

The CAARE Documentary is a storytelling initiative designed to bring the narratives of houseless Black and Indigenous men to light—beginning with a clothing drive and outreach effort, and culminating in a documentary that captures the lived experiences of those surviving on the streets.

Homelessness in Minneapolis disproportionately effects Black and Indigenous men, yet their experiences are so often overlooked and misunderstood. The CAARE Documentary seeks to amplify the voices of these men on the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Using the power of storytelling I will bring visibility to the humanity of these men. This project has begun with a community-driven clothing drive and outreach initiative and will lead into an in-depth documentary featuring candid conversations and day-in-the-life narratives of Black and Indigenous men experiencing homelessness in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN. By intertwining documentary filmmaking with direct community engagement this project aims to shed light on systemic inequities while fostering deeper empathy and understanding of different communities including Black, Indigenous, and houseless communities individually and collectively, The final film will be shared through community screenings, social media, and local arts and advocacy organizations to reach a broad audience.

Phase 1: Relationship-building and outreach.

- Clothing Drive & Outreach: Organize a city-wide clothing and essentials drive, collaborating with local nonprofits, shelters, theaters, community centers, and advocacy groups. This will provide immediate relief to individuals facing homelessness while fostering connections and trust.

- Participant Identification & Consent: Build relationships with individuals willing to share their stories, ensuring that ethical storytelling practices are followed. Informed consent will be a top priority.
- Preliminary Interviews: Conduct informal conversations to understand participants' perspectives, allowing their voices to shape the direction of the documentary.
- Research & Site Scouting: Identify filming locations, ensuring documentary authentically represents the environment where these men navigate daily life.

Phase 2: Filming & Production.

- Day-in-the-Life Footage: Follow selected participants to document their daily routines, challenges, and moments of resilience.
- In-Depth Interviews: Record conversations that allow participants to share their experience in their own words, highlight themes of systemic injustice, survival, and hope.
- Community Perspective: Feature insights from local advocates, non-profit leaders, business owners, and policymakers to provide context and depth to the narrative.
- Visual & Artistic Elements: Integrate cinematography techniques that capture both the stark realities and human dignity of those featured.

Phase 3: Post Production & Editing.

- Editing & Story Structuring: Assemble interviews and footage into a compelling narrative arc.
- Sound Design & Score: Collaborate with local musicians to create an original score that complements the emotional depth of the film.
- Closed Captioning & Accessibility: Ensure the film is accessible to diverse audiences, including those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- Test Screenings: Conduct small screenings with key stakeholders to gather feedback and refine the final cut.

Phase 4: Community Screenings & Distribution.

- Local Screenings & Panel Discussions: Partner with community centers, libraries, universities, and nonprofits to host screenings followed by discussions on homelessness and racial inequalities.
- Digital Release & Social Media Strategy: Leverage online platforms to reach a broader audience, including Youtube, Instagram and community focused streaming services.
- Media & Press Engagement: Work with journalists and media outlets to generate conversations around the film's themes and findings.
- Archival & Future Use: Establish partnerships with advocacy groups to use the documentary as an educational tool in future initiatives.

How does this grant support my artistic growth?

My background in performance, storytelling, and nonprofit leadership has equipped me with the skills to engage communities and tell impactful stories. I look up to companies like PBS, who have for generations educated communities by using the themes of belonging and community engagement. This project marks my next steps into building the skills to develop a Black owned Broadcast station with the purpose and ideology to shed light onto dark spaces. Through this project I will be able to strengthen my filmmaking and storytelling skills, develop my creative voice in advocacy and art, expand my audience and artistic reach, and build business and career skills.

The *CAARE Documentary* is the natural evolution of my creative practice blending the impact of the arts with my deeply person passion for social justice. I have watchfully and patiently waited for the right opportunity to pursue this work and there is absolutely no day like today. With this grant I will have the resources and time to fully dedicate myself to this work and ensure that it is executed with care, professionalism and integrity. By completing this project, I will not only grow as an artist but also contribute to a larger cultural conversation about homelessness.