SCIENCE JAM GUIDE

A SCIENCE JAM IS THE SCIENTIFIC/ARTISTIC EXPERIMENT PAR EXCELLENCE, A PETRI DISH FOR IDEAS FROM ARTISTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SCIENCE AND FOR IDEAS FROM SCIENTISTS WHO ARE ON FIRE FOR ART. THIS IS HOW YOU PREPARE FOR A JAM:

The evenings last a maximum of two hours and should take place in an informal setting so that the guests stay on after the actual event to discuss things further. The aim is to balance both the scientific and the artistic portions of the evening and to complement them both. It ensures that the evening is both entertaining and informative and that a good dialogue between scientists, artists and the audience can develop.

Take (at least) one scientist, (at least) one artist, an organizer/communicator/moderator

1. WHY ORGANIZE A SCIENCE JAM?
   
   You are a communicator: If you would like to broach a subject that has both scientific and societal relevance, but is mostly only addressed in dry podium discussions, it might just be time for a science jam.
   
   You are an artist: You are working on a topic that is currently being discussed with great intensity by science. The topic fascinates you and you would love to engage in a public discussion with a scientist about it. Why not try a science jam?!
   
   You are a scientist: You would like to take a totally different view of your research topic and publicly discuss it. How about a science jam?

2. SUBJECT

   It should be based on available expertise. If a topic is interesting, but there is no expert available to discuss it critically, it isn’t a suitable choice. If you can’t find an artist who would like to deal with a topic, then the topic is too specific or does not involve enough critical aspects.
3. **FIRST POINT OF CONTACT?**

Contact a scientist or artist and arrange for a joint meeting during which time you both get to know one another and can exchange your initial ideas.

4. **PREPARATION**

Preparation is key! You should start at best two months before the event. In the end, the scientist and artists should have a rough idea in their minds about how the evening will go. But: Spontaneity and improvisation are allowed and are a part of the overall concept.

Furthermore, an organizational concept has to result at the end of your preparatory stage: The technical requirements have to have been clarified, drinks might need to be arranged, the room’s seating has to be organized and the moderator has to be prepped. Above all, what is most important is announcing the event itself (posters, flyers, an entry in the event calendar of the institution/local newspaper, etc.).

5. **PARTICIPATORY**

If at all possible, the audience should be included. The guests should be asked questions, allowed to discuss, consulted — even included in dance performances. They can be involved in all sorts of activities.

6. **DIVISION OF LABOR IS CRUCIAL**

- Technology: One person should be responsible for the technology only through the entire evening. What is needed: Lights, microphones, a projector, music?
- Moderation: One person should take on being the moderator.
- Documentation: Will the evening be filmed, audiotaped or photographed? Someone needs to be responsible for that as well.

**LET’S SCIENCE JAM!**
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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