



COMMUNITY NOW!

Independence from waiting. Freedom from institutions.

Inclusion Cinema Empowerment Project

The Inclusion Cinema Empowerment Project (ICEP) is a Community Now! initiative. One of the key Community Now! goals is to impact change through the production and support of films that reflect relevant issues in the Disability community. Further, Community Now! seeks to offer education through film production that evokes conversations that lead to change. The ICEP is the vehicle to address this founding goal of Community Now!

Forgotten Lives, a documentary that reflects the horrors of Texas State operated institutions was produced in partnership with Community Now! and became a visual voice and a founding force to create Community Now! *Forgotten Lives* continues to educate people throughout Texas and the United States as a part of University curriculums, training for advocates and as a part of community provider employee training programs. *Forgotten Lives* is also used by advocates to organize grass roots groups to speak out to end the institutional bias in Texas and fully fund community services. The film has garnered numerous awards at film festivals.

Community Now! produced *ADAPT to Freedom*, a tribute film honoring ADAPT's 25th anniversary to impact change through civil disobedience action. Since 2007, Community Now! has supported film festivals and the production of *Willowbrook*, which was screened at the *Tribeca* film festival.

Keeping with the history of supporting film to impact change, the ICEP was created in 2013. Community Now! is a founding member of the Disability Cinema Coalition (DCC). The DCC is represented by organizations throughout the United States that produces films and offers opportunities for people with disabilities to be included in the film industry. The ICEP first action was to offer the *Love Land* film a \$50,000 grant as a production partner. *Love Land* was recently completed and will be premiered at a later date to be announced. The Producers and Director of the film cast people with disabilities to play the roles of people with disabilities including the lead roles. This is rarely done in the film industry where typically actors without disabilities play the roles of people with disabilities. *Love Land* seeks to address issues in the disability community that may not have been seen on film. It is a powerful film that hits taboo issues with a constant theme of freedom, loss of personhood and the fact that people with disabilities are at risk of institutionalization. *Love Land* will be premiered at a date to be announced.

Another key initiative of the ICEP is the Mentor Program. The Mentor Program is the first step in a Pipeline concept to introduce people with disabilities to the film industry. This program offers people with disabilities the opportunity to learn from film industry experts about how a film is made. This

1640 A East 2nd Street, Suite 100

Austin, Texas 78702

www.communitynowfreedom.org

intensive program includes a series of workshops and a full day on a professional working film set. The first Mentor Program was funded through the Disability Cinema Coalition and was held in Corsicana in May of 2013. The producers, director, actors, art director, sound director and assistant director offered hands on workshops that prepared the mentees for a day on the film set.

Visit: <http://disabilitycinemacoalition.weebly.com/disability-empowerment-pipeline.html> to view a short video about the Corsicana Mentor Program.

Community Now! was the recipient of a grant from AT&T to fund the upcoming ICEP Mentor Program which will take place in Burbank, California February 21-23, 2014. Mentees will attend workshops presented by film industry experts including one of the Producers of *Fruitvale Station*, a film that has garnered numerous awards and has been distributed throughout the United States. The Producer, and lead Actors from *Love Land* will also present workshops. Mentees will observe a working set of a film produced by AT&T on assistive technology.

Joshua Tate is a constant supporting partner with Community Now! He is the Director of *Love Land*, his first feature film and has guided the ICEP Mentor Program since its inception. He is coordinating the upcoming Mentor program in Burbank and is a producer of the film that will be produced in Burbank. Mr. Tate is the Principle for CICATRICE Pictures. As a very young film maker his courage and talent created *Forgotten Lives* which ultimately launched Community Now! His vision and commitment to include people with disabilities in film is unprecedented.

Community Now! is honored to be a part of these partnerships that support our mission. Stay tuned for information about upcoming screenings of *Love Land!*