



ART WITH IMPACT

# VOICES WITH IMPACT



**REQUEST  
FOR  
PROPOSALS  
2021-22**

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## — REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS —

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Voices With Impact is a year-long project that celebrates mental health stories told by filmmakers with unique perspectives and lived experience.

Filmmakers across the world submit proposals to tell unique stories about underrepresented narratives related to mental health, and our distinguished jury members select the strongest ideas from the group. Ultimately, ten teams are awarded \$7,500 each to support the creation of their short films.

The world premiere of these films will take place on June 22, 2022 in Los Angeles and will be followed by a week-long festival of dialogue and discussion in which our esteemed storytellers lead interactive, enlightening sessions on topics related to mental health issues specific to these topics.

Proposals now being accepted for \$7,500 production grants for the creation of short films in the following content areas:

**Grief and Resilience**

**Substance Use Disorder**



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# HOW VOICES WITH IMPACT WORKS

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Five filmmakers will be selected in each of the two content areas—10 filmmakers total—and awarded \$7,500 each to create an original short film (five minutes or less).

Proposals are encouraged to include any considerations of the intersections of identities relevant to the story being told, including gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, socioeconomic status, disability, nationality, citizenship, and other identities that can impact one's experience of mental health.

Proposals will be evaluated by filmmaking professionals and subject matter experts in the two content areas that we're exploring, based on the criteria listed below.

**Proposals are due October 1, 2021.** They will be juried by subject matter experts and filmmaking professionals, and the grantees will be notified by November 30, 2021. The final films must be submitted by April 1st, 2022.

Films will premiere in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 followed by an online festival with the filmmakers from June 27-30, 2022.

## In considering **substance use disorder**...

Filmmakers might explore both the mental health causes and consequences of substance use disorder; the effects they may have on our minds, lives, loved ones, and communities; the ways in which we can heal and recover; and anything else you might like to explore in this realm.

## In considering **grief and resilience**...

Filmmakers might explore loss in its many forms; honoring the memories of something bygone; cultural death rituals and ceremonies; closure, acceptance, healing, and moving forward; as well as any other ideas related to this universal yet vast and diverse topic.



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# FILM CRITERIA

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The types of film proposals accepted include:

- narrative
- documentary
- experimental
- animated
- hybrid

The maximum accepted level of explicitness for the film submissions is the equivalent of an R-rated film or less, per the [MPAA Rating System](#). Submissions that propose films including excessive nudity, pornography, excessive violence, and other content that would be considered X-rated or not acceptable for viewing on a college campus will not be considered.

In April 2022, once the films are complete, filmmakers will provide non-exclusive, perpetual, educational rights to AWI in

order to show the films in AWI's educational settings; filmmakers will maintain full rights and ownership of the films they create.

All 10 films will also be eligible to be added to [AWI's OLIVE Film Collection](#). In July 2022, each film will go through AWI's ongoing jurying process to determine whether or not it will be added to OLIVE in August 2022.

**Late proposals will not be considered.**

AWI's judges 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 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.

AWI will match the selected filmmakers with partner organizations, mental health professionals, and subject matter experts related to the content area for consultation and support. AWI's staff will be available to support filmmakers and AWI team members will also serve as Story Consultants for all 10 films.

# HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Email the following to [voices@artwithimpact.org](mailto:voices@artwithimpact.org) by **October 1, 2021**:

1. **Resume**, in a PDF titled:  
"Last Name – Voices With Impact Resume – Topic" (Grief and Resilience; Substance Use Disorder; Both)
2. **VWI 2021-22 proposal** that answers the following prompts, saved in a PDF titled:  
"Last Name – VWI Proposal on [Topic] (Grief and Resilience; Substance Use Disorder; Both)"
  1. Name of primary filmmaker
  2. Email of primary filmmaker
  3. Phone of primary filmmaker
  4. Location of primary filmmaker (city, state or province, country)
  5. Names, bio, and credentials for any identified collaborators (director, director of photography, writer, producer, actors)
  6. Brief description, link, and description of your role for up to three relevant films that you or your VWI grant collaborators have created. (max. 150 words per project. Jurors will only watch the first 5 mins of each video clip).
  7. Which film content area are you applying for?
  8. Brief summary / pitch of your film idea (max. 75 words)
  9. Explain:
    - a. **What** mental health themes are explored in the film?
    - b. **How** are mental health themes explored in the film?
  10. Project treatment: outline of story, plot, themes, filmmaking techniques. (max. 500 words)
  11. Connection with content area – how the topics of grief / resilience and/or substance use will be included in the film, whether it's through the lived experiences of the filmmaker/filmmaking team, connection or affiliation with a specific population, or demonstrated awareness of and sensitivity to the topics (max. 250 words)
  12. Production schedule from December 1, 2021 through April 1, 2022 (including any resources, locations, collaborations, etc.)
  13. 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.
  14. 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)
  15. Why you, why this film, and why now? (max. 250 words)
  16. Can you produce your project under COVID conditions while following public health guidelines? How might you meet this challenge?
  17. Optional: mood board or alternative visual inspiration.
  18. Optional: As this program exists to share underrepresented mental health stories, we are committed to amplifying the voices of historically marginalized groups, such as BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people. If you feel comfortable disclosing how you identify, feel free to do so here.

**Proposals are due at 11:59pm PT on October 1, 2021.**

Filmmakers will be notified of their status by the end of November. The selected filmmakers will have from December 1, 2021 through April 1, 2022 to complete their films, including several meetings with and progress updates sent to AWI's VWI Program Director throughout the process.

**Final films must be submitted by April 1, 2022.**

Winning filmmakers who would like to attend the in-person premiere will be offered a fixed travel stipend. Winning filmmakers will be invited to propose educational sessions/workshops for the online festival; additional compensation and guidance will be offered to develop and deliver these sessions.