

## Proposal

### Bringing The Digital Lab Home With Me

I am a Studio Art major with a concentration in New Media. I also pursue an Environmental Science major, and my dream is to combine these two passions through digital design. My goals include scientific illustration, fostering environmental/ecological education and outreach through engagement with the arts, data visualization, and beyond. This year I have joined the design and production teams of two undergraduate-run magazines, V Mag and Virginia Review of Politics, in order to nurture my future goals with large scale and long term commercial design experiences. I'm excited to be working with both a fashion and arts centered magazine as well as one that focuses on educating and informing the public, as these represent my differing interests and can provide me with invaluable skills and connections.

However, with a STEM and Arts double major, my schedule can be extremely tight, and, currently, I have to travel from my off campus home to the New Media Lab or the library computer labs in order to access the necessary equipment and software for hours of project-based work, which is a large burden. My current personal computer does not have sufficient power or storage to handle the high quality projects I create for organizations, class, and personal work, and buying a fancy new laptop is not an option for me right now. I am applying for this mini grant in order to help cover the cost of purchasing the 2022 model iPad Pro with an 11 inch display, which can help me bring the digital lab home with me in my backpack!

A portable tablet will allow me to create my digital artwork much easier and faster, plus it will open up the ability for me to take on more projects with more ease—personal, academic, and professional. I really believe it will be a game changer for me, in the sense that it will not only allow me to not only deepen my current art practice, but also evolve my skills to a new level and unlock techniques and styles that I can't refine with a mouse-computer set up. The ability to use my hands and a drawing utensil will greatly benefit me, as I come from a drawing and painting background and can more easily incorporate those foundations into my digital work.

My New Media courses, past and future, prepare me to work with a range of softwares and employ diverse techniques in creating picture, video, and sound art. With a high performing iPad, I can shoot and edit video, create animations, work with audio, access image and design editing software, and take advantage of personal digital file storage; I can do these things any time, anywhere! The most amazing part about being awarded this grant is that it would not only help me pursue my artistic goals in a short term timeline, but this kind of equipment investment will support me as I grow my career and chase more opportunities for years to come.


I chose this specific iPad after personal research on tablets and digital art equipment as well as the advice and guidance from my MAS 3rd year project mentor and New Media professor Federico Cuatlacuatl. This grant would unfortunately not fully cover the cost, so I would cover the rest out of pocket, however \$500 would still make this a much more feasible purchase for me. My budget is outlined on the next page.

## Budget

2022 11-inch Liquid Retina Display iPad Pro	\$749
MAS Fall Minigrant	\$500
Personal Incurred Cost	\$249

Total Funding Request: \$500

## Resume

<p><b>MEG KOSEFESKI</b></p>  <p><b>PROFILE</b></p> <p>I am a queer, non-binary artist and outdoors enthusiast. In my studies, I aim to understand the heart of life and humanity through my pursuit of Environmental Science and Studio Art degrees. My generation is one of the first to grow up alongside the development of the internet and with a profound consciousness of the climate crisis. My age group also became adults during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic; through all of these experiences I have become intensely curious about the nature of reality and I always strive to add compassion to the mix. I'm passionate about communicating and engaging with my community; my ultimate goal is to employ my privilege in service of the people and Earth around me.</p> <p><b>CONTACT</b></p> <p>PHONE: 434.270.4365</p> <p>EMAIL: megan.kosef@gmail.com mck8qr@virginia.edu</p>	<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p><b>Saint Anne's Belfield High School, Charlottesville, Virginia</b> August 2016–June 2020 Graduated with 4.14 GPA, and three-year Peer Mentor. Four years of Honors and AP courses. Computer science and drawing &amp; painting teaching assistant. Co-founded school chapter of Active Minds, an organization focused on mental health. Earned varsity letter in lacrosse.</p> <p><b>University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia</b> Deferred enrollment to August of 2021 Accepted to the University of Virginia, class of 2024, College of Arts and Sciences. Deferred enrollment due to Covid-19 and the desire to volunteer and work.</p> <p><b>ARTS &amp; COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Virginia Review of Politics Operations Team Member</b> September 2023–Current Designs layout and production graphics for UVA's undergraduate political magazine. Uses Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and other design softwares.</p> <p><b>V Mag Design Team Member</b> September 2023–Current Designs layout and production graphics for UVA's student run fashion and arts magazine. Uses Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, and other design softwares. Collaborates with other teams to create a cohesive final issue.</p> <p><b>Dissenters Member</b> September 2023–Current Member of UVA campus branch of Dissenters, an organization rooted in community organizing and committed to the imagination and pursuit of a demilitarized future. Helps support and carry out campaigns.</p> <p><b>behindthesun Lead Singer and Social Media Manager</b> September 2022–Current Vocalist and social media manager for an award-winning student band that performs at local venues, peer-managed concerts, and UVA-sponsored events. Coordinates online outreach and advertising material through multiple platforms and ensures cohesive brand image.</p> <p><b>WXTJ Radio Host and Exec Social Media Manager</b> October 2021–Current Runs a weekly 2-hour show for UVA student radio. Uses a range of audio technology and broadcasting skills, public speaking, and designs graphics. Hosts research segments related to musical interests. Curates the station's social online presence, communicates with club members as well as the broader community, and handles advertising and outreach.</p>
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## SKILLS

Proficient in standard Microsoft Office suite (Word/Excel/PowerPoint) and standard Adobe Systems softwares  
Amateur photographer, videographer, and graphic designer  
Trained *One Love* conversation facilitator  
Red Cross CPR / First Aid / Open Water Lifeguard

## Freelance Artist

June 2017–Current

Creates and sells art in multiple mediums. Negotiates with buyers to determine schedules and fees. Commissioned to produce paintings, sculptures, and digital works as well as design and execute tattoos. Produces art from recycled materials. Designs graphic art for commercial customers using Adobe Photoshop. Painted two community murals.

## ArtLab Residency at Mountain Lake Biological Station

June 2023–July 2023

Nominated as the New Media representative for a remote two week residency at UVA's biological research field station in South West Virginia. Attended with student and professional artists, listened to lectures, joined and assisted field research teams, and created personal work inspired from environment and experiences. Upcoming Ruffin exhibition.

## Virginia Forestry Club Volunteer

October 2022–May 2023

Works with local recreation and conservation organizations to steward parks, trails, and forests. Identifies and removes invasive species, uses a variety of equipment and tools to manage plants and rocks for the safety and health of Charlottesville's outdoor spaces.

## Wintergreen Adaptive Sports Volunteer

January 2023–February 2023

Instructed veterans and people with any range of mental or physical disabilities to ski in an accessible, local program. Worked with all ages. Managed equipment and participants' health status and safety while ensuring a positive experience. Season ended short due to weather.

## Growing for Change Volunteer

October 2021–May 2022

Worked with UVA's neighboring Westhaven community in small student groups to build and start home gardens. Worked directly with a local family to meet their wants and needs for self-farming. Was able to navigate language barriers in order to develop positive relationships with folks historically impacted by UVA's presence.

## One Small Step Interviewee

April 2022

Participated in UVA Democracy Initiative's partnership with the UVA StoryCorps/One Small Step Project, a program intended to address and remedy political polarization. Recorded conversational interviews with other community members, cataloged at the Library of Congress.