

Nogginfest

A free public celebration of music, art, brains and neuroscience research

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Science needs investment, and engaging the public communicates discoveries and builds support for education and research. Integrating the arts, including painting and music in STEM (STEAM) fosters interdisciplinary engagement, and draws in more people not currently overrepresented in the academic study of neuroscience.



Nonprofit NW Noggin (nwnoggin.org) organizes undergraduates and graduates to collaborate, build community networks and inspire people about neuroscience and art. We bring diverse students excited by research and their own arts-integrated study of the brain and behavior into K-12 public schools, correctional facilities, Congress, houseless youth centers, coffee shops and pubs to hear to what people already know and what they'd like to know, and to see where our stories and discoveries from labs and classrooms intersect. We've talked with over 55,000 people since 2012!

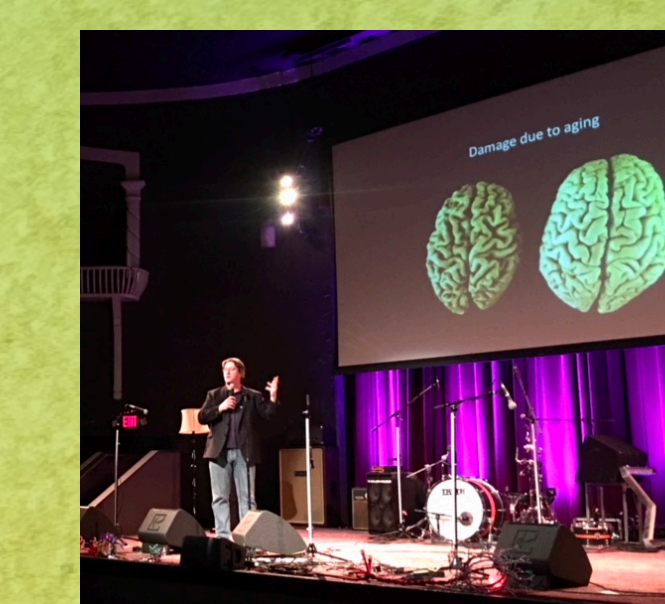


NW Noggin is volunteer and free. Many science organizations in the Northwest are paywalled, and require you to come to them, excluding many, and largely serving those with existing resources and privilege. Yet despite minimal budgets, we successfully raised funds to bring accomplished outreach participants to SfN conferences to present posters and visit K-12 students in Chicago, San Diego and Washington DC public schools.



NogginFest is the largest student-run, free, all ages celebration of brains, art and music in the Pacific Northwest, enthusing and informing a diverse public about discoveries in neuroscience.

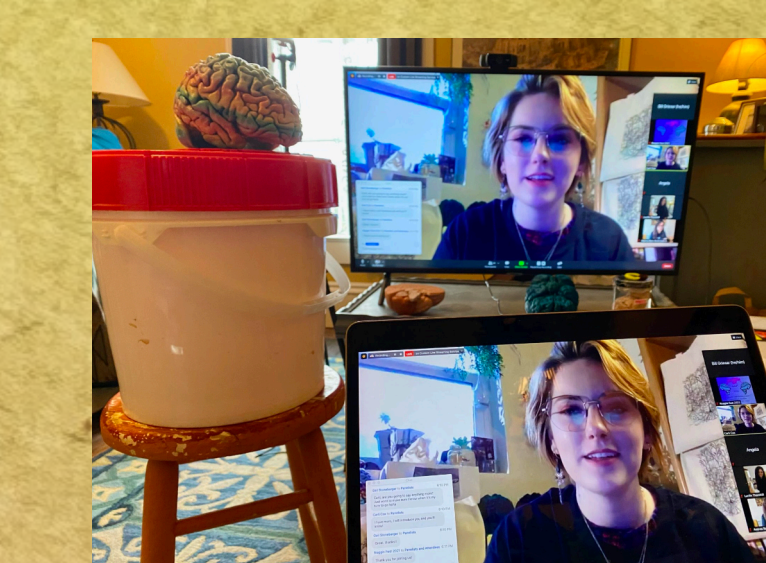
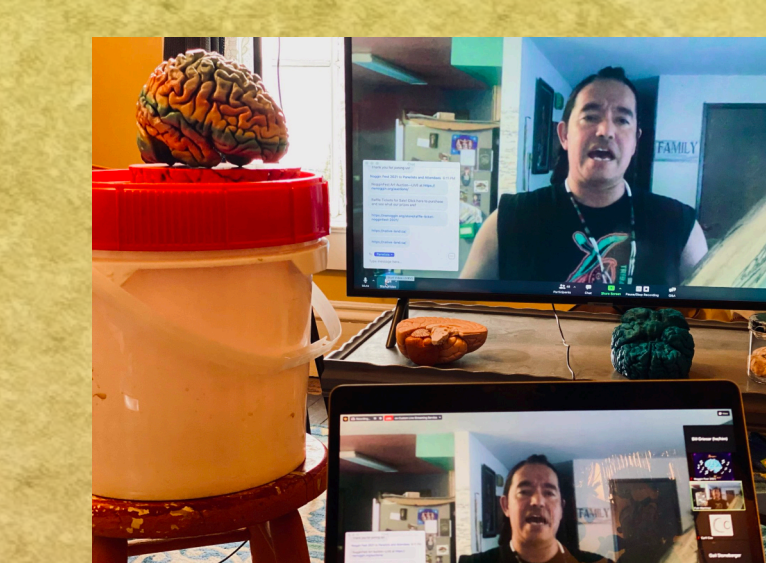
In 2017, through the efforts of undergraduate members of the Portland State University Neuroscience Club, we presented our first NogginFest, a free public celebration of music, art, research and brains! We offered live bands, an art auction, brain specimens, art activities and research speakers at the Alberta Rose Theater in Portland Oregon, and raised money to transport, house and feed 15 undergraduates at the SfN conference in Washington DC. Our students presented posters and met with 700 students in Turner Elementary School.



We presented NogginFest again in 2018 and 2019, with more live musicians, artists and neuroscience researchers, funding more student participation at SfN.



In 2020 we paused as the coronavirus pandemic took hold, but pivoted to a well-attended virtual NogginFest, supported by a brain awareness grant from the Dana Foundation in 2021.



In 2022, with support from the Dana Foundation, we returned to an in person NogginFest. The venue (Honey Latte Café) was donated, and the event brought out over 500 Portland residents who enjoyed music, held brains, asked questions, made art, heard about research and connected with each other from 2pm until midnight!



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