



Creature Conserve, Inc. 501(c)(3) registered domestic non-profit organization  
EIN 47-4607134

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Board of Directors: Melissa Torres (Chair), Dr. Bianca Brown (Treasurer), Abigail Adams (Secretary), Samantha Dempsey, Maeve Donohue, Cameron Little, Sophie Nieman, Nicholas Jainschigg, Dr. Nicole Merola, Dr. Kate Smith, and Dr. Lucy Spelman (Ex Officio)

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## 2024 Creature Conserve Scholarship Program

Explore new art-sci pathways for wildlife conservation with funding and support

### About Creature Conserve

Wildlife populations are declining around the world because of human impacts. We are all part of this problem, yet too few of us are part of the solution. Now is the time for a more inviting and inclusive approach to wildlife conservation, open to diverse perspectives from the arts, humanities, sciences, traditional ecological knowledge, and beyond.

Creature Conserve is a Rhode Island-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) conservation outreach organization. Our mission is to grow a creative community that combines art with science to cultivate new pathways for wildlife conservation. We bring together artists, designers, writers, scientists, traditional knowledge holders, and other experts in a supportive, welcoming space to learn about threats to wildlife, share empathy for animals, exchange ideas, and find opportunities for growth at the intersection of art, science, and conservation. Our programs include curatorial programs, mentorship, scholarships, and workshops. They take place in person and online. We welcome people at all skill levels, from all backgrounds, and in all countries.

### Growing Art-Sci Pathways for Wildlife Conservation

At Creature Conserve, we recognize that many artists, designers, and writers, especially those in underserved communities have limited access to experts with scientific and traditional knowledge and few, if any, opportunities to get involved in on-the-ground conservation. Similarly, relatively few experts working to restore species and their habitats have established connections with artists, designers, and writers. Combining art with science makes it easier for everyone to explore the human connection to nature and create new pathways to a healthier world for all animals. Participants in our programs learn from each other, create and innovate together, develop new skills, and use their combined talents to reach a wider audience and improve outcomes.

## Scholarship Program Summary

We provide stipends for artists, designers, scientists, and writers for projects to support their creative process, including making art informed by science that inspires conservation action. Stipend amounts range from \$500 to \$1500 per project. We welcome applications from people at all skill levels, from all backgrounds, and in all countries. Successful applicants receive feedback and guidance from our program leaders and, free access to our online workshops for a full year.

The Scholarship Program Application requires that the scholar propose a specific project as the focus of their exploration; this can be an existing or new project. *Funds can be spent on creative time, art supplies, logistical support, travel, and conference fees. A basic budget is required.*

NOTE: The Curatorial Fellow - Virtual receives a pre-set stipend of \$1500 over 6 months. The budget for this scholarship is an \$800 material fund.

Applications close on April 30. Successful applicants will be notified by early June. All projects must be completed within 6 months.

We expect all recipients to document and share their project process and outcomes, send supply a testimonial/impact statement about the value of their experience and plans for continued art-sci work on projects related to wildlife conservation, and provide an expense report. We ask for digital formats so we can share your success with others.

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## Details

### Applying for a Scholarship at Creature Conserve

To apply for a Creature Conserve Scholarship, please return to our website or click [here](#) to go directly to the application form.

### Who can apply?

We welcome people at all skill levels, from all backgrounds, and in all countries.

We use the terms artist, designer, scientist, and writer in the broadest sense. Artists and designers include creatives working in any form of visual art from architecture and design to illustration, filmmaking, and painting. We will also consider performing art and installation art. Writers include poets, non-fiction writers, novelists, and science communicators. Scientists include those working in the natural sciences (biology, ecology, health) as well as earth sciences (climatology, geology) and the social sciences; we also include holders of traditional ecological knowledge and others who use scientific information and/or the scientific method in their daily work, such as wildlife guides.

## What are the categories of scholarship?

To help you formulate your application and help us match your interests with our expertise, we have established several “categories” of scholarship to help you shape your project proposal. Scholarship categories for 2024 are described below. They include Artist Partnerships, Curatorial Fellow - Virtual, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, Elif Ilkel Memorial Scholarship, Sci + Art Field Studies, and Visiting Creative.

## Who are the scholarship advisors?

Each scholarship advisor will select scholarship recipients for the categories they oversee and provide feedback and guidance as needed during the project. Our scholarship advisors are:

Heather McMordie, Arts Curator (Curatorial Fellow - Virtual, Visiting Creative)

Derek Russell, Mentorship Director (Artist Partnerships, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion)

Shiri Lev, Network and Content Strategist (Sci+Art Field Studies)

Lucy Spelman, Executive Director (Elif Ilkel Memorial Scholarship.)

## What questions are on the application form?

-Contact information, including your social media handle(s) and portfolio or website if applicable

-Scholarship Category: we ask you to select one of the five categories. See below (p5-6) for category descriptions and examples.

-Project Title: A descriptive title

-Project Focus: Species or Ecosystem: Please share the species of animal or group of animals or ecosystem that is the focus of your project.

Project Description: A 1500-word project description.

-Project Goal: Please share what you see as the overall goal of the proposed project (500 words.) Examples include a final work of art, design, or writing that incorporates science/scientific information; plans for a new or ongoing art-sci collaboration that addresses a current topic in wildlife conservation; or a public exhibition or publication for stakeholder outreach.

-Collaborators/Host Institutions: Please specify collaborators, host institutions, or partner organizations. See the suggestions below (p5) for how to identify a collaborator/partner/host institution.

-Relevant Experience: Please share any recent relevant experience (500-word max)

-Project Budget: Please include the total request and a list of potential expenses. *Funds can be spent on creative time, art supplies, logistical support, travel, and conference fees.* Stipends range from \$500 - \$1500 except for the Curatorial Fellow - Virtual. For this category, the Fellow receives a pre-set stipend of \$1500; the budget request is for the \$800 material fund.

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## Suggestions for developing your project/finding a collaborator or host institution

### Collaboration

We encourage you to identify a collaborator or host institution first, and then design your project. This process will ensure a collaborative approach to your work, and to select a category.

1. Before deciding on the specifics of your art-sci wildlife conservation project, we suggest you begin by *identifying a collaborator or host institution*. This makes it easier to develop a collaborative proposal.
2. The next step is to *find your mutual interests: an animal or group of animals or habitat that you both want to conserve*. You will likely have plenty of choices; this can be overwhelming. In some ways, the specifics do not matter as much as the focus. The goal is to explore the art/sci conservation space and the creative process that results from collaborating across disciplines.
3. Once you know who you are collaborating with and the focus animal(s)/habitat, the next step is to *agree on a starting point*: will this be a new (art-sci) conservation project or are you building on an existing one (adding more or new forms of art/design/writing or sci, depending on your background) or is this a "pilot" project for a potential future project that is longer-term or more complex?
  - a. If the conservation effort/research is just starting, your project could be designed to enhance the planning process. Your art-sci work will likely open up all kinds of possibilities and help shape the methodology and goals.
  - b. If it is already underway, your project goal may be to create works of art, design, or writing that meet a specific need - such as public engagement or stakeholder outreach. Alternatively, it could be to make work that reflects your experience as a collaborator in the art-sci conservation space.
  - c. If you have been invited to spend time as a visiting artist or writer in a pre-established residency, or as a scientist visiting an art studio or museum, your project goals may be fixed for you. There may be, for example, an expectation of finished work for a particular purpose, i.e., public engagement or science communication. In this case, the project will be more of a partnership than a collaboration. Even so, the position will allow you to explore the possibilities of working in the art-sci conservation space.

- d. If you are planning on attending a conference, consider what you hope to gain or glean from the opportunity. Be as specific in your thinking as possible: do you wish to find a collaborator and if so for what type of art-sci work; is there a particular body of scientific research that you want to find out about?
4. It is essential to ask your collaborator/host institution what they can provide that will support your efforts: access to staff and programs, a place to work, possibly a place to stay, help with transportation, and meals.

We recommend letting your potential collaborator know that you are applying for funding from Creature Conserve. A small amount of funding granted from one non-profit can leverage funding from another.

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## Scholarship Program Categories 2024 and Examples

### Artist Partnerships

For artists, designers, or writers working in partnership with a scientific or conservation organization (i.e., academic institution, museum, non-profit organization, or for-profit organization) on an art-sci wildlife conservation project. Advisor: Mentorship Director.

*Examples: A designer working on a public engagement piece that is informed or influenced by a body of research conducted by the partner institution. An artist working with a museum research collection. Or, a group of writers working in partnership with an online conservation magazine to curate and publish a body of work on a topic related to conservation.*

### Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

For artists or writers working to identify underserved and underrepresented audiences with a stake in a particular wildlife conservation project and develop strategies for including and engaging them in the effort through art-sci collaboration. Advisor: Mentorship Director

*Examples include targeted efforts to reach a particular community local to a conservation project through art informed by science; the location may be urban, rural, or remote. The stipend may be used to support public engagement activities or for outreach materials.*

## Sci + Art Field Studies

For artists, designers, or writers participating in a wildlife conservation project in the field. The stipend is used to support their participation either directly or indirectly via support given to the project host or organizer if it is a non-profit or charitable organization. Advisor: Networking Coordinator.

*Examples include artist participation in biodiversity monitoring studies in the field, documenting the landscape and its inhabitants, creating new works for public engagement, or improving or developing new methodologies for conservation fieldwork.*

## Elif Ilkel Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is in memory of Elif Ilkel, a beautiful person and talented photographer/videographer who we lost to a traffic accident in 2022. Elif attributed her growth as an artist committed to art-sci wildlife conservation to a study abroad course she took in Guyana, South America while in school. Advisor: Executive Director

*Examples include study abroad courses offered by high schools and colleges, as well as other opportunities open to art/design/writing students or young professionals who seek to learn from experts in the field of conservation. These experts may include scientists (biologists, ecologists, park naturalists, veterinarians, and wildlife guides), community leaders, local artists, lodge operators, and reserve managers.*

## Visiting Creative (Artist, Designer, or Writer)

Stipend support for a previously awarded residency associated with a wildlife conservation organization or environmental resource management agency, or for a newly designed one that offers an opportunity for art-sci collaboration in support of biodiversity studies and wildlife conservation. Advisor: Arts Curator

*Examples include unpaid or partially supported artist residencies that have been offered to you or a visiting artist/writer opportunity that you have developed as a result of establishing a new collaboration.*

## Curatorial Fellowship - Virtual

The Curatorial Fellowship is an opportunity for an emerging creative or curator to work on a self-directed project about a conservation issue relevant to their community. This is an opportunity for creatives to expand their curatorial and project management skills, pursue a topic they are passionate about, and create innovative curatorial practices. The VIRTUAL fellow will be selected from anywhere in the world to work on a virtual exhibition or publication.

The Curatorial Fellow - Virtual will receive a pre-set stipend of \$1500 over 6 months. The budget request for this category is for an \$800 material fund.

### *The Ideal Curatorial Fellow:*

- Is a creative with an interest in developing curation as a part of their artistic/professional practice.
- Has a personal and/or artistic interest in themes related to animal extinction, nature protection, and connections between the arts and science
- Has previously worked on projects related to conservation in either the arts OR the sciences AND is interested in exploring art/science collaborations
- Has a passion for creating community around art, especially in the virtual setting.
- Is self-motivated and has a strong vision for their proposed curatorial project.
- Has experience working on complex projects with a remote team.
- Has access to reliable internet and a computer.
- Is NOT currently enrolled in a degree-granting program.
- Please note, that you do NOT need to be an artist or work in an arts-related field to apply for this fellowship

### *The Ideal Curatorial Project:*

- Can be completed within a timeframe of 6 months.
- Takes a final format that can be easily shared with global audiences.
- Examines a specific aspect of wildlife conservation
  - A strong topic: climate change impacts on aquatic creature migrations
  - A weak topic: climate change
- Includes works from multiple creatives (This is NOT an opportunity to curate a solo exhibition.)

For questions or more information, please contact Arts Curator Heather McMordie at [artscurator@creatureconserve.com](mailto:artscurator@creatureconserve.com)

## Terms

### Creature Conserve Scholarship Recipient Agreement

We ask all scholarship recipients to commit to the following:

- Meet with their Scholarship Advisor virtually at least twice, including an introductory and a wrap-up meeting; check in as needed in between.
- Project revision: Revise the project as needed after review with the Scholarship Advisor.
- Carry out the project within 6 months.
- Documentation: Make images/notes/photos/sketches/videos at various time points during the project (i.e., beginning, middle, and end) using a digital format.
- Sharing: Send your project documentation to us in real time so we can share it on our website, social media, and printed materials. Please provide at least one reel. All work will be credited to you.
- Social media: Post about your project in real time and tag us on Instagram using @creatureconserve and Facebook using #creatureconserve.
- Accounting: Upon completion of the project, send an expense report.
- Testimonial/Impact Statement: Upon completion of the project, send a written 1-2 page testimonial about the experience and share any plans you have to continue your art-sci wildlife conservation work, i.e., actual or planned collaborators and/or projects

*Note: All scholarship recipients will be asked to sign a work usage release form (waiver) for Creature Conserve. All US citizens receiving an award amount of \$600 or greater will be asked to fill out a W-9 form for Creature Conserve.*