

WOMEN'S VOICES NOW

Girls' Voices Now - Premiere Public Screening

Girls Voices Now is a free program offered to 12 girls, ages 14-18, from low-income communities in Los Angeles. During this full-time, five-week summer program, the participants learn how to produce their first short documentary from start to finish, and how to use their films to affect positive social change in their communities.

On September 6th, we will celebrate our 2019 cohort at the premiere screening of the three social-change documentaries they created this summer. This will be followed by a Q&A session, after which, audience members will be invited to take part in on-site calls to action.

Why Girls' Voices Now?

Women and girls are underrepresented in media, in both fiction and non-fiction productions. This is especially true for women and girls who are subjected to additional forms of discrimination, notably women of color, immigrant women, or women from low socio-economic backgrounds. According to the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, *"across the 100 top-grossing films of 2016, 47 did not feature a single Black woman or girl speaking on screen, 66 movies were devoid of Asian female characters, and a full 72 films erased Latinas. Very few females from the LGBT community, native and indigenous females, Middle Eastern females, or female characters with disabilities are seen in our cinematic stories. More generally, the percentage of females on screen in film has not moved in decades."*

In communities like East, South, and Downtown Los Angeles, where we source our participants, girls face additional challenges affecting both the way they are represented in the media AND their access to the industry.

What is our goal?

We want to increase the access of young women from underrepresented communities to the film and media industry. In the long-term, the program puts agency and authorship of media into their hands, helping us to work toward building a more diverse, fair, and ethical media landscape, and to challenge existing media structures to better represent girls' and women's issues.

How are we doing this?

We teach participants to produce their first short social-change documentary from start to finish. The curriculum is structured so that they can benefit from diverse formats, mixing theory and practice: we combine concrete media literacy skills with leadership, critical thinking, and cooperation skills to unlock participants' full potential in their future academic and professional prospects.

This is the only program in Los Angeles that teaches young women from low-income and underrepresented neighborhoods how to produce short films *and* how to use those films to affect change and make a real difference in their communities.

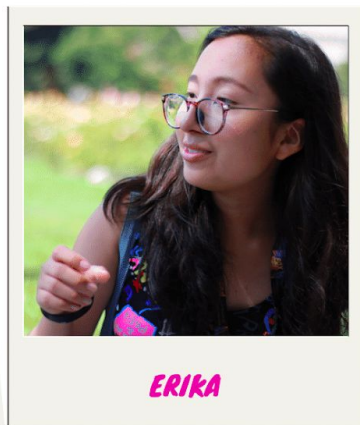
What are our results?

Participants have reported feeling more confident in themselves, their media making skills and their ability to speak up thanks to our program. Among the alumni entering college this year, 100% of them think that taking part in Girls' Voices Now helped them with their admission process - including one participant who was accepted to Columbia University! In addition, all four short films produced in 2018 were selected to a total of 11 youth film festivals, and 2 won first prizes. Altogether, they have reached over 6.3 million viewers as of spring 2019.



FOR WHAT FELT LIKE THE FIRST TIME, I EXPERIENCED A LOVING ENVIRONMENT THAT WAS SUPPORTIVE OF ME. SUPPORTIVE OF MY FEELINGS. AND SUPPORTIVE OF MY IDEAS. I WAS GIVEN THE CHANCE TO ATTEMPT NEW THINGS WITHOUT BEING JUDGED, WHICH ALLOWED ME TO TRULY GROW INTO FINDING WHO I AM."

JOSIE, 2018 PARTICIPANT



PARTICIPATING IN THIS TRAINING PROGRAM NOT ONLY ALLOWED ME TO FOSTER NEW FRIENDSHIPS WITH FELLOW WOMEN PASSIONATE ABOUT MEDIA, BUT ENABLED ME TO DISCOVER THAT FILMMAKING IS SOMETHING I WANT TO PURSUE AS A CAREER. IT ALSO HELPED ME IN MY CREATIVE AND LEADERSHIP APPROACH TO RUNNING MY SCHOOL'S BROADCAST NETWORK."

ERIKA, 2018 PARTICIPANT



I'M REALLY EXCITED, AND MY WHOLE FAMILY IS HYPED BECAUSE I NEVER HAD AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS BEFORE. SO THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE TO GROW, LEARN AND FIND MY VOICE IN FILM."

SISSI, 2019 PARTICIPANT

JOIN US! TALK TO US! TALK ABOUT US!

Watch our 2018 films!

Check out the amazing films made by the 2018 cohort [here!](#)

2019 films synopsis:

Not quite HERE, not quite THERE

A film about current immigration policies and the upcoming Supreme Court decision to potentially end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Onyi: The Path to Finding Me

The media often portrays unrealistic beauty standards that damage self esteem and confidence of those who do not embody them. This film focuses on Onyi, who, despite the pressures of society, is unapologetically herself.

She's Got Game

This film exposes the underfunding and inequity young female athletes face throughout their time in school.