

# THE SAN FRANCISCO FOUNDATION

*The Community Foundation of the Bay Area*

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS The San Francisco Foundation Bay Area Documentary Fund

Online Applications due: **Wednesday, October 1, 2008**, by 11:59 p.m.  
Work Samples postmarked: **Wednesday, October 15, 2008**  
Winners notified: **Monday, December 1, 2008**

The San Francisco Foundation (TSFF) is pleased to announce the creation of **The San Francisco Foundation Bay Area Documentary Fund**. Many award-winning documentaries have emerged from the San Francisco Bay Area. In recognition of this fine documentary tradition, TSFF invites accomplished film/video/digital media artists to apply to the Bay Area Documentary Fund for early production support.

Four or five awards ranging from \$20,000 to \$25,000 will be distributed annually to support documentary projects in early production phases by experienced filmmakers with an esteemed body of previously created work.

Projects should address issues pertinent to the five Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, or San Mateo. TSFF is interested in documentaries exploring issues that have been historically underexposed, misinterpreted, or ignored. The content should advance the Foundation's goals by addressing one or more of its program areas:

- **Arts and Culture:** Nurture creativity, support arts education, and broaden cultural participation in order to enrich, develop, and celebrate communities.
- **Community Development:** Increase safe and affordable housing opportunities, safety-net services, and sustainable livelihoods for individuals and families.
- **Community Health:** Improve the health of communities, particularly underserved populations, by expanding access to services, promoting prevention to reduce illness, and advancing health policy reform.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Strengthen neighborhood resiliency and improve preparedness and response capacity of community- and faith-based organizations that will provide essential services to underserved populations.
- **Education:** Support families and communities to help children and youth succeed in school and provide opportunities for them to become confident, caring, and contributing adults.
- **Environment:** Promote environmentally sustainable practices and equitable development that guarantee livable communities and healthy environments.
- **FAITHS:** Enhance the capacity of faith-based organizations to provide community services, develop neighborhood and community leaders, and improve the quality of life for low income and underserved residents.
- **Koshland:** Advance grassroots neighborhood leadership to engage residents in the promotion of civic unity.
- **Social Justice:** Inspire civic action and democratic participation that contribute to a just society.

### ELIGIBILITY

Filmmakers must reside in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, or San Mateo counties. Only filmmakers with a proven track record of planning and finishing substantial film projects will be considered. Students may not apply.

## **ELIGIBILITY, continued**

Documentaries must be suitable for broadcast in terms of length, format, and technical quality, but can also be conceived for multiple platforms: theaters, television, online sites, or handheld electronic devices.

Individual filmmakers must be fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in the five Bay Area counties listed above. Artists may only apply once for any given documentary project. If awarded a Bay Area Documentary Fund award, filmmakers are not eligible again for five years.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Selected projects will first be evaluated by TSFF program staff to ascertain alignment with program goals, and then reviewed by an outside committee of media experts, who will:

- Assess the project's clarity and craft by reading application narratives and reviewing supplementary material that includes a five minute sample of the work-in-progress (if available), as well as treatments, scripts, funding (secured and projected), and dissemination plans.
- Gauge the filmmaker's artistry by reviewing the applicant's filmography and a five minute sample of a previously completed work.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

**This is a two-part process, to be completed both online and via mail.**

*Part 1: Complete online application and upload two documents*

- a) Applications must be submitted through Grantee Center, TSFF's online application system, at <https://granteecenter.sff.org/>, no later than **11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2008**. (Assistance will be available until 5:00 p.m.).
- b) Upload a filmography with the application
- c) Upload a letter from the 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsoring organization requesting funds on filmmakers behalf and its role in oversight of the proposed project, signed by its president or chair, authorizing submission of this proposal to The San Francisco Foundation.

*Part 2: Submit two work samples by mail*

- a) Mail five minutes of the documentary-in-progress (if available)
- b) Mail a five minute reel of a previously completed film project. Web-based artists may send a URL to a substantial online project.
- c) Include in mailed samples a brief description of the two work samples, including year completed, medium, and filmmaker's role in the project.

The samples should be postmarked by October 15, 2008 and mailed to:

Attn: Kevin Seaman  
The San Francisco Foundation  
225 Bush Street, Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94104

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information please contact Kevin Seaman, Arts & Culture Program Assistant, at 415.733.8508 or [ks@sff.org](mailto:ks@sff.org).