

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**](#)