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### Proposal:

When did you first realize your neighborhood was different? Growing up on Salt Lake City's west side, I heard first-hand the unique reputation it had among the rest of the state. Going to school outside of my district and having family across the state, I was torn between my home and the world surrounding it. On one occasion I remember being teased at lunch by other kids for living in "the hood," and on another occasion, I was asked by older relatives how scary it must be living in my neighborhood. Truth be told, however, I had never really thought of my neighborhood in that sense until I witnessed these reactions. Indeed, I knew that parts of my neighborhood were rougher than others, but many of those same parts were filled with friendly faces and lively communities.

*116* is a documentary-narrative hybrid examining the segregation of Salt Lake City's west side through the experiences of a group of friends that grew up in the neighborhood. Short narrative vignettes, in part narrated by interviews, will accompany and adapt the core stories subjects recount of their youth along with stark black and white cinematography. This will be tied together by documenting real locations, events, and people throughout the west side, to offer an honest perspective on the setting that has molded these people. The short film will aim to discuss the short history of the area, what makes it distinct, and where it is going moving forward.

Documentary filmmaking is a difficult yet extremely rewarding process. Currently, the film is in the pre-production stage, developing questions, finding subjects, and generally planning out the direction of the film. This summer will be the initial phase of production, focusing on filming the interviews and gathering some footage of the area. Following this some time will be spent editing and selecting stories to focus on creating a narrative, then the following months of the year will be spent on production for those scenes. This is a project that will likely span beyond the course of the summer of 2022, however, the production phases in the coming months will be a key foundation for the rest of the film on its own. The grant will primarily be used to cover the production costs for equipment, travel, and a stipend for any additional crew. Regardless of the awarded amount, a film will be produced and divided evenly. The rough estimate would be:

- \$250 for travel and gas.
- \$500 for equipment.
- \$250 crew stipend.

## Director's Statement:

My name is Calvin Mumm, I am a student from Salt Lake City, currently studying in Bronxville, New York at Sarah Lawrence College. *116* is an extremely personal film I have been piecing together throughout my entire life. Biking down 300 North every morning on the way to school, I would look at the sides of the road and think about what scenes I could create there and what people I could find. Every corner of my neighborhood tells a story, and while much of it is nostalgic to me, I also realize the deeply troubled past it has as well. I witnessed the dichotomy of Salt Lake City's segregation throughout my life. For years, I went to school east of the tracks and came back home to the west side; even after I started high school in my local district, I saw that few people from my neighborhood were in the accelerated track, despite making up the majority of the school. I developed a key awareness of the segregation that defined my home.

*116* revolves around the community's memories of growing up on the west side that forms the collective idea of our home. For many, this is not so clear, as for everything there is to love, there is a difficulty to match. This community has endured some of the worst air quality in the world,<sup>1</sup> some of the highest density of COVID-19 cases throughout the pandemic,<sup>2</sup> expansive red-lining,<sup>3</sup> and extreme poverty.<sup>4</sup> However, throughout this, it remains a remarkably tight-knit and diverse community that aims to support one another despite these hardships.

Today, the west side is rapidly changing, as the community pushes for improvements others propose projects that impose threats of gentrification<sup>5</sup> upon the area. Political leadership touts change for the west side, yet their actions have yielded diminishing returns and increasing absence over time. Meanwhile, community engagement has resulted in mutual aid programs, public fridges,<sup>6</sup> and clean-up projects for neighborhoods.

As a filmmaker, I have created documentaries that have screened around the country. In my final years of high school, I created a documentary titled *Sown*, a film focusing on the impact gun violence has had on students in America. The film won the award for Best Documentary at the All American High School Film Festival and went on to screen at DOC NYC, the largest documentary film festival in the world. During the summer of 2022, I worked on my film *Old King Coal*, which was also awarded a \$1,000 grant from

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<sup>1</sup> IQAir

<sup>2</sup> Walker, Salt Lake Tribune

<sup>3</sup> Burke, Salt Lake Tribune

<sup>4</sup> Building Salt Lake

<sup>5</sup> Semerad, Salt Lake Tribune

<sup>6</sup> Cabrero, KSL

the Seidelman Fund. The film focused on the socioeconomic impact coal mining has had on rural communities in America. This film evolved to my current project, *Cigarette Trees*, which examines the mining industry through the stories of my personal family history.

Now, with *116* I hope to engage with another important facet of my upbringing and the community that helped form me. This project is a novel endeavor for me, combining documentary and narrative elements in a way I haven't before. The film will be a collection of varying perspectives to create an amalgam of this special place and all of the unique communities that are a part of it. The west side has been a place ignored by its city, state, and nation, but for precisely that reason I think it is important to highlight its struggles and understand the things that have made it that way. The experience of these people is not singular here either but shared among many parts of the country along with increasing wealth disparity and economic insecurity. I know that I would not be the same without growing up on the west side, both of the people I know and the difficulties we endured.

Previous Work:

- Sown, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJKHw4uB2Is&t=153s>
- Renaissance Youth Center, 2021. <https://youtu.be/glhDPU28IfQ>
- <https://www.calvinmumm.com/portfolio?video>

Images:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3slqli3jdhbq9j0/AAALkbpcCe-TFxzozFuF\\_tMpa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3slqli3jdhbq9j0/AAALkbpcCe-TFxzozFuF_tMpa?dl=0)



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