



LARGEST SOCIAL IMPACT PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT BY WOMXN IN THE U.S. LAUNCHES WITH AN OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS

NEW YORK, NEW YORK — May 20, 2019

[We, Women](#) is creating a nationwide platform to support women, transgender, and non-binary photographers who combine images and grassroots strategies to create empathy and social impact on critical issues across the United States, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

The United States is more divided than ever, and we're currently witnessing the highest level of civic engagement in generations. **We, Women** projects will fuel the movement by re-framing issues and highlighting underrepresented narratives that resist and interrogate social and political landscapes while promoting empathy and unity.

Presented in partnership by [United Photo Industries](#) and [Women Photograph](#), **We, Women** launches **May 20, 2019 with an Open Call for Artists**. The first phase of this developing project will feature up to 20 projects launching in 2020.

Each artist will receive:

- A cash grant of \$5,000-\$10,000 for the continuation of existing work or the creation of a new project in a community they have a demonstrated commitment to
- Mentorship and production support from We, Women leaders, project partners, and advisors
- Promotion and marketing
- **We, Women** exhibition at [Photoville](#) Fall 2020 in New York City
- Inclusion in a traveling nationwide exhibition with / concurrent programming beginning Fall 2020

We, Women believes photographs are only the beginning of a creative and socially-minded process. We support work rooted in collaboration, blurring the lines between author, photographed community, and audience. We support a range of artistic and documentary approaches including photography, video, interactive technology, and the use of historical archives.

The [first We, Women projects](#) have been selected and the We, Women team are thrilled to be working with *Sol Aramendi, Annie Flanagan and Ashley Teamer, Tonika Johnson, Kameelah Janan Rasheed, and Karen Miranda Rivadeneira.*

"Our hope for We, Women is that we can ask our audience to reimagine what photography is meant to accomplish, and use it as a tool to inspire more conversations, more community intersections, and ultimately, more empathy and human connection. We believe in the power of photography as a way to tell the human story: and we want We, Women to help build a more complete portrait of our America."

- We, Women co-founders Emily Schiffer, Danielle Villasana, and Daniella Zalczman

We, Women is not just a grant. It's an opportunity to shape a national conversation about how to find common ground on divisive issues through photography and community engagement. A second group will be added, up to 15 projects, through a call for proposals launching on May 20th and closing on June 30th.

We, Women is presented in partnership between [United Photo Industries](#) and [Women Photograph](#). **We, Women** was co-created by Amy Yenkin, Daniella Zalczman, Danielle Villasana, Emily Schiffer, Laura Roumanos, and Rina Malonzo.

We, Women advisory committee includes Debbie Almontaser (CEO & Founder, Bridging Cultures Group Inc.); Kristina Newman-Scott (President, BRIC); Julian Brave Noisecat (Journalist & Director of Green New Deal Strategy, Data for Progress); Susan Meiselas (President, Magnum Foundation); Veronica Sanchis Bencomo (Photographer & Founder, Foto F  minas); Jovan C. Speller (Program Director, Metro Regional Arts Council; Independent Artist & Curator); Eric Gottesman (Artist, For Freedoms); Quito Ziegler (Professor, School of Visual Arts), Gerlie Collado (Program Director of Community Engagement at The Music Center & Board Member of Visual Communications) and Dee Davis (President, Center for Rural Strategies)

Lead funding for **We, Women** provided by [Open Society Foundations](#).

Institutional Collaborators for **We, Women** are [Magnum Foundation](#), [For Freedoms](#), and [Kickstarter](#).

Community Collaborators for **We, Women** are [Diversify Photo](#), [MFON: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora](#), [The Everyday Projects](#), [Authority Collective](#), and [Natives Photograph](#).

About We, Women

We live in an era characterized by divisiveness and distrust in politics and the media, yet we're witnessing the highest level of civic engagement in decades. **We, Women** artists will fuel existing movements by combining images with community engagement to offer a direct route to the core of the problem and the beginning of a solution. Our artists highlight the vital role the arts can play in social change movements, by visualizing issues, attracting attention, connecting changemakers, and bridging dialogues.

Women, transgender, and non-binary people are often at the forefront of activism but disempowered in our political and social systems. Every defining issue of American existence today—from gun control to health care, affordable housing to climate change—is intersectional and should be interpreted and understood directly from these perspectives.

As a way to unravel the legacy of power structures constructed and maintained through decades of "othering" imagery, **We, Women** seeks to reclaim the photographic process in an act of visual rebellion: how it's executed, what it means, and who it reaches. Only through a holistic understanding of how these structures impact our entire society can we hope to create a shift in our political and social systems.

We, Women prioritizes artists of color and supports individuals from all spectrums of identity, including but not limited to religion, sexual orientation, age, ability, and socio-economic status. By creating projects that unite and engage communities across the United States, our artists will show how issues are interconnected and how we are all affected by them. Through this radical transformation of image-making—with the goal of contributing to lasting change—*We, Women* believes we can revolutionize how we see our world and ultimately, ourselves.

About United Photo Industries

[United Photo Industries](#) is a New York based art-presenting organization that works to promote a wider understanding and increase access to the art of photography. Founded in 2011, United Photo Industries has rapidly solidified its position in the public art landscape by consistently showcasing thought provoking, challenging, and exceptional photography from across the globe. Proudly devoted to cultivating strategic partnerships, creative collaborations, and community spirit, United Photo Industries has presented dozens of exhibitions and public art installations across the United States and worldwide in partnership with numerous festivals, city agencies, and not-for-profit organizations.

United Photo Industries is also the founder and producer of [Photoville](#) – the largest annual photographic event in NYC which saw over 95,000 visitors in its 7th year in 2018 in Brooklyn Bridge Park and featured over 90 exhibitions, Talks, workshops, night time projections and 100 partners, all free to the public over 2 weeks and recently launched Photoville LA with the Annenberg Space for Photography on the west coast in the spring of 2019 and saw over 28,000 people in the inaugural year. UPI is also the co-producer of the Tokyo International Photography Festival in Tokyo, Japan. Past and present partners include: AirBnB; Brooklyn Bridge Park; Brooklyn Tourism Company; Catchlight; Doctors without Borders; DUMBO BID; Dutch Mission to the UN; Instagram; Namibian Mission to the UN; National Geographic; NY Department of Parks; NYC Mayor’s Office of Media & Entertainment; The New York Times; The Presidio Trust, San Francisco; UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); Athens Photo Festival (Greece); DUMBO Arts Festival (US); Hamburg Triennial (Germany); Head On Photo Festival (Australia); Leiden Photo Festival (Holland); Reportage Festival (Australia); Shanghai International Photography Festival (China).

About Women Photograph

[Women Photograph](#) is an initiative that launched in 2017 to elevate the voices of women, transgender, and non-binary visual journalists. The private database includes more than 900 independent documentary photographers based in 100 countries and is available privately to any commissioning editor or organization. Women Photograph also operates an annual series of project grants for emerging and established photojournalists, a year-long mentorship program, and a travel fund to help womxn photographers access workshops, festivals, and other developmental opportunities. Women Photograph’s mission is to shift the gender makeup of the photojournalism community and ensure that our industry’s chief storytellers are as diverse as the communities they hope to represent.

For more information or press inquiries, contact: hello@wewomenphoto.com

www.wewomenphoto.com

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