



## Theory of Dispositions in Filmmaking

### Our methods are backed by research.

In 2019, Professor Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, a U.S. filmmaker and educator, developed a qualitative study to determine how best to create more inclusion in media arts education through leadership practices. The study's significance is to push existing media arts programs to practice greater levels of access and inclusion at every level of leadership.

- o Modeling such leadership has the potential to impact students, who will go on to work and lead in the professional world.
- o If leaders are not committed to inclusion and equity in film, what will change?

Searching across the globe for a highly successful program to study, K-Nelson partnered with Bus Stop Films, and based the research around our Accessible Film Studies Program.

Through the data collected at Bus Stop Films, K-Nelson developed the Theory of Dispositions in Filmmaking to illustrate how dispositions impact the leadership of successful inclusive filmmaking, and how dispositions may impact exclusionary practices in filmmaking. Professor Kristjansson-Nelson's found that by focusing strategically on building a team with an inclusive disposition, Bus Stop Films has successfully built a culture of access and inclusion in both its leadership practice and its filmmaking practice. It is at this intersection, between the practices of filmmaking and leadership, and the role that disposition plays within that realm, that deserves greater attention.

The Theory of Dispositions in Filmmaking aims to name and target attitudes and behaviors as significant variables, so that leaders in film education and the film industry can begin to identify ways to make positive change. You can read the full paper here: [Theory of Dispositions in Filmmaking](#)



## BIO:

Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson's film work has been presented at festivals in Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. K-Nelson has screened her films at venues such as Slamdance, the Walker Art Center, the D.C. National Museum for Women in the Arts, the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art, and the Wexner Center for the Arts. Her work has received awards, including the ICDOC Kodak Vision Award for Best Cinematography, Ann Arbor Film Festival's Griot Editorial Best Editing Award, and the UFVA Award of Merit for Documentary Filmmaking.

Her films explore issues including memory and landscape, and often navigates modes of image making between experimental documentary or animated documentary practice. K-Nelson was a Fulbright Scholar to Iceland in 2005, and was a 2007 Bush Artist Fellow. She has been awarded Resident Artist Fellowships from The Corporation of Yaddo (NY), Skaftfell (Iceland), and Djerassi (CA). K-Nelson was named the 2014 Minnesota CASE Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation. She is a co-founding member of EDIT Media (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Teaching Media). She is currently a Professor of Film at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

