

- What is the project?
  - A short (15 - 40 minute) documentary about the redistricting process in California.
- What is my vision for this project?
  - My vision for this project is to follow the redistricting process to see behind the scenes of how census data and community input is used to shape the districts of California. This project will show how an independent redistricting commission functions and the criteria that goes into redrawing the district lines. By following the process, the film will ideally illustrate the impact the commission has on creating districts in an attempt to offer equitable funding and representation throughout the state of California.
- Why do I want to film this process?
  - Because redistricting only happens every 10 years, I think it is important to document the Commission's process and present it to audiences in an engaging, informative and entertaining way that will increase the public's awareness and understanding of the independent redistricting process.
  - This documentary can provide an example to the rest of the country, namely other states that do not yet use independent commissions, of the advantages of having an independent redistricting committee.
- Ideal Participants
  - Most if not all of the Citizens Redistricting Commissioners (both during meetings and individual interviews)
  - Citizens Redistricting Staff
  - 1-3 communities affected by the redistricting process
  - Community members at various town halls
- What events would I like to film?
  - I would like to film some combination of the following events, mostly focused on the meetings in the fall when the actual line drawing of the districts starts. I envision filming these in a "fly-on-the-wall" manner so as to not interrupt the proceedings. It is my understanding that it is uncertain whether some of these events will be happening in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but hopefully these will be able to take place in person this fall.
    - Public Input Meetings
    - Town Halls with Commissioners
    - Line Drawing Sessions
    - Commissioners engaging with communities outside of Town Hall settings

- Interviews with various participants to provide context for the above meetings
- General Production Timeline
  - Note: *This is a rough outline of what I am thinking would be a good timeline for filming. The exact schedule would be heavily affected by when events (such as line drawing sessions or town halls) are taking place. I also do not envision this as something that I need to be constantly filming; so for each of these months, I plan to only be filming 7-14 days of the month. As protocols change or events happen that affect the process/story, the schedule will need to change to reflect that. The editing and distribution timelines below are subject to change based on the production, but the following reflects my current goals and expectations.*
  - May 2021 thru September 2021 (pre-production)
    - Reach out to potential funding partners
    - Apply to short film grants to secure additional funding
    - Do extensive research on the California redistricting process and communities that might be affected by redistricting
    - Assemble production team (including producers and camera person)
  - October 2021 (production starts)
    - Film Census Data arriving to Commission
    - Film background interviews with members of the commission
    - Start to film with communities that might be impacted by the redistricting process
  - November/December 2021 (production)
    - Film Public Input Meetings / Town Halls
    - Film Line Drawing sessions with commission
    - Film with commission as the Draft District Maps are released
    - Continue filming with communities that might be impacted by the redistricting process
  - January/February 2022 (production)
    - Film Public Input Meetings / Town Halls
    - Film second round of Line Drawing Sessions
    - Continue filming with communities that might be impacted by the redistricting process
    - Do final interviews with commissioners before Maps are released
    - Film with the commission as they deliver the final district maps to the Secretary of State
  - Spring 2022 (production/start of post-production)

- Film follow up interviews / footage with communities after the maps have been released
    - Edit the short film
  - Summer 2022 (post-production)
    - Option 1: submit to film festivals for debut in the Fall of 2022
    - Option 2: release on YouTube or Vimeo so it can be seen before the 2022 Midterm Elections
  - Fall 2022 (release)
    - Have the film released before the Midterm Elections - either at a film festival or online.
- Note on Production
  - At this point in time, I am a one-person team. If the commission agrees to participation, I will then look for outside funding / grants with the intent to grow my team to include additional producers, camerapersons, etc. However, regardless of my team's size, I plan to keep a low profile if granted permission to film these events so as to not disrupt their agendas and goals.
- Filmmaker Bio
  - My name is Alexander Hadden and I am a documentary filmmaker and editor who has lived in Los Angeles for the last 8 years (my work experience can be viewed on my website below). Over the past 5 years, I have become increasingly interested in the political process from federal to local levels. The combination of my filmmaking experience and deep interest in politics will provide an excellent foundation for creating an engaging and entertaining documentary about the redistricting process.
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