

VOICES
WITH
IMPACT



Open Call For Film Proposals



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

2025 Theme

Invisibility/Visibility:

The seen and unseen of mental health

Submission Window- Opens: August 8 2024 - Closes: Sept 26 2024

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 Visibility / Invisibility - the seen and unseen of mental health.
 - Selected filmmakers are supported through the filmmaking process and connected with mentors from our rich network of industry professionals
 - Films are distributed for years to come through our educational programming in partnership with postsecondary institutions across North America
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- Open Call for submissions globally: August 15
 - Submission Window Closes: Midnight Sept 25 PT
 - Shortlist contacted for final interview in October 2024
 - Winners notified by October 30 2024
 - Production: November 2024-April 2025
 - Films delivered by April 15 2025
 - World Premiere in June 2025

What are we looking for?

- **Fresh, challenging narratives**
- **Beautifully memorable visuals**
- **Underrepresented voices**
 - **Unresolved endings**
 - **Enduring relevance**

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

- Unique artistic and creative approach to telling the story
- Accuracy of depictions of mental health issues, stemming from credible research sources and lived experiences
- 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
- Degree to which the film has the potential reduce existing stigma
- If the story could realistically be effective as a film that is five-minute or less
- Filmmaker's demonstrated ability to complete this project with a high level of professionalism

Visibility / Invisibility



For the 2025 Voices With Impact Film Grant we are looking for film proposals that explore Visibility / Invisibility: the seen and unseen of mental health.

We are taking an open interpretation of this year's theme. We are looking for proposals that are surprising, innovative, and personal. We have no specific definition of "visibility / invisibility" in mind: we truly want to see what it means to you.

You are welcome to use visibility / invisibility to inspire your film's aesthetic just as much as its story. All we ask is that these proposals to explore mental health.

To help guide you, we'd like to offer some examples of how you could explore the topic:

Visibility / Invisibility in relation to:

- Mental illnesses including mood disorders like anxiety and depression, personality disorders, and Serious Mental Illnesses
- Eating Disorders
- Disabilities, both seen and unseen
- Men's Mental Health
- Athletes
- People involved in the military
- Trans experiences
- BIPOC experiences
- Queer experiences
- The joy of being seen for who you are
- The pain of not being seen for who you are
- Shining a light on something we can't always see
- Suicide
- Substance Use
- Untreated mental health issues
- Homelessness

As ever, our hope for this year's films is to tell authentic stories of mental health experience with the goal of opening opportunities for dialogue and learning.

We're looking for honest, intriguing, humanizing, authentic stories inspired by lived experience of mental health. We don't need these stories to be heavy though, we love exploring the lightness of these topics too, and the joy that can be found! We welcome comedy, horror, animation, drama, experimental, documentary, romance, and westerns - hey even sci-fi and fantasy if our juror's believe it'll fit the budget.

Proposal Guide



Your Contact Information **(completed on webform)**

- Name of primary filmmaker (to be main point of contact)
- Email of primary filmmaker
- Location of primary filmmaker (city, state or province, country)
- Social handles & links

Your Previous Work **(completed on webform & proposal)**

- Three links of relevant past film projects that you've created
 - Please use a file sharing application that means we don't have to download these to view. We love Vimeo links!
 - You can include scripts or other works (audio, stage, dance, etc) if you don't have 3 past film works completed.
 - Our jurors will watch max 5 mins per link, totalling 15 mins of content

Your Proposal

The following 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. We prefer proposals around 10 pages long and most importantly so do our jurors.

Find the template here.

1. You & Your Team

- a. Your bio and resume (we want to see what you've done in film)
- b. Names, bios, and credentials of any identified collaborators (director, director of photography, writer, producer, actors)

2. The Film Idea/Proposal

- a. A Logline: a brief summary of your film idea (max. 75 words)
- b. Project treatment: outline of story, plot, themes, filmmaking techniques. (max. 500 words)
- c. Filmmaking Techniques: What methods you'll use to get across your story (max. 250 words)

3. Mood board or alternative visual inspiration.

- a. What will the film look like?

4. Mental Health Themes

- a. Explain: WHAT mental health themes are explored in the film and HOW are mental health themes explored in the film.
- b. Are you going to collaborate with any organizations or partners?

5. Lived Experience & Your Connection

- a. How are you including lived experience in your film?
- b. Why you? Why this film? Why now?

6. Budget

- a. 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.

7. Production schedule

- a. Nov 1, 2024 through April 15, 2025 (including any resources, locations, collaborations, etc.)

8. Work Samples

- a. We ask you to include these again in this document for the ease of our jurors.

Submission Window opens: August 8 2024 Deadline: Sept 26 Midnight 2024