

Call for the Arts+ Exhibition Submissions at AESA 2026 Annual Conference

The Arts+ Exhibition committee invites AESA members to participate in the 3rd **Arts+ Exhibition** at the 2026 Annual Conference. This space will serve as an opportunity for AESA members to showcase their educational research through art (image or sound) associated with their work.

Aims

This exhibition has two main aims: 1) to solicit and facilitate conversations and connections around our educational research and 2) to foreground art-as-related-to-research as part of the conference.

We invite members to select an image, a sound, a poem, an artifact, or other singular entities that they have created to represent their research. This “Arts+” piece will be on display for an extended time during the conference days. Although logistics are still being worked out, we envision offering a small display space where submissions will be exhibited for viewers to see (security of the space will dictate hours). Conference attendees can wander through the space, learning about research projects through the Arts+ exhibition pieces.

We welcome conference attendees to share an image or sound piece associated with their research. This “Arts+” piece might capture their research process or findings or it might be an art piece related to their research that encapsulates the essence of their work, for example. One might think about what image would be on the cover of a book about the research.

Note that this is a great way to be involved in the conference through a presentation beyond the paper proposals. (And a great way to get funding to attend if presentations are required!). We especially encourage graduate students to participate.

We look forward to celebrating your work through the **Arts+ Exhibition** at AESA's 2026 Annual Conference! If you have any questions, please email Kristy at kpapcz2@uic.edu.

The submission form can be [accessed here](#). It is helpful to prepare the required texts and images prior to accessing the system.

Deadlines

- 7/25/26: Publish call in newsletter
- 8/30/26: Initial submissions were due ***we will accept late submissions until mid-September (email kpapcz2@uic.edu if you have questions)**
- 9/30/26 and onward: Participant notification
- Closer to the conference, participants will confirm their participation with the committee through email. Names *may not* appear in the AESA program but may appear on a separate handout as part of the exhibition that can be used for funding.

Submission requirements

Each submission will require the following:

- Name(s)/Pronouns
- Email
- Affiliation
- Title of piece
- Physical description, including dimensions and media
- 100-250 words that describe the work, its context, or ask the viewer to further engage questions associated with the work (think what you read beside a museum piece)
- Image or audio file of piece (or that represents the piece)

The small print

Artwork must be an original piece or compilation giving credit to the original artist(s). We are not in the position to declare or challenge authenticity, so please ensure it is your work in the end and you have permission to use anyone else's likeness or work in your submission. Consent is the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Any use of AI in the process or production of the artwork submitted needs to be stated in detail and clearly on the submission form. As much as we acknowledge the ways that AI can assist in the design and artistic process, and be integrated into so many digital processes, many scholars and artists have pointed to the exploitation and harm done by AI to artists and the artworld. At this time, **we strongly encourage artists/scholars to not use AI** but will accept submissions that do with an acknowledgment statement.

The committee will print out uniform "display" copies of the submission texts to accompany the art. Members need to bring the piece and/or the technology and equipment to experience the piece. Please consider travel needs when submitting.

Please be mindful if you have a piece that involves sound or movement somehow, that we may be sharing space with other conference happenings (consider offering headphones or QR codes). If you would like to submit performance art, we can only accept "captured moments" of performances at this time (such as a still image or playing a video on a laptop).

Pieces must be "singular", as in one image, one sound file, one video clip, one artifact. If multiple files are submitted as representing one piece, that is acceptable. It is at the discretion of the committee if the submission will be accepted or rejected.

At this time, only one submission per member, please. But if you want to work as part of a team *and* submit an individual piece, go for it!

Members will submit an image of their Arts+ piece, indicating on the submission form whether the photograph is the submission, or the item photographed will be on display. PLEASE NOTE: ***The committee cannot print submissions.*** It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to print or provide the submitted piece for display. The image or file requested for submissions is for review and organizational purposes only.

Members are responsible for setting up their piece and taking it down during to-be-determined windows. The committee will communicate these windows as soon as we know and work to accommodate any exceptions that are needed due to travel dates. We are not responsible for items left behind, please take care to make time for this part.

We will be limited by the physical space and offerings of the site and will communicate any specific limitations that affect your submission as we get more details. We cannot accommodate large pieces or any fuller installation pieces at this time, but hope to in the future. Think “small nugget of my work.”

We envision offering a table on which your Arts+ piece can be on display. If you require an easel or technology through which the audience can experience your piece (ex: sound), it is up to you to provide and troubleshoot such equipment. We have access to a few power outlets nearby. If you require otherwise and we can accommodate your needs, we will (such as floor space for a piece instead of table space).

This is not a competition. Any submissions that meet the requirements and support the aims will be displayed. The committee will communicate with each submitter to confirm participation.

Participants do not need to be presenting at the conference otherwise, but must be registered, attending, and be current with AESA membership dues.

Please note that participating in this exhibit is a form of publication of your work, similar to presenting a paper, and although it is peer reviewed, it is not blind or competitive.