REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

WNED PBS Digital Video – Women’s Suffrage

Produce, shoot and edit one digital video essay to complement the upcoming WNED PBS documentary, *Women’s Suffrage in New York*. The essay should be no longer than five minutes and should touch on some aspect of suffrage / women’s rights.

Introduction

WNED PBS is commissioning a series of original digital video essays by women filmmakers as an online component for the WNED PBS documentary, *Women’s Suffrage in New York*. Each of the essays will provide unique insight into the issue of suffrage to complement the WNED PBS production. Producing shall include the segment story idea, research and development, creation, and production of an original three-to-five minute digital video.

Proposals to be considered are due August 16, 2020.

Project Background

*Women’s Suffrage in New York* will be a half-hour documentary film telling the inspiring, and largely-untold stories of New York women who fought for suffrage. It is intended for broadcast on WNED PBS, other New York PBS stations, and national programming services in early 2021.

The website for *Women’s Suffrage in New York* will be a rich digital experience, based on the concept of storytelling, where users can immerse themselves in the regional history and struggle for suffrage through an interactive and engaging online platform. The digital videos will be one of the components for the WNED PBS website for the program.

Women fought for suffrage in the early years of the movement through their activism in homes, schools, churches and other gathering places. They used the power of the media at the time to publicize the issue. The digital video essays commissioned for this project should continue that tradition of using a digital media platform to communicate a theme of suffrage and women’s rights.

Video Specifications

Three projects will be selected. Each digital video essay should be unique in its story and its storytelling. Be creative. We are open to various ways to tell an original story on this topic: highly produced digital videos, interview storytelling, animated stories, etc.
The stories should be personal with an emotional component that draws viewers. They should embrace the theme of suffrage and women’s equality. The interviewees should be a mix of characters that illustrate different principals or situations around suffrage and equal rights for women.

Some specifics:

- Each filmmaker is commissioned to produce one digital video.
- The premise is intentionally broad to allow women filmmakers to find their own angle on the theme.
- Essays should run 3-5 minutes in length (5 minutes is the maximum).
- Essays should focus on great storytelling. They should be compelling, personal, emotional, and yet, concise.
- Interviews should be limited to 1-2 people.
- Before shooting begins, each producer will provide a one-page proposal that conveys a well thought out story that the producer would like to tell – and how.

Proposals should address the following:

- Background of filmmaker
- Proposed outline for story
- Why this story is of interest
- How the story will be illustrated
- Location for the story
- Proposed guests for the story
- Production specifics of note for the story

**Project Schedule**

- **August 16, 2020**: Submission deadline
- **September 4, 2020**: Treatment due
- **September 11, 2020**: Production begins
- **October 16, 2020**: First Rough cut
- **November 6, 2020**: Fine cut approval deadline for web deliverables
- **November 20, 2020**: Completed master film delivery

**Project Compensation**

- Total of $4,000
Potential Subject Matter to Explore

Below are character types and subject headings to potentially explore, in no particular order. This is just a starting point. Please feel free to come up with your original story on suffrage and women’s equality:

- Personal stories on family members who fought for suffrage or women’s equality.
- Personal stories on varying motivations for activism.
- Images/Stereotypes of women
- Personal stories from women’s rights activists.
- Personal stories that reflect current inequalities of men and women.
- A story that examines race and gender in the suffrage fight.
- A story that examines other issues of inequality women were struggling with in the late 19th century.
- Personal look at how the media have portrayed women through history.
- A person who ran for office on a platform focused on women’s rights.
- A person from the Haudenosaunee tribe and their views on women’s role in society.
- The personal story of a relatively unknown suffragist in New York.

Project contact:

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About WNED PBS

WNED PBS is a community licensed public broadcasting service with a mission to enlighten, inspire, entertain and educate its communities. WNED PBS serves a binational region across Western New York and Southern Ontario and consistently earns ratings that are among the highest in the nation for a public broadcasting station.

WNED PBS is an established originator of content for local and national broadcast. WNED PBS was the founder of the Emmy Award winning Reading Rainbow series and was the producer of the popular Mark Russell Comedy Specials for PBS. Over the last decade, WNED PBS has become a significant producer of original television documentaries and online content for local and national distribution.