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Voice

Filmmaking Club

A photograph showing a man and a woman in a professional setting. The man is standing and holding a large professional video camera mounted on a tripod. He is looking down at the camera's controls. The woman is standing next to him, looking at the camera. She is wearing glasses and a dark jacket. The background is a bright, modern interior with large windows and structural elements.

**Help us teach skills &
provide opportunities to
people with learning
disabilities.**

pageant
productions

We are looking for your help

All too often disabled people are marginalised in society. None more so than those with learning disabilities. Compared to the general population people with learning disabilities are less likely to have their voices heard, suffer greater instances of bullying and harassment, and are more likely to die avoidable deaths. Evidence shows that negative stereotypes and some public attitudes towards people with learning disabilities contribute to this marginalisation.

We want to challenge negative stereotypes and break down barriers, and we want to do this using film. We would like your help to fund a filmmaking club for people with learning disabilities in Dorchester. This year-long pilot will be used to develop reusable resources and form an affordable model for similar clubs around the county and hopefully beyond. Attendees will learn skills and be supported to make films about their lives and these will be used to feed back to the local community, local authorities, community groups, businesses and more.

Our hope is that by connecting people in the community and sharing an insight into the lives of disabled people we will break down barriers. We own the domain ourvoice.org.uk to show films and share with the project with people. This project is scalable and can be rolled out to other groups and other towns. We would like the club to form links with local businesses and in time hope members can use their skills and experience to work with businesses to make training films and access guides etc. We are looking for people to contribute towards our goal of **£9500** to run a pilot for a year, beginning in September 2019. There will be 35 workshops, with a group of up to 10 people, throughout the year. If you would like to help, you can find out more by reading this document for more detail. We are happy to answer any questions you might have. We would provide positive exposure to contributors through the website, films and social media, with a dedicated short film about your involvement in the project being offered to contributors over **£1000**. This will be used by us to promote the project and will be shared on social media, as well as being provided to you for use on your website and social media.

Thank you.

Gary Jarman (Pageant Productions)

Who are Pageant Productions?

We are a video production business based in Dorset. We have a strong sense of community and we want to play an active role engaging with and empowering marginalised groups in our community. Much of our work is within the voluntary sector, schools and public sector organisations. We provide filmmaking services, workshops and training. We want to create opportunities for marginalised groups, to share their experiences and influence the move towards a fairer and more equal society.

What is 'Our Voice' Filmmaking Club?

This pilot, of a regular club, will teach skills and support people with learning disabilities to make their own films **about the things that matter to them**. Our plan is for the club to take place in Dorchester, over 35 weeks between September 2019 and July 2020. So there are no financial barriers to participants, it will be free to take part.

Who will attend?

We have consulted members of People First Dorset, a local charity that supports people with learning disabilities. A number of members have expressed an interest in the 'Our Voice' filmmaking club and we've asked them to apply for 1 of 10 spaces, providing their reasons for doing so.

How will it work?

Sessions will run for 2.5 hours on a weekday evening, breaking at periods that align with school holidays.

The club will be led by 2 facilitators from Pageant Productions, with any additional support provided by volunteers. Sessions will be devoted to teaching simple skills & techniques and also supporting members with filmmaking projects that they are developing. Our hope is that participants will develop projects that give viewers an insight into the lives of disabled people, **breaking down barriers and challenging negative stereotypes**.

Why run a filmmaking club for people with learning disabilities?

In 2016 Mencap and Ipsos MORI conducted a survey into public attitudes towards people with learning disabilities.

Only 61% of people strongly disagree that people who have a learning disability are a burden on society, with **6%** of people saying they would feel uncomfortable using the same swimming pool as someone with a more severe learning disability.

Only 67% of people surveyed agree that people with a mild learning disabilities can be as good parents as anyone else, despite evidence showing otherwise.

The survey showed public confusion when it comes to learning disabilities, with **27%** of people thinking that a learning disability is a form of mental illness (it is not). **27%** of people think learning disability does not last your whole life. (it does)

Existing data (available on request) shows how people with a learning disability are one of the most marginalised groups in society, with **almost 1 in 3 18-35 year olds spending less than 1 hour a day outside their home.**

56% of disabled people say they have experienced hostility, aggression or violence from a stranger because of their condition and most shockingly, every year **1,200 people with a learning disability die avoidably in hospitals.**

Although the survey also showed in general, the public are supportive, it is clear that there is still work to do to remove barriers, change attitudes and challenge negative stereotypes. We believe we can help to do this by empowering people to use film, to have their voice heard. We want to support people to make films about themselves, their lives, their interests and the barriers they face. By sharing this honest insight with the wider public we can remove barriers and help build a more equal and cohesive society.

We have also asked people why they would like to join this club. They told us:

“To make people more aware of people with learning disabilities”

“To understand people with learning disabilities”

“I would like to learn how to film people so I can do my own videos in the future and maybe a director”

I want to make people understand what life is like with a disability and the barriers we face”

What will the outcomes be?

Participants will be supported to identify their desired learning outcomes, based on their interests and strengths. The group will work together as a team to plan and produce films; they will learn as they go along, working through their plans and working at the necessary pace.

Participants reach their full potential by identifying which aspect of filmmaking draws on their strengths, then developing those skills, which are used within the team when working together.

During the workshops participants will learn how to:

- Develop their ideas and produce a storyboard.
- Use a video camera and tripod.
- Frame shots and think about visual interest.
- Use light to your advantage.
- Record better quality sound.
- Conduct and film an interview.
- Film cutaways (secondary footage) to add additional visual interest.
- Make films on their own devices, such as mobile phones and tablets.
- Edit a basic film.



As well as learning practical digital skills, participants will:

- Become aware of their individual strengths and draw on them to effectively work as part of a team.
- Become confident to communicate in a range of situations; in one-to-one interviews or as part of a group.
- Demonstrate the ability to convey their thoughts and ideas within a group when developing a plan of work.
- Feel empowered to share their experiences with their peers and the wider community through the medium of film.
- Demonstrate the ability to use their preferred device to produce a basic short film and share this online through platforms such as You Tube, Facebook and Twitter.
- Form friendships and links with non-disabled members of the community including supporting businesses. (we hope members will be able to work with local business to create training films that assist staff in making the business more inclusive and accessible)



How will we measure the outcomes?

To measure the project's success we have asked **People First Dorset** to carry out an evaluation of the project. The evaluation will gather information at 3 stages of the project; the beginning, half way and end of the 35 sessions. The charity will develop any easy read resources necessary for evaluating the project and will also attend some workshops and liaise with participants, gathering information required for the evaluation.

At the half way stage a short, interim report will be produced to share with the project's funders. The report will show the project's progress so far and report any notable findings. A final report will be produced on completion of the project. An outline of the final report contents is as follows:

Project Summary and Outcomes

- Overview of project origins and aims
- List of desired project outcomes
- Details of project partners

Monitoring and Evaluation Information

Quantitative information

- Number of participants
- Number of sessions
- Demographic information
- Topics/issues raised

Qualitative information

- Participant feedback questionnaires
- Participant self-evaluation
- Case studies (25% of Participants)

Project Budget

Comparison of project budget and actual expenditure (including explanation of variations)

Learning and recommendations

Analysis of project outcomes, information gathered, key learning points and any recommendations.

What are our plans for the future?

Our hope is that we can grow this project, rolling it out in other locations, with other groups. Resources and practices developed in this pilot can be used to deliver similar projects at a lower cost.

We are developing a website that will showcase films made by the project and our hope is that community cinemas will also be able to show these short films before their main feature. In that way we will have supported marginalised people, in our community, who are seldom heard, to make films about their life and their community, and then show those films to that community. This will be a great way of challenging negative stereotypes with a wide audience and we feel this will be an attractive proposition to local businesses who choose to sponsor the club. We have already begun talking to a community cinema about steps we would need to take to make this happen.

We would like to work with local businesses to see how we can support each other and work towards achieving our goals. We feel there may be a place for our club to help businesses that support us, to make training films that help staff understand the needs of disabled customers. For instance, it is frequently reported that bus drivers rarely understand people's needs.

So how can you help?

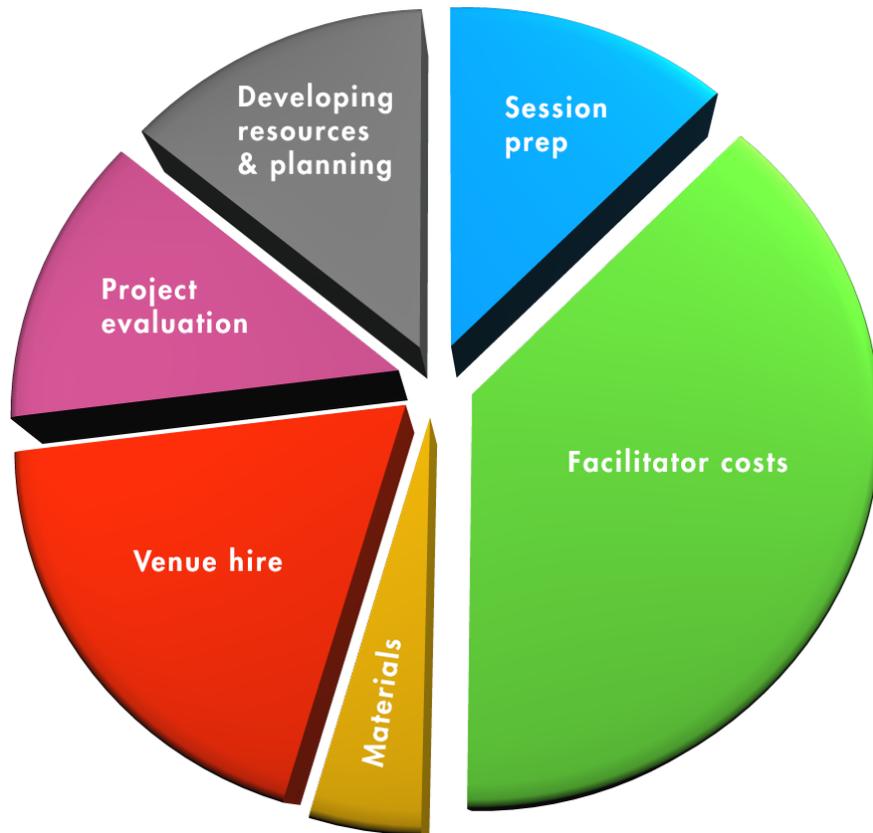
We are hoping to raise money to pilot this project over the next year, and **we need your help**. We would like the support of individuals, local authorities and local businesses, who can clearly see the projects benefits. Your pledge will help people with learning disabilities to learn and develop new skills, empowering and enabling them to have a voice in their local community... and further afield.

We take our integrity very seriously and transparency is very important to us. Money donated by you or your organisation to fund projects will be **ring-fenced** from the rest of our business, **accounted for** and **reported** on. We will be upfront about how the money will be spent before you make your pledge. We aim to raise **£9500** for this pilot, which will go towards developing, delivering and evaluating **35 workshops**, over a period of 1 year.

Supporting this project will mean we will display your organisations logo and acknowledgements of support on publicity, our website and on films that we make.

On the following page, and inline with our plan, we have provided a graph that shows a breakdown of how we expect the money to be spent.

Cost Breakdown



Please pledge and help us deliver this project.

If you or your organisation want to pledge money towards this project, we would like to hear from you!

Please send us an email declaring your interest to: OurVoice@pageantproductions.co.uk
Include your name and contact details, including a telephone number, and we will call you back to discuss it.

You can also pledge directly using our just giving page which can be found at:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/our-voice-filmmaking-club