Digital Storytelling Initiative
Production Institute 2021
Digital Storytelling Initiative

A joint project of the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation Media Center and Logan Center Community Arts made possible through an endowment from the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation.

The Digital Storytelling Initiative partners with organizations on campus, in the South Side, and throughout Chicago, extending the Media Center’s reach and impact to fill community needs in access and training in digital production.
The Production Institute

Presented in partnership with the Community Film Workshop of Chicago, the Production Institute makes high-quality digital production training accessible to media makers from South Side communities.

The aim of the Production Institute is to provide skills enhancement and engage artists in telling stories of the rich culture of their communities and institutions.
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<th><strong>Logan Center for the Arts</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Michel</td>
<td>Elizabeth Myles</td>
<td>Emily Hooper Lansana</td>
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<td>Executive Director of UChicago Arts and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts</td>
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<td>David Wolf</td>
<td>Ben Chandler</td>
<td>Dominique Boyd</td>
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<td>Senior Director of Art Technologies</td>
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<td>Will Cabaniss</td>
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<td>Media Center Coordinator</td>
<td>Assistant Director of Partnerships and Strategy</td>
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Community Film Workshop of Chicago (CFWC)

Margaret Caples
Executive Director

Derek Grace
2021 DSI Production Institute
Lead Instructor

Keisha Chavers
2021 DSI Production Institute
Teaching Assistant
Community Film Workshop of Chicago (CFWC)

The mission of the Community Film Workshop of Chicago (CFWC) is to provide access to media production that supports the development of independent media artists in underserved and underrepresented communities.

CFWC projects include:

- Youth In Motion
- Woodlawn Reporter’s Summer Camp
- Reel Black Filmmakers
- Diverse Voices In Docs
The Production Institute makes high-quality digital production training accessible to media makers from South Side communities. This program addresses the lack of affordable, intensive courses available to South Side filmmakers and media artists.

Through a hands-on film production course taught by experienced instructors, the Production Institute offers participants the opportunity to advance digital production skills and build a professional portfolio.
Production Institute Learning Objectives

- Be trained in a range of media production skills
- Work as a principal production team member towards completing a five-minute short film or portion of larger project
- Participate in the #MadeAtLogan Docuseries
- Have production equipment access for up to a year to further advance film project (timeline subject to change due to COVID)
Eligibility

- Ages 19 or older
- South Side resident
- Intermediate filmmaker
- Not currently enrolled in a school or college program
- Must have demonstrated skills in camera operation / basic editing
- All applicants must pass a proficiency test
- Attend all Film Aesthetics courses
- Make $200 deposit for program participation
- Have a feasible project proposal
Film Aesthetics Courses

Instructors

Sergio Mims
Pemon Rami

The film aesthetics courses will examine the visual art of film and establish shared language through screenings, lectures, and discussions.

MANDATORY: Only applications of persons who attend all four consecutive Film Aesthetics sessions will be reviewed.
Film Aesthetics Learning Outcomes

- Better understanding of film language
- Enhanced story development skills
- Better understanding of shot composition
- Better understanding of how lighting affects mood
- Better understanding of how music and audio affect mood

Topics Covered

- Mise-en-scene
- Editing
- Sound
- Shots
- Framing
- Depth of Field
- Camera Movement
- Lighting
Film Aesthetics Instructor: 4/7 & 4/14

Sergio Mims

Film Critic Sergio Mims is the host and producer of the Bad Mutha’ Film Show WHPK- FM (88.5 FM) a screenwriter and a former lecturer in the Art Institute of Chicago. He has provided commentaries for Vinegar Syndrome and Arrow Films DVD labels.

Mims is the co-founder and co-programmer of the Black Harvest Film Festival at the Gene Siskel Film Center. He co-founded the cinema blog Shadow and Act. He is a member of the Chicago Film Critics Association.

Find his reviews at https://cinesavant.com/
Pemon Rami

International filmmaker and documentarian Pemon Rami has been involved in the development of television, films, music concerts, documentaries and plays since the late 60’s.

Pemon produced the feature films Of Boys and Men released by Warner Brothers starring: Angela Bassett and Robert Townsend and 93 Days shot in Nigeria starring Danny Glover and Bimbo Akintola.

He received an African Academy Award nomination and an African People’s Choice Award nomination for producing 93 Days.

In 2019, Rami was selected for inclusion in The HistoryMakers Digital Archive, housed at the Library of Congress.
Production Institute Courses

This course is taught by award-winning industry professionals who are committed to teaching and mentoring diverse filmmakers.

This 10-week intermediate filmmaking course will teach the creative concepts required to create short documentaries and narrative films.

Fellows will learn how to master essential visual communication and video production methods including storytelling, cinematography, sound and editing.
What We’re Looking For

- Passionate storyteller
- Intermediate filmmaker
- Demonstrated technical proficiency
- Community-focused stories that inspire hope, connection, and courage
- Active learner
- Good collaborator & team-player
- Able to commit 17 hours/week
  - 7 hours in class
  - 10 hours outside of class
2021 Production Institute Timeline

Film Aesthetics Courses (MANDATORY)
April 7, 14, 21, 28
7-9pm

Application Period
April 7 - May 14

Finalists Announced
June 2

Production Institute
June 16 - August 21
Wednesdays, 6:30-9pm
Saturdays, 10am-2pm
Course Schedule

- Storytelling: I & II (2 weeks)
- Cinematography I & II (2 weeks)
- Sound I & II (2 weeks)
- Editing I (1 week)
- Cinematography: Directing I & II (2 weeks)
- Editing II (1 week)

At the conclusion of the formal courses, artists will have access to post-production support to finish their work.

Community Showcase: September 2021
Storytelling

Goals
Fellows will be able to enhance their loglines, synopsis' and treatments.

Learning Outcomes
1. Loglines, synopsis’ and treatments
2. Three phases of production
3. How to create pre-production plans
4. Storyboarding
Cinematography

Goals
Fellows will obtain better understanding of cinematography terms. They will improve their creative and technical mastery of cinematography.

Learning Outcomes
1. Composition
2. Shots
3. Camera settings
4. Basic lighting techniques
Sound

Goals
Fellows will obtain better understanding of sound/audio terms. They will learn how to use lapel and boom microphones, as well as audio recorders.

Learning Outcomes
1. Microphone selections
2. Microphone placement
3. Microphone monitoring
Directing & Cinematography

Goals
Fellows will be able to conduct effective interviews and direct short narrative scenes.

Learning Outcomes
1. Directing interviews
2. Directing narratives
3. Getting good sound
Editing

Goals
Fellows will edit their personal projects, as well as class projects.

Learning Outcomes
1. Storytelling aspect
2. Naming conventions
3. Basic editing
"Here in Chicago, where some of the greatest achievements in black culture have become manifest, we have a sacred duty to preserve, promote and continue to tell the stories of our ancestors and contemporary heroes."

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Amandilo Cuzan

Photo by Sandra Oviedo aka ColectivoMultipolar

2020 Production Institute
“As a part of the Production Institute, I’m building relationships with people who see and interpret the world differently than me, while seeking to capture and share our piece of the world together through film and storytelling.”
Nicole Newman

"[The Production Institute] seemed like an amazing way to learn all aspects of film production while building camaraderie and engaging with the Southside community. I walked away feeling so accomplished and motivated to pursue a career in film and entertainment."

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2020 Production Institute
"If you ever want to become a filmmaker in Chicago, I believe that this program will have your best interest at hand. The style of teaching is clearcut, unbiased and easy to learn if you are willing to dedicate your time and energy towards a filmmaking career."
Natalie Battles

"The Production Institute was life-changing for me. Not only did I gain the skills necessary to better myself, my business and my artistry, I also gained the confidence I needed to make sure I continue to create."

2020 Production Institute
C. Phoenix Tyler

"DSI is the place to be for every filmmaker in Chicago. If you do the work and put in the time, you will learn the craft and become a filmmaker. DSI is the best!"

Photo by Sandra Oviedo aka ColectivoMultipolar

2020 Production Institute
Logline: Illinois Death Row Parolee Mrs. Geraldine Smith creates 'Unity Garden', in the heart of Englewoods' food desert, to help youth stay off streets. This is her story.
Logline: The story of Kenneka Jenkins, a 19-year-old Chicago native, as she gets ready for a hotel party that leads to her fatal demise.
Logline: Elders Mama Sarudzayi and Mama Adilisha—trailblazers of Black Chicago—share their stories to inspire young leaders of today to continue the work to uplift their community and pass down knowledge for generations to come.
Open Floor for Questions

To learn more about the program, register for Film Aesthetics, or to apply please visit our website: bit.ly/logan_dsi
Important Links

Register for Film Aesthetics

To learn more about the program, view tonight’s slides, or to apply (application opens April 7!) please visit our website:
bit.ly/logan_dsi
Thank you for your time!

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