



For the second year in a row, the Friars Charitable Foundation has generously sponsored the **Open Mind Film Festival**, presented by **The Friends of the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior** at UCLA. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people living with mental health issues.

The Open Mind Film Festival is open to high school students throughout the United States. Students are invited to join the conversation on mental health by submitting short films that highlight their experiences and concerns. Since its inception three years ago over 300 films have been submitted and the festivals were presented in a virtual format. .

This year, ten finalist films were screened and prizes were awarded as follows: First Prize- \$1,000, Second Prize- \$600, Friends Choice Award - \$400. In 2024 we are hoping to host the festival in person at The James Bridges Theater on the UCLA campus.

We are very grateful to the Friars Charitable Foundation for the ongoing support. We believe the festival provides a unique and important opportunity for young people to share their personal stories about mental health.

The link below will provide access to the **2023 Open Mind Film Festival**:

<https://www.friendsofsemelinstitute.org/pastevents/open-mind-film-festival-2023>