

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2022-23



VOICES WITH IMPACT 2022-23

SHORT FILM PRODUCTION GRANTS

Proposals are now being accepted for ten \$7,500 production grants to create five minute films in one or both of the following content areas:

1. Mental health issues related to climate change
2. Mental health issues related to burnout

Please note: mental health is complex! The descriptions below are designed to provide a general sense of the scope that we are interested in exploring through this year's Voices With Impact themes. Proposals that look at these as well as other, different interpretations of the topics are actively encouraged.

BURNOUT

We are defining the concept of burnout broadly. One way to think about it as a negative human response to prolonged or chronic stress, strain, or burdens. Burnout can look like exhaustion (mental, physical, emotional), cynicism, hopelessness, and/or feelings of reduced ability. Burnout can also result in diagnosable mood disorders including depression and anxiety.

In considering burnout filmmakers might explore stories related to:

- Compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma
- The roles of individuals in social and economic systems
- Individual and community health impacts of burnout and burnout culture
- Coping mechanisms, self- and/or community-care
- Personal sustainability strategies to move through burnout

CLIMATE CHANGE

The mental health impacts of climate change - sometimes called climate grief or eco anxiety - can stem from the inherent tension created by concentrated pressure to solve systemic issues by individual means. We're also interested in the personal drive to make change and how people are demonstrating resilience and innovation in the face of our current ecological reality.

In considering mental health issues related to climate change, filmmakers might explore stories related to:

- Psychological interdependence with nature
- Implications of climate change for identity, health and well-being
- Individual and community health related to, or personal impacts of, climate change and weather related disasters
- Changing relationships to land, the natural world, and animals
- Connecting to nature as part of personal wellness

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

TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

Please answer the following prompts in this order:

1. Name of primary filmmaker (to be main point of contact)
2. Email of primary filmmaker
3. Phone of primary filmmaker
4. Location of primary filmmaker (city, state or province, country)
5. Names, bios, and credentials of any identified collaborators (director, director of photography, writer, producer, actors)
6. 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)
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 voices of people most impacted by climate change and/or burnout 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)
12. Production schedule from December 1, 2022 through April 1, 2023 (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. Optional: mood board or alternative visual inspiration.
17. 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.

Save your proposal as one PDF titled "LASTNAME - VWI Proposal - Burnout" OR "LASTNAME - VWI Proposal - Climate Change". **Save a resume as a separate PDF** titled "LASTNAME - VWI Resume - Burnout" OR "LASTNAME - VWI Resume - Climate Change". Email both PDFs (2 total) to voices@artwithimpact.org with the subject line "LASTNAME - VWI Application - Burnout" OR "LASTNAME - VWI Application - Climate Change". Additional materials **will not** be reviewed. Please do not send Word documents.

Proposals are due at 11:59pm PST on October 1st, 2022.

Filmmakers will be notified of their status by November 11, 2022. The selected filmmakers will then have through April 1st, 2023 to complete their films, including several meetings with and progress updates sent to AWI's Film Program and Festivals Associate throughout the process. **Final films must be submitted by April 1st, 2023.**

Films will have their international premieres June 19 - 23, 2023.

In June 2023, there will be a live, online premiere featuring the ten new films, as well as a week-long festival of ideas with educational workshops related to the two subject areas. Filmmakers will be invited to propose educational sessions/workshops, and additional compensation will be offered to develop and deliver these sessions during the festival.

FILM CRITERIA

The types of film proposals accepted include:

- narrative
- documentary
- experimental
- animated
- hybrid
- dance

The maximum accepted level of explicitness for the film submissions will be 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.

Filmmakers will provide non-exclusive rights to AWI in order to show their 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](#): following the premiere, each film will go through AWI's regular jurying process to determine whether or not it will be added to OLIVE.

Late submissions will not be accepted.

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 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

AWI's staff will be available to support filmmakers throughout the process, and will match the selected filmmakers with partner organizations, mental health professionals, and subject matter experts related to the content area for consultation and support.

ABOUT VOICES WITH IMPACT

Voices With Impact has been described by past winning filmmakers as a sort of “Filmmaking Bootcamp” because of the very tight schedule involved in the projects.

Throughout the process, selected filmmaking teams will receive support from Art With Impact as well as our extended community of filmmaking and mental health professionals.

Art With Impact (AWI) is pleased to offer our Voices With Impact (VWI) program for the fifth year, with short film production grants available to filmmakers worldwide. Voices With Impact was conceived as a way to support filmmakers while building up the diversity and depth of AWI’s OLIVE Film Collection. OLIVE currently includes over 110 short films about a wide array of mental health topics created by diverse filmmakers from around the world.

Past Topics of Voices With Impact:

- 2018-19: Mental health in Indigenous and Native American communities, and/or the mental health impacts of sexual violence. Nine of the ten films were juried into OLIVE.
- 2019-20: Mental health issues specific to people who identify as LGBTQIA+, and/or mental health issues related to the culture of masculinity. Eight of the ten films were juried into OLIVE.
- 2020-21: Black mental health, and/or mental health related to immigration experiences. All ten of the ten films were juried into OLIVE.
- 2021-22: substance use disorder & recovery, and/or grief & resilience. All ten of the ten films were juried into OLIVE.

The VWI judges who will be evaluating the proposals include professional filmmakers, mental health professionals, and subject matter experts. Bios can be found at: <https://www.artwithimpact.org/films/voices-with-impact/>

Voices With Impact grants are generously supported by funds from California’s [Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission](#).

