



IMAGINING AMERICA

artists + scholars in public life

The Imagining America (IA) national consortium brings together scholars, artists, designers, humanists, and organizers to imagine, study, and enact a more just and liberatory 'America' and world. Working across institutional, disciplinary, and community divides, IA strengthens and promotes public scholarship, cultural organizing, and campus change that inspires collective imagination, knowledge-making, and civic action on pressing public issues. By dreaming and building together in public, IA creates the conditions to shift culture and transform inequitable institutional and societal structures.

Who is eligible to become a member?

IA offers memberships for higher education institutions. Current [members](#) include 70+ colleges and universities across the U.S., including public and private, two-year and four-year, rural and urban, and minorityserving institutions. These institutions share a commitment to IA's [mission](#) and [values](#). All students and employees of member institutions are part of the IA network and can take advantage of membership benefits. IA is exploring other membership categories, including cultural institution memberships, departmental memberships, and individual memberships.



What is the process to become a member?

Joining the Imagining America network is easy, and IA staff can facilitate conversations with your colleagues and leadership in support of membership. Once you have decided to join IA, we ask you to prepare three items: a **signed participation agreement**, **institutional contacts**, and **payment of dues** for the membership year.

The participation agreement is typically a three-year commitment, which allows member institutions time to fully experience and take advantage of the [benefits](#) IA has to offer. If you would like to review the agreement or have questions, please email IA at connect@imaginingamerica.org.

The agreement must be signed by an authorized signatory from your institution, as well as IA and the University of California, Davis.* Within the agreement, we also ask you to identify a financial/administrative contact who will receive the annual membership dues invoice, as well as two institutional liaisons who will organize your campus and community to engage with one another and the national IA consortium. Once IA has received a signed agreement from your institution, you should receive a fully executed agreement back from IA/UC Davis within 1-3 weeks.

The final step in the process is for IA to generate and send an invoice for membership dues for the current membership year. The membership year runs from July 1 - June 30, and dues are prorated. Payments are made through the UC Davis Cashier & Payment Solutions Office which is able to process



payments via check, credit card, or wire transfer.

After this process is complete, we offer each institution a welcome meeting to learn more about your institution and community so we can connect you with opportunities, resources, individuals, and organizations in our network that might best meet your interests and needs. It is also a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and plan ways to stay connected throughout the year.

*The University of California, Davis is the host campus for Imagining America; and therefore, the participation agreement, invoice, and payment process go through UC Davis channels.

What amount will my institution pay in membership dues?

Membership dues are charged annually on July 1, at the beginning of the membership year, and are based on the most recent IPEDS data on total Full-time Enrollment (FTE) and Instructional Expenses per FTE. Please note, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges, and Community

Colleges are charged set membership dues based on their institutional type. The Imagining America Consortium Membership Dues Structure table is included below for your reference. If you have any questions about membership dues, please email IA at connect@imaginingamerica.org.

Imagining America Consortium Membership Dues Structure*

Full Time Enrollment (FTE)	Instructional Expenses per FTE	Annual IA Fee Level
Greater than 20,000	N/A	\$5,000
5,000 – 20,000	\$20,000 or more	\$5,000
	\$10,000 – \$19,999	\$4,000
	\$5,000 – \$9,999	\$3,000
	\$4,999 or less	\$2,000
Less than 5,000	\$10,000 or more	\$2,000
	\$5,000 – \$9,999	\$1,000
	\$4,999 or less	\$500
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)	N/A	\$1,000
Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)	N/A	\$1,000
Tribal Colleges & Community Colleges	N/A	\$500

*Each institution's membership fee level category is verified and updated annually.

If my institution joins, who will have access to membership benefits?

All students and employees (faculty, staff, leadership, etc.) of IA member institutions have access to IA's membership benefits.

- National Gathering
- Publicly Active Graduate Education Fellows Program (PAGE)
- IA/Joy of Giving Something (JGS) Undergraduate Fellows Program
- Research Initiatives
- IA Teaching and Learning Circle (TLC)
- Social Community
- Regional Campus-Community Organizing
- PUBLIC: A Journal of Imagining America
- National Spotlight
- Leadership Forum

You can find out more about IA's membership benefits in the Membership section of our [website](#).

If you would like to move forward with your institution becoming a member of the IA consortium, please email connect@imaginingamerica.org.

I'm interested! What should I do next?



We're excited for you to join the consortium!



imaginingamerica.org • connect@imaginingamerica.org

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Member Benefits

- **National Gathering.** This three-day immersive experience engages public scholars, artists, designers, students, cultural organizers, and members of the general public in collaborative learning, making, dreaming, dialogue, and problem-solving. Located in a different member institution region each year, the [IA National Gathering](#) provides a space for participants to connect with one another and to experience and strategize on how the arts, humanities, design, and cultural organizing can be leveraged towards transformative learning and action. Members receive one free conference registration and discounted registration fees for students, faculty, and staff.
- **Publicly Active Graduate Education (PAGE) Fellowship.** The [PAGE Fellowship](#) is a national, interdisciplinary community of publicly-engaged graduate students engaged in public humanities, arts, and design scholarship and creative practice. PAGE enhances the practice and pedagogy of public scholarship and provides peer support, career networking, and opportunities for collaborative knowledge production. Graduate students from member campuses are eligible to apply for the PAGE Fellowship on an annual basis.
- **Joy of Giving Something (JGS) Fellowship.** The [IA/JGS Fellowship](#) aims to elevate photography and digital media as pathways for undergraduate students to pursue their careers and to make a difference in their communities. JGS fellows commit to a year-long learning exchange that includes tuition support, financial support for a community project, and opportunities for professional development. Undergraduate students from member campuses are eligible to apply for the JGS Fellowship on an annual basis.
- **Leadership Forum.** Institutional leaders of IA member campuses are invited to participate in the annual IA Leadership Forum, which takes place at the annual National Gathering. The Forum provides institutional leaders a space to engage in critical analysis of leadership challenges and opportunities to devise collective strategies to better support public and creative scholarship.



- **Webinars and Virtual Convenings.**

IA regularly organizes virtual convenings to provide accessible, year-round networking and learning opportunities. The Teaching and Learning Circle (TLC) webinar series facilitates conversations, learning, and resource sharing on critical topics within the IA consortium. IA Study Groups provide spaces for peer study and connection. Meet IA sessions help orient prospective, new, or current members to the IA network, and other information sessions provide insight into specific IA programs and initiatives. Webinars are free for members, and we welcome member proposals for future topics.

- **Member and Regional Organizing**

Supported by IA staff and the National Advisory Board, member and regional events offer scholars, students, artists, designers, and community organizers opportunities to explore the theory and practice of public scholarship and cultural organizing, discuss pressing issues impacting member campuses and regions, and foster a peer support network. Members have resources to support organizing on their own campus, including the Activate Your IA Membership toolkit, and IA Collaboratories in their regions.

- **Mail Art Project.** The [Mail Art Project](#) is an annual opportunity for IA members to engage in important topics and issues through shared creative art making and reflection. Themes are drawn from IA's National Gatherings and include waterways and movements, rituals of repair and renewal, and radical reckoning for collective change. This is a free, members-only program.

- **Research Initiatives and Collaboratories.**

IA's action research portfolio includes Equitable Food Futures with Sipp Culture to activate agri (cultural) imaginations towards equitable, thriving food futures, and the Leading and Learning Initiative (LLI), which documents challenges and successful practices to shift campus culture in support of public and activist scholarship. Members are invited to participate in IA's research collaboratories, which have long been part of IA's work to connect members across the IA consortium in the production of public knowledge and collective imagination through collaborative research and experimentation.

- **National Spotlight.** IA promotes public scholarship, cultural organizing, and campus change by lifting up the stories of our members through a number of platforms, including: the [IAStoryShare](#) and [IA Hubbub](#) podcasts and featured member spotlights in our monthly newsletters and social media. Members are invited to submit news, job postings, and other stories at any time.
- **Publications.** [PUBLIC](#): A Journal of Imagining America is an innovative peer-reviewed, multimedia e-journal that features art, scholarship, and dialogue at the intersections of the humanities, arts, and design in public life. The digital archive is available to view; we are not currently accepting submissions. The relaunched [Foreseeable Futures](#) position paper series shares the work of culture keepers and thinkers, in dialogue with respondents from the IA network.
- **Peer Learning Tools.** The Public Scholar Conversation Cards and the Public Scholar Imagination Guide are pedagogical tools inspired by the findings from IA action research projects. IA also develops and shares toolkits that draw from work within the network, including guides for facilitating Story Circles, leading creative events, and engaging with community leaders.



For questions on benefits and membership inquiries please contact us at connect@imaginingamerica.org.