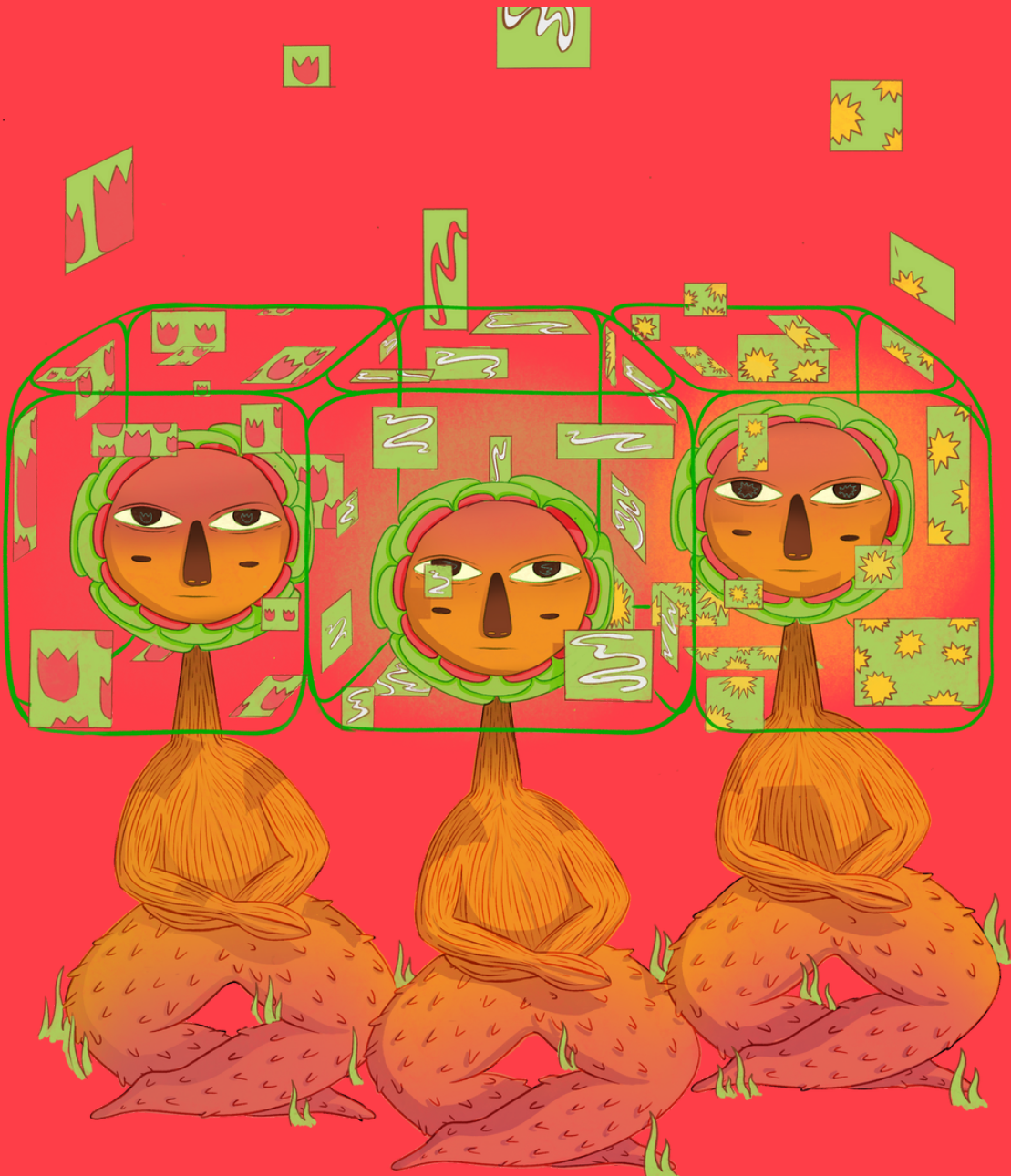


VOICES
WITH
IMPACT



Open Call For Proposals



A production grant for 5 minute films
on the topic of mental health.

2024 Themes:
Cliques & Echo Chambers
Serious Mental Illness

Submission Window- Opens: August 15 2023 - Closes: Sept 15 2023

GRANT INFORMATION



- Voices With Impact is a Mental Health focused Film Production Grant.
- We're offering \$7.5k Production Grants to make 5 minute films on the topic of:
 - Serious Mental Illness
 - Cliques & Echo Chambers
- Awardees notified Nov 2023
- Production November 2023-April 2024
- Films delivered April 2024
- World Premiere in June 2024
- We connect filmmakers with our incredible network of industry professionals
- Films are distributed through our programming across North America
- Open Call for submissions globally: August 15!
- You can start your proposal now you just can't submit until the Aug 15
- Submission Window Closes: Midnight Sept 17 PT

What are we looking for?

**Fresh challenging narratives -
Beautifully memorable visuals - Accurate
Portrayals - Underrepresented voices -
Unresolved endings - Embracing short-form -
Enduring relevance -
Impact Impact Impact**

The Voices With Impact Jury will be evaluating proposals using the following criteria:

- The power and importance of the message the film will aim to convey
- The artistic and creative approach to telling the story
- The accuracy of the depictions of mental health issues, stemming from credible research sources and lived experiences
- The consideration of filmmaking techniques and skill level
- Identification/connection with the population within the subject matter and demonstrated cultural sensitivity and awareness around the topic
- How well the completed film could connect with young people (ages 16-25)
- How the film will reduce stigma around these populations and mental health issues
- If the film could realistically be completed as a five-minute (or less) film (and not be overambitious / need to be longer)
- Evidence of filmmaker's ability to complete this project with a high level of professionalism

Serious Mental Illness



For the 2024 Voices With Impact Film Grant we're defining Serious Mental Illness as a mental health condition that impairs a person's ability to function in day to day life. Some common examples of SMI's are Bipolar disorder, Schizophrenia, and Schizoaffective disorder.

People living with Serious Mental Illnesses can live full productive lives with effective treatment but oftentimes the stigma attached to these conditions results in missed opportunities all around: folks living with these conditions do not get the support and treatment they deserve, and the greater public is deprived of opportunities to see the world from different perspective.

Our hope for this year's films focused on SMI is to tell authentic stories of people living with serious mental illnesses with the goal of opening opportunities for dialogue and learning.

We want your proposals for five minute films on the topic of Serious Mental Illness. You can interpret Serious Mental Illness as it relates to you. We're looking for honest, intriguing, humanizing, authentic stories of lived experience on the topic. These can focus on managing conditions, how to tackle stigma, how to make it through the tough times, or a celebration of the ways your relationship to your mental health allows you to see the world! We want narratives that start a conversation, and we're open to what that conversation is.

[**Watch the info session**](#)

Cliques & Echo Chambers



For the 2024 Voices With Impact Film Grant we're defining Cliques and Echo Chambers as follows:

- Cliques are groups of people who define themselves by their exclusivity and intentionally leave others out. These groups exist among people of all ages and identities.
- Echo Chambers are environments that only include people with the same opinions who actively reinforce existing views without critical reflection and counter viewpoints are not offered or considered. These spaces exist across all of the political spectrum.

Despite offering a strong sense of belonging, both cliques and echo chambers have many negative consequences including political polarization, the dehumanizing of "other" people, and the potential to take advantage of people at their most vulnerable.

We want your stories on Cliques & Echo Chambers in relation to mental health. Are you part of something you would consider to be a clique or echo chamber? Were you in the past? Do you feel that art preaches to the converted? Do you have a relationship with someone who has completely different beliefs to you? Film proposals on this topic should explore the mental health effects of these vacuums of opinion, their ability to create unsafe environments, and how the lack of compromise can be replaced by a perceived hyper-conflict outside of the space.

We are looking for nuanced humanizing stories that seek to understand rather than vilify and ask questions rather than answer them. Our hope is that the films that are created through this grant will shed light on the disconnections in our society, find connections and common ground where they exist, and illuminate how our interactions with others affects our mental health.

[**Watch the info session**](#)

Proposal Guide



Your Contact Information (completed on webform)

- Name of primary filmmaker (to be main point of contact)
- Email of primary filmmaker
- Phone of primary filmmaker
- Location of primary filmmaker (city, state or province, country)
- Which film content area are you applying for?

Your Previous Work (completed on webform)

- Brief description and links (if available) of up to three relevant films and/or scripts that you've created (max. 150 words/project, 5 mins/clip)

Your Proposal

The following numbered items should be included in 1 document. You will share a downloadable link such as Google Drive or WeTransfer in the webform. We encourage you to make this proposal document look nice and appealing for our jurors.

1. Your Resume (We want to see what you've done in film here)
2. Names, bios, and credentials of any identified collaborators (director, director of photography, writer, producer, actors)
3. A Logline: a brief summary of your film idea (max. 75 words)
4. Project treatment: outline of story, plot, themes, filmmaking techniques. (max. 500 words)
5. Mood board or alternative visual inspiration.
6. Why you, why this film, and why now? (max. 250 words)
7. Explain:
 - a. WHAT mental health themes are explored in the film?
 - b. HOW are mental health themes explored in the film?
8. Connection with content area - how voices of people most impacted by Serious Mental Illness or Cliques & Echo Chambers you are exploring will be included in the film, whether it's through the identities of the filmmaker/filmmaking team, connection or affiliation with the population, or demonstrated awareness of and sensitivity to the population (max. 250 words)
9. What subject matter expert community organizations or partners might you work/consult with during production, or which organizations would you like to be connected with? (max. 150 words)
10. A realistic and reasonable line-by-line budget for how the \$7,500 grant would be used, including any additional funding and funding sources if relevant.
11. Production schedule from November 1, 2022 through April 1, 2023 (including any resources, locations, collaborations, etc.)

Submission Window opens: August 15 2023

Deadline: Sept 17 Midnight 2023