

# INSTITUTE POLICY

The California Institute of Technology is committed to the free exchange of ideas and acknowledges that, in a diverse and thoughtful community, there will be conflicting beliefs and opinions. [Freedom of expression](#) is a core Institute value, central to Caltech's mission of creating knowledge and educating the next generation of intellectual leaders. We encourage open dialogue as a way of addressing differences, learning from one another, and finding common ground, while acknowledging the inevitability and value of community disagreement.

The right to free speech and expression at Caltech includes the right to peaceful dissent, protests in peaceable assembly, and orderly demonstrations. These activities are permitted at Caltech, subject to the procedures and approvals as set forth in this policy. They may proceed unless and until they disrupt Institute operations, educational and research activities, or otherwise infringe upon or significantly suppress others' rights to engage in free speech and expression, including the appropriate expression of unpopular, controversial, and dissenting perspectives.

It is not the role of the Institute to attempt to shield people from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive, and the expression of objectionable speech on its own is not grounds for silencing. Furthermore, under California's [Leonard Law](#), Caltech is prohibited from disciplining 5[en th or offensive.

At the same time, the Institute has an obligation to protect the safety and rights of all Caltech community members and enact reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions to ensure a healthy academic environment. Speech, rallies, marches, and other forms of expression that fall outside the protections afforded by state and federal law remain subject to Institute restrictions, sanction, and discipline, including but not limited to forms of expression that:

- establish or promote a genuine "true threat" toward a specific individual (i.e., the speaker disregards a substantial risk that their communications would be viewed as threatening violence)
- constitute unlawful harassment



b. Caltech-affiliated event sponsors must review this policy and work with the respective Institute academic and administrative offices designated below accepting or extending any event invitations, securing space, or confirming and publicizing events:

- Students or student organizations shall contact the Office for the Vice President for Student Affairs.
- Faculty members, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty or postdoctoral organizations shall contact the Office of the Vice Provost.
- All other non-student sponsored event organizers, including divisions, departments, research centers, institutes, administrative offices and departments, and employee organizations, shall contact the Office of the Associate Vice President for Human Resources.

2. External speakers and community members may be invited and hosted by an authorized Caltech-affiliated event sponsor so long as official arrangements deparorafesli ces.



2. Use of electronic sound amplification is generally prohibited outdoors, except where such amplification will not interfere with normal operations in an academic environment.

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1. Campus space may not be used for fundraising or commercial activity, unless