

10 curated tips for scientists when working with artists

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Communicate early and often!

Before you apply for grant funding. before you collect data, before you submit your manuscript - it is never too early to have a conversation with an artist or designer about visual communication of your science.

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Have a budget in mind beforehand

Echo Rivera

Have a budget in mind before you contact us and tell us upfront. Don't low-ball it, be 100% honest!



Sketch out your ideas and provide examples

If you feel comfortable doing so, sketching out your ideas or sharing examples of what you might be looking for can be very helpful for us to better understand your goals.

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Keep an open mind

Be prepared for us to propose an alternative way to get your point across or design your idea.



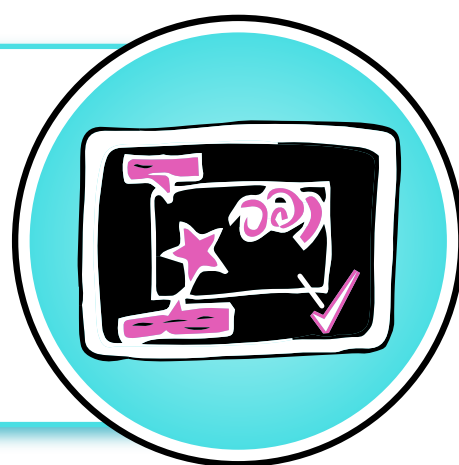
Ask all the questions

If you're unsure, ask! Common questions are about the process, pricing, rights to share and sell work, and the best format for sharing on social media.

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Thoroughly review the artist's work when asked

That way we can correct mistakes before moving on to later stages where it is much more difficult to do so. Also, think of yourself as the expert in the scientific field. We can make mistakes and no one wants the final project to contain wrong information.



Miriam Rivera

Plan to pay for creative work!

Include funding to cover illustrations in your planning and grant writing.

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Do some research

Look on social media for #sciart, search for artists who do the kind of work that interests you, talk to other scientists who have beautiful publications and ask who they worked with in order to find an artist. Pick an artist whose work you enjoy, rather than picking a random artist and trying to get them to do something out of their expertise. Also, don't just use whoever pops up on your twitter feed first.



Julie Johnson
& Abrian Curington
& Madison Mayfield

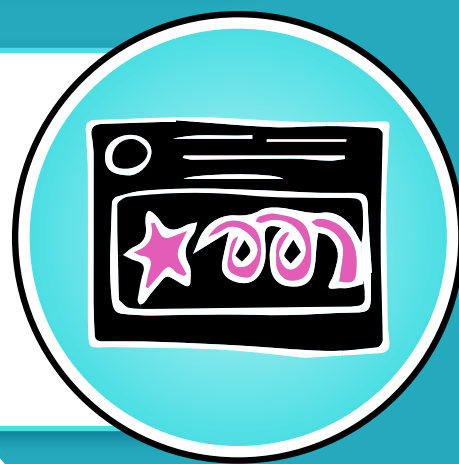
It should be fun!

Even time consuming and stressful projects are more fun when you have a good partnership.

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You'll still need to promote & plan a way to disseminate what we create together

Dedicate some funds for this aspect and talk with experts to help you. (Hi from Lifeology, I help scientists share their work on social media!)



Paige Jarreau