

RESEARCH STATEMENT: THE OURSTORY PROJECT

In a rapidly evolving cultural landscape, the need for nuanced, authentic representation within creative projects has never been more imperative. The OurStory project is a pioneering initiative I envision to augment conventional methods of gathering research material for creative endeavors. It stands as a response to the limitations inherent in relying on generalized sources that perpetuate cultural stereotypes and oversimplified narratives.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The OurStory project seeks to embrace inclusive and ethical modern research methodologies for creative projects. By challenging traditional approaches that often lead to cultural homogenization, the project will develop and disseminate tools and methods that empower creators to connect directly with the communities represented in their creative projects. I envision a future where the authenticity of narratives, be it in theatre, visual art, literature, or film, can be rooted in a profound understanding of the diverse and rich tapestry of human experiences.

OURSTORY MISSION:

"To promote inclusive research practices that connect creators with contributors by developing and sharing tools and methods that support efforts to expand relevance in design and storytelling."

My commitment to this research agenda is anchored in the belief that creative endeavors should reflect the multiplicity of voices within our global society in ways that uplift, connect, and honor real people, their stories, and communities.

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Inclusive Research Methods:** Develop and disseminate innovative research methods prioritizing inclusivity, cultural sensitivity, and genuine engagement with communities that creatives seek to represent. This involves moving away from utilizing traditional authoritative sources that generalize and often perpetuate stereotypes to foster a deeper understanding of the unique perspectives, histories, and aspirations of diverse groups.
- 2. Accessibility & Crowd-Sourced Platform:** Establish a dynamic, user-friendly platform that serves as a nexus between creators and the communities they seek to include in their artistic projects. This platform will facilitate collaboration, dialogue, and the exchange of ideas, ensuring that creators can draw on the authentic experiences of those they intend to represent—opening doors around the world.
- 3. Empowering Creatives:** Empower creatives to navigate the complexities of diverse narratives responsibly. Provide resources and support to navigate potential pitfalls, challenge preconceptions,

and foster an environment where the creative process becomes a dialogue between the artist and the community.

IMPACT:

The OurStory project aspires to catalyze a seismic shift in the creative landscape, fostering a new era where representation celebrates the rich mosaic of human experiences. By promoting inclusive research practices in the creative process, I aim to inspire a generation of creators to approach their work with a heightened sense of responsibility and respect for the stories they tell.

Through the collaborative efforts of creators and communities, the OurStory project could contribute to a future where cultural stereotypes are dismantled and the true depth and diversity of our collective narrative are celebrated. Writing our own history – OurStory.