

Neural Constellations – August 18th @ HR MacMillan Space Centre

- 1. Name of event organizer(s):** Curiosity Collider and HR MacMillan Space Centre, with Naila Kuhlmann as guest curator
- 2. Brief description of the event:** We are colliding neuroscience and astronomy with performance art, sound, dance, and animation for an evening under the HR MacMillan planetarium dome, so as to explore similar patterns at the macro (astronomy) and micro (neurobiology) scale by taking a tour through both outer and inner space. We will be using images and video provided by the space centre to provide a narrated tour of our galaxy, and will move down to the microscopic scale using images from Neurodome and from our local research labs. We will also be representing scientific concepts through performance art, including a dance to illustrate the cellular mechanism of memory formation and degradation. The evening will also allow for plenty of opportunity to mingle over snacks, and will include a silent auction for both art and science-based (e.g. lab tour, museum passes, etc.) prizes.
- 3. Description of how the event is interdisciplinary:** This event brings together various communities to explore the intersection of performance / visual arts and scientific research. As the theme focuses on observation at various scales, we are covering topics from astronomy to neurobiology.
- 4. Who the event is open to (eg, public, private, undergraduate, or graduate students):** The event will be open to the public (> 19 years of age), with a focus on targeting artist and research communities. We will advertise through various streams, including direct invitations through graduate program mailing lists.
- 5. Description of how UBC graduate students will benefit from attending the event:** This event seeks to provide both a valuable educational and creative experience, as well as an opportunity for networking with students, faculty, artists and community members across various disciplines. While students will glean specific knowledge about the current research in the fields on astronomy and neuroscience, the event will also serve to demonstrate how science can be communicated through alternative methods, and how artists can integrate scientific concepts into their work.
- 6. Expected attendance: Number of graduate students, and graduate programs:** We are expecting ~200 attendees total, and ~50 graduate students specifically. We will be emailing natural sciences, humanities and arts programs at both UBC and SFU, as well as other colleges in Vancouver.
- 7. Amount of funding requested and budget justification:** We are requesting \$500 to help cover the direct expenses of the event (equipment rental, staff, refreshments and promotional materials) as well as honorariums for those involved: we are hoping to pay all those involved (dancers, science narrators, costume designers, visual artists, musicians, etc.) an honorarium (~\$100) for their work in planning this event. As the event requires a lot of preparation and rehearsal, as well as costs for materials, we feel this is a minimum to cover the efforts and time of our collaborators.
- 8. Other funding sources applied:** We have applied to the UBC GSS, the Society for Neuroscience chapter grant, and are in correspondence with potential local sponsor such as Urthecast and Microsoft. We will also be reaching out to other University groups and the Allen Institute in Seattle.