

Powerful Stories for Powerful Discussions

A comprehensive program for group settings to tackle the rampant issues of loneliness.

The Rise and Risks of Loneliness and Isolation

Research indicates that loneliness is a growing problem among us with potentially devastating physical and mental health consequences (by some estimates it has the mortality equivalent of smoking 18 cigarettes per day). Particularly vulnerable populations include older adults, those with major illness, caregivers, military veterans and their families, minorities, and young adults.



A Creative Response: Harnessing the Power of Film to Connect Us!

The Foundation for Art & Healing is working to address the challenges of loneliness and isolation through its UnLoneliness Project, which

includes the Creatively Connected Online Film Festival—a virtual collection of short films from over 35 innovative filmmakers.

Diversity, Perspective, Accessibility

Loneliness can take many different forms, which is why the Festival offers viewers five theaters reflecting the experience of particularly affected groups as well as those of us navigating everyday obstacles of connecting meaningfully with others:

- Theater 1: Older Adults & Caregivers
- Theater 2: Veterans and Their Families
- Theater 3: Minorities & On the Margin
- Theater 4: Everyday Life
- Theater 5: Major Illness & Disabilities

Theaters are carefully curated with an engaging variety of narrative, documentary and animated works. Produced by professional, emerging, and amateur makers from around the world, and brimming with authentic insights and fresh artistic perspectives on loneliness, the films are moving, emotional, sometimes humorous, and almost all less than ten minutes long.

The Festival has been receiving rave reviews. Viewers tell us how much the films resonated with them and eagerly share their own moving stories of how family, friends, and themselves have faced with loneliness and isolation.

Driving Awareness, Engagement, and Activation

Creatively Connected *Live!* is an innovative approach for concerned organizations—social service, health care, corporate, and community groups—to leverage the power of the Festival's films to tackle this public health issue in their midst.

Developed with leading experts, a portfolio of integrated components helps to explore these critical topics. Utilizing a “tool kit” approach enables your organization to deliver meaningful programming that can easily accommodate your priorities and circumstances. An adaptable blueprint for film-driven events, along with abundant resources and materials to energize participants after the lights come up, enable the films' messages to resonate.

Program components include:

- Promotional material drawing attention to the timeliness and importance of the topic, and the value of film-based engagement programs.
- Summaries on health and related burdens of loneliness and isolation, including data on prevalence and demographics.
- Guides for creating a screening program of films by themes, topics, and audiences with logistical options relating to venue type, group size, downloadable projection and other simple technical specifications.
- Enriching background information on films and filmmakers including film summaries, “back stories” and filmmaker bios.
- Menu of facilitator-oriented outlines, scripts and discussion guides.
- An optional set of post-viewing exercises using leading-edge creative arts-based techniques that help audience members safely and effectively explore their connection to the subject.
- Evaluation templates and survey instruments that can be used to assess audience response and program efficacy along key parameters of interest.
- List of potential guest speakers available for screening appearances including experts on loneliness and filmmakers.



“The Foundation for Art & Healing’s unique Creatively Connected Online Film Festival is such a wonderful resource for anyone who consistently endures the debilitating isolation of loneliness. They provide not just hope, but practical tools to overcome it!”
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Your Opportunity to Take the Lead

Many organizations are starting to recognize the prevalence and impact of loneliness and isolation. The toll on health and wellness, productivity, and social stability affects us all. This is a moment when you can embrace a leadership opportunity to better understand this public health issue and through creativity and imagination help friends, neighbors, colleagues and themselves overcome daily challenges.

Preview the films at creativelyconnected.org

Contact us for more information about Creatively Connected *Live!*
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