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"Dear Heart of Glass Kids" An artistically experimental non-fiction short film process

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Generations and moments in history can be defined and remembered by the works of art that emerged from them. Young artists hold a critical perspective in this mosaic of expression and documentation, yet their less experienced voices are largely unheard. The short film, *Dear Heart of Glass Kids*, follows three artists in their early 20's at the threshold of their careers, as they collaborate remotely to build an artistic time capsule that speaks to their possible future children as well as the child in all of us.

My cast is made up of Justin Bobbs, a hip-hop musician/producer, Margie Crosby, an illustrator, and Stephanie Roston, a contemporary-modern choreographer. Though separated by thousands of miles, they have been sharing newly created works and searching for commonalities emerging throughout them in virtual collaboration sessions all summer. Though we are unable to culminate the project with in-person work, due to COVID-19, we are constructing an ending scene for the film that integrates all three artforms by layering creative processes through post-production techniques. A few individual scenes have been shot in-person, but the rest I have directed remotely with hands-on help from family members within the artists' quarantines. I aim to finish filming by September and I hope to complete the editing process by late fall 2020.

Adapting to COVID-19 and emotionally engaging with the heartache many people in our country are facing right now has made this project both challenging and unmistakably personal. It has encouraged the artists to create and share more work than they would on their own and has been validating to their agency as creators in a world which often overlooks unseasoned professionals. Though this season is extremely tumultuous for filmmakers and artists, *Dear Heart of Glass Kids* is continually teaching me about the value of artistry, perspective, faith, and vulnerability in such a moment as this.