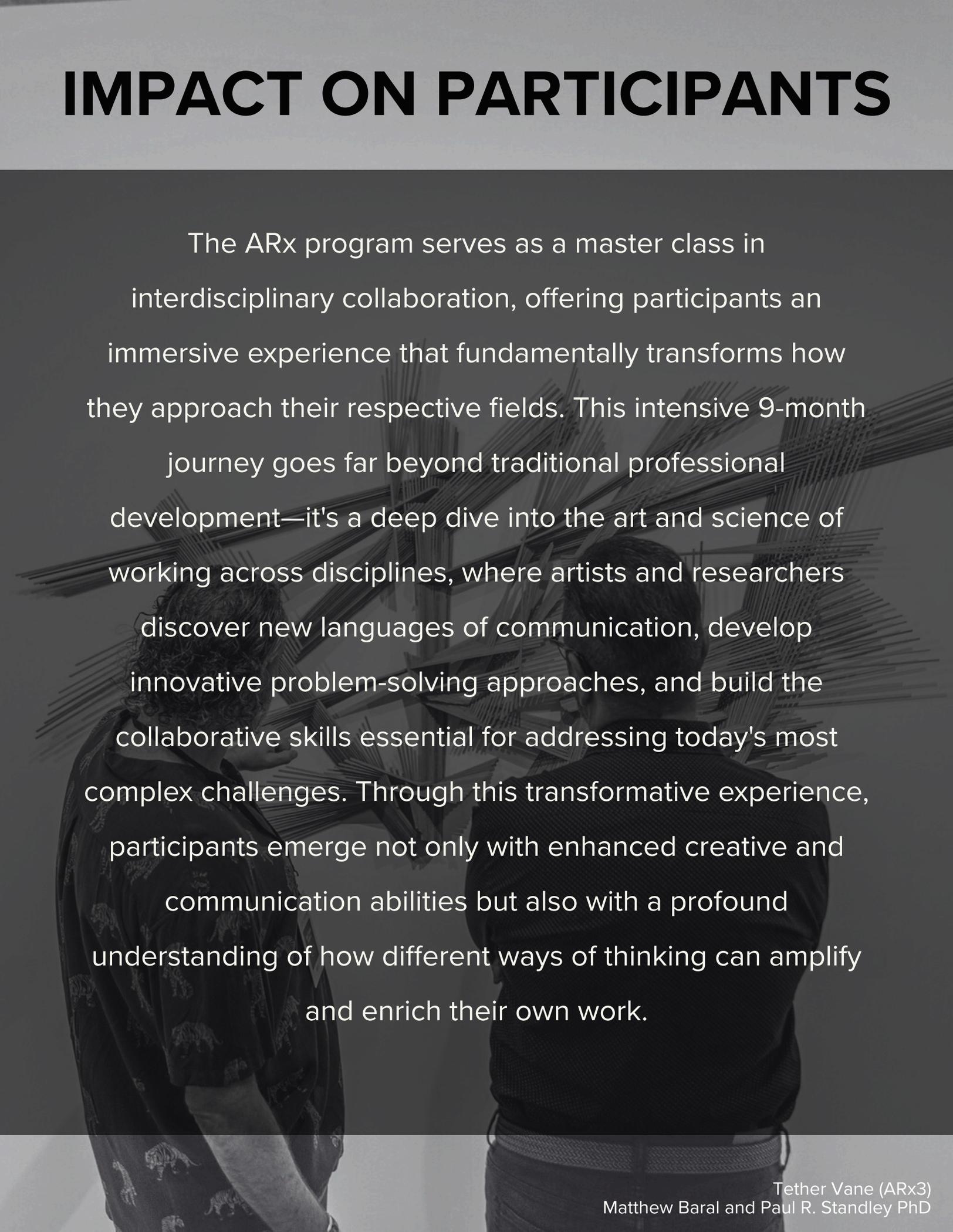
First Look

This event is the soft opening of the exhibition. It serves as a media preview, VIP reception, friends and family preview and rehearsal for each team's presentation. (September)

ARx Live

The Grand Opening Event. This event is the public debut. The ARx Film is presented, each team presents their experience and their piece for 5 min and the exhibition is onsite for people to view (November)

IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS



The ARx program serves as a master class in interdisciplinary collaboration, offering participants an immersive experience that fundamentally transforms how they approach their respective fields. This intensive 9-month journey goes far beyond traditional professional development—it's a deep dive into the art and science of working across disciplines, where artists and researchers discover new languages of communication, develop innovative problem-solving approaches, and build the collaborative skills essential for addressing today's most complex challenges. Through this transformative experience, participants emerge not only with enhanced creative and communication abilities but also with a profound understanding of how different ways of thinking can amplify and enrich their own work.

IMPACT: RESEARCHERS

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Anne Titlebaum

Biological Anthropologist
University of Arizona College of Medicine -
Phoenix

ARx2: Message in a Bottle

“The process made me more aware of what different audiences find interesting about the research process and results. I have also become more aware of how I discuss/describe my research, so that I may tailor my discourse to my audience. I presented 2 talks so far at national/international meetings, and there will be one more in years to come.”



Vinodh Narayanan

Clinical Professor and Medical Director
TGen - Center for Rare Childhood Disorders

“I gained a new perspective in the disorder, Rett syndrome. How others may see the children and adults affected by this disorder. Opened my eyes and made me more sensitive to what patients and families are going through.”

By working with artists, researchers gain new perspectives, improve how they share complex ideas, and explore creative ways to connect their work with society. This dynamic exchange enriches both science and public engagement. Below are four key areas of impact for research participants.

Strengthening Communication Skills

Artists help scientists translate complex data into compelling visual narratives, refining their ability to communicate clearly and embrace storytelling, metaphor, and symbolism to reach broader audiences.

Cultivating Empathy and Human Connection

Collaborating with artists provides fresh perspectives on how others interpret research, fostering empathy and helping scientists view their work through a more human-centered lens for more inclusive science communication.

Building Collaborative Relationships

The program creates opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue, allowing scientists to forge relationships outside academia that often develop into long-term partnerships enriching both fields.

Expanding Creative and Adaptive Skills

Engaging with artists encourages scientists to think creatively about their work, exploring alternative ways to present and apply findings while enhancing adaptability and innovative problem-solving skills.

IMPACT: ARTISTS



Bill Dambrova
ARx1: Invisible War

“In general I think artists and scientists should team up to brainstorm and get different perspectives on the scientists' science and the artists' art the way we did with your program. Our brains can be very different in terms of how we learn and perceive things. The feedback [our team received] from sufferers of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) was very positive and I was told by my researchers that for some just seeing the artwork helped them in certain ways. My painting made the cover of the Open Journal of Occupational therapy and I was interviewed by a writer for an article in the magazine. Stuff I talked about with my researchers made it into NAU's magazine as well.”



Suzanne Whitaker
ARx2: Now, Go Be Normal

“As an artist, I think of myself as a communicator, using visual images (and words, at times). I am a sponge for information about so many things and my gift is that I can transmute issues, information, thoughts, emotions, into visuals that others can respond to. But, for me, the benefit of a program such as this is having learned one more or many things that I didn't know before. In this specific case, I knew nothing about the foster care system. I am the one who grew the most from the knowledge I gained from the research. And my heart expanded in the process. That is the largest impact of all. I am better for it.”

Artist participants gain invaluable experience, see growth and find opportunities through areas like:

Developing New Skills and Expanding Creative Boundaries

Engaging with scientific research pushes artists beyond their usual creative processes, often requiring experimentation with new techniques, methodologies, and materials. Artists gain valuable skills enriching their artistic practice and broadening their creative toolkit

Access to New Materials and Technologies

Through collaboration with researchers, artists gain exposure to new subjects, specialized tools, lab equipment, and innovative materials they might not encounter otherwise, opening up entirely new creative possibilities.

Building Relationships & Expanding Networks

Artists form meaningful relationships not only with their research partners but also gain access to wider networks including academics, science communicators, institutions, and industry professionals. These connections often lead to future projects, commissions, and continued artistic exploration at the intersection of art and science.

Showcasing Work to New Audiences

The exhibition brings artists' work to scientists and science enthusiasts, opening doors to new recognition, collaborations, and commissions.

Commercial Opportunities

By presenting work in an environment where scientific and artistic communities intersect, artists have opportunities to sell pieces to collectors, research institutions, science museums, and individuals who appreciate the fusion of art and science. This provides both financial benefits and reinforces the value of art as a powerful tool for science communication.

ALL PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the Meet and Greet event on December 10, 2025.
- Collaboration by participating in regular meetings with your counterpart via Zoom or in person.
- Register and attend a studio visit where the committee meets with your team halfway through the collaboration and fabrication season.
- Sign a media consent form for photography and videos with your likeness to be used for promotion of this program.
- Submit additional information on the completed work for marketing purposes
- Attend the ARx SAC First Look event in August or September (TBA) 2026
- Attend the ARx SAC Live Event at MOSAC
- Collaborate with your teammate to prepare and deliver a 5 minute presentation live at the First Look as well as the Live Event.
- Register for a time and show up to film your 2 - 5 min presentation to be edited and placed online on your team's landing page within the ARx website.
- Must be 18 years old
- Must Live in the Sacramento Metropolitan Area

RESEARCHER REQUIREMENTS

- Must be either a published researcher, scholar, clinician or educator.
- University affiliation is not required.
- Participation will include regular virtual and in-person meetings with the artist during the collaborative period.
- Researchers will have first priority to purchase their team's artwork until the public opening.

ARTIST REQUIREMENTS

- Must be a professional artist (meaning regularly sells their artwork).
- Must provide retail price, dimensions, weight and other material information on your work of art.
- Must agree to your piece traveling to different locations August - December 2026 with the option to participate in locations January - July 2027.

Locations & venue limitations will be communicated as soon as they are confirmed. With each location, we require that the artist provides installation instructions for each location and sign contracts with each venue the exhibition travels. If desired, we encourage you to insure your work.

- Artwork must be ready for installation prior to the First Look event
- Must provide hardware, instruments, display cases, extension cords and any other material required for the installation or deinstallation of the piece.
- Must be available to install your work at multiple locations and provide detailed instructions for installation. Some venues may provide assistance with installation, but in most instances, the artist will install the work personally.
- Has not participated in the program in the past three years.
- Understand the special circumstances and requirements when showcasing your work at the Museum of Science and Curiosity (MOSAC).

JOIN THE ARx COMMUNITY

The Artist + Researcher Exhibition represents more than just a program—it's a movement toward greater collaboration, understanding, and creativity at the intersection of art and science. Whether you're a researcher seeking new ways to share your work with the world or an artist eager to explore scientific frontiers, ARx offers an unparalleled opportunity to expand your practice, build meaningful relationships, and contribute to the vital work of making science more accessible and engaging for all.



SHIRIN DOROUDGAR, PhD

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine
UArizona College of Medicine – Phoenix



Artist + Researcher Exhibition (ARx) Program

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