

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: Thursday, September 2, 2010, by 11:59 p.m.

Work samples postmarked: Thursday, September 2, 2010

Awardees notified: Friday, October 15, 2010

The San Francisco Foundation (TSFF) announces the third and final round 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, The San Francisco Foundation invites accomplished film/video/digital media artists to apply to the Bay Area Documentary Fund for early production support.

Grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded this year to support documentary projects in early production phases by experienced filmmakers with an esteemed body of previously created work. The 2009 recipients were:

- **Eugene Corr's** *From Ghost Town to Havana*, a feature-length documentary following the lives of six boys as they travel from West Oakland to Havana, Cuba, to play baseball with six Centro Habana boys.
- **Megan Gelstein's** *Green Shall Overcome*, a feature-length documentary about Van Jones and the green collar economy.
- **Peter Nicks'** *The Waiting Room*, a feature-length documentary film revealing how the healthcare crisis affects those most at risk during this unique time and how the physical waiting room is a symbol of their plight.
- **Tamara Perkin's** *The Trust*, a documentary that explores how and why children follow their families into generational cycles of poverty and recidivism.
- **Ken Paul Rosenthal's** *Crooked Beauty*, an experimental documentary on mental illness.

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.**
- 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, and/or handheld electronic devices.
- All applicants must have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. 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.
- Past awardees are not eligible.

Projects must address issues pertinent to the five Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo. The San Francisco Foundation 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 content areas:

- **Arts and Culture:** Nurture creativity, support arts learning, and broaden cultural participation in order to enrich, develop, and celebrate diverse communities.
- **Community Development:** Increase affordable housing opportunities, stabilize neighborhoods by addressing the foreclosure crisis and its impact on families and communities, and promote sustainable livelihoods through job creation and training.
- **Community Health:** Promote health equity for underserved populations by expanding access to services, promoting community-based prevention, and advancing health policy reform.
- **Education:** Equitable access to a quality pre-K to 16 public education through strategic community school partnerships in the highest poverty and lowest performing school communities in the Bay Area.
- **Environment:** Guarantee that all communities benefit from environmental wellbeing and are protected from environmental harm by centralizing the experience of the most vulnerable communities within the Bay Area's critical environmental debates and illuminating how to address issues of gender, racial, and economic justice to achieve real and lasting ecological sustainability.
- **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 Civic Unity Awards:** Advance grassroots neighborhood leadership to engage residents in the promotion of civic unity.
- **Other:** If your subject matter does not fall into one of the above categories, please select this one.

Evaluation Criteria

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

- gauge the filmmaker's artistry by reviewing a five-minute sample of the work in progress (if applicable) and a five-minute sample of a previously completed work; and
- assess the project's clarity and craft by reading application narratives and reviewing supplementary funding (secured and projected) and dissemination plans.

How to Apply

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

1. Fill out the online application and upload required documents via The San Francisco Foundation's Grantee Center (<https://granteecenter.sff.org>). Online applications are **due Thursday, September 2, 2010**, by 11:59 p.m. Please note, assistance will be available only until 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date.

- Application includes:
 - A narrative that describes the documentary project including what historically underexposed, misinterpreted, and/or ignored issue you will be addressing, why the subject matter is significant to the Bay Area community, and the director's conceptual ideas, technical approaches, and expertise in the subject matter. *(7,500 character maximum)*
 - A brief timeline describing where you are in the process of filming the project. *(3,250 character maximum)*
 - A description of what the funding would be used for. *(3,250 character maximum)*
 - A description of dissemination plans for once the project is completed. *(3,250 character maximum)*
 - Required documents must be no longer than one page each, formatted in Times New Roman font, size 11:
 - Project Budget – an Excel spreadsheet or PDF document with the budget of the film
 - Director's Filmography
 - Fund Development Plan – a Word or PDF document detailing how additional funds will be raised and also detailing any additional grants
 - Work Sample List – a brief description of the two work samples, including title, year completed, medium, and filmmaker's role in the project
 - IRS Form 990/Financial Audit OR Audit and Letter of Resolution from Fiscal Sponsor
2. Mail film samples including:
- Five minutes of previously completed film project. Web-based artists may send a URL to a substantial online project
 - Five minutes of the documentary-in-progress (if available)

Samples must be postmarked by **Thursday, September 2, 2010**, and mailed to:

Bay Area Documentary Fund
 c/o Kevin Seaman
 Arts and Culture Program Assistant
 The San Francisco Foundation
 225 Bush Street, Suite 500
 San Francisco, CA 94104

To fill out the online application, please visit The San Francisco Foundation's Grantee Center at <https://granteecenter.sff.org>.

For More Information

For more information please contact Kevin Seaman, Arts & Culture Program Assistant, at 415.733.8508 or kls@sff.org.