LAVC ANTI-RACISM FILM PROJECT GUIDELINES

The purpose of these guidelines is to help you find your own voice through film to create a story with an anti-racist theme. These ideas are meant to inspire you and provide you with food for thought. A short film will not be able to address all these points so, use them as stepping stones in your creative process.

An *Anti-Racist film* has a solid theme while presenting identifiable sources of racism and its immediate effect on everyone (whether this racism is realized or not). It can offer solutions, but it does not have to — at a minimum it should offer insights into the causes and/or effects of racism on an individual, on society, or both. Among the many effects of racism, from societal racism to unspoken biases and prejudices, one question is: How does one recognize implicit bias? Not being outwardly racist is not the same as being an active anti-racist.

In order to have your script and final film accepted as a part of this project, the theme must be that of anti-racism. Below are a few suggestions on how to show these ideas in a short movie.

A successful Anti-Racist film:

- Should raise questions and develop awareness. It should give the viewer a new perspective with which to view the world
- Depicts the way race has been constructed and how that construction serves the ends of white supremacy
- Shows how racism is reflected in our social structures so that the viewer is left to reflect on how prejudice affects policy or becomes social convention
- Encourages self-reliance within communities as well as ally-ship between communities
- Presents examples of similarities and differences among the races and how to embrace those differences
- Shows how to work together in spite of upbringing and embedded prejudices
- Inspires individuals to recognize racism within themselves, dig down to the root causes, and if not offer solutions, at least offer an understanding of the damage it can inflict
- Motivates everyone to embrace their race/culture and excel regardless of racism
- Brings awareness to unintended racism or racial insensitivity

Ask yourself:

- Does my film address what anti-racism is and what it means to be anti-racist?
- Does my film inspire change on individuals who do not believe themselves racist, yet who do very little to prevent it?
- Does my film increase understanding of racism in all its aspects including power dynamics or address them?
- Does my film address or illuminate the larger systemic racism that is at play in our society?
- Does my film encourage engagement with communities who have been intentionally or inadvertently oppressed?
- Is there something in my film that will allow the viewer to leave the film having a direction to start their own anti-racist journey?
- Does my film suggest an active solution, such as supporting minority-owned businesses, protecting voter rights, and engaging in difficult conversations?
- Does my film show ways in which society can break the cycle of racism?
- Does my film use humor or drama to convey the message or is it a lecture? Am I speaking with or speaking at the audience?

What should my film avoid?

- No race, nationality, or ethnicity should be depicted as less than or in need of another
- No race, nationality, or ethnicity should be depicted as better or worse than another in any manner
- No religious beliefs or ideologies should be mentioned or referenced in a negative manner
- No gender or gender identity should be depicted negatively or using negative stereotypes
- No sexual identity should be depicted negatively or using negative stereotypes

Script length and total run time of final film

- In order to be accepted into this project:
    - The submitted script must be a minimum of one page and a maximum of two pages.
    - Script pages are different than most other formatting. You can use paid programs such as Final Draft (finaldraft.com) or free programs such as Celtx (celtx.com).
    - The final film must be a minimum of 30 seconds and maximum of two minutes (including any credits).