

2023 Annual Report



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Tails of the City

LETTER FROM KEVIN



Dear Friends,

2023 was a year of growth for Filmmakers Collaborative SF. Our membership doubled, we launched our first incubator program, and we hosted our first mixer event while also keeping our core programs of fiscal sponsorship, distribution, and sliding-scale consulting steady. **We have now served as fiscal sponsors for 85+ films to date, of which 35 are in distribution and 40 are currently active.**

A big milestone for us this year was the launch of our **For Us, By Us Filmmaker Incubator** program, which was supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, and Hobson Lucas Family Foundation. This program was part of our continuing collaboration with Jennifer Crystal Chien and Re-Present Media, an organization dedicated to promoting personal storytelling from underrepresented communities in nonfiction media. *For Us, By Us* mentored seven filmmakers from diverse communities, uplifting their unique perspectives and supporting them with the specific challenges they face on their filmmaking journeys. We are also very fortunate to have Jennifer serve as our Board President!

As our membership increases, we strive to be a **source of consistent support for filmmakers from idea to distribution**. I believe our growth is rooted in taking an individualized approach to our work with filmmakers, treating it as a true partnership to help them finish their films! In turn, we offer an increasingly better value for donors as we help facilitate and expand the curation of compelling programs and media projects to maximize the benefit of their funding investments.

Our work is rooted in helping to foster a **healthier ecosystem for the Bay Area film community and beyond**. The independent filmmaking community in the Bay Area has always been vibrant and exceptionally skilled at making compelling, groundbreaking films distributed throughout the world. We want to continue to expand our efforts to help stabilize and grow this tremendous tradition.

We invite you to learn more about our work and consider joining our community as a member or supporter. The need for thoughtful, diverse, and independent filmmaking has never been greater!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin White'.

Kevin White

Co-Founder and Executive Director

WHAT WE DO



Filmmakers Collaborative SF is a nonprofit media organization with a mission to catalyze positive change through the power of filmmaking.

We believe visual storytelling can move hearts and minds as we address the social, environmental, and cultural issues of our time. We bring diverse perspectives to film with the goal of enhancing public awareness and informed decision-making towards a more equitable, sustainable, and just world.



FILMMAKER SERVICES

We support independent filmmakers and their projects through fiscal sponsorship, education, low-cost customized consulting, and other services to help them get their films made.



COMMUNITY BUILDING

Once filmmakers become members of our collaborative, they join a supportive peer community that fosters empowerment and encouragement on their filmmaking journeys.



FILM PRODUCTION

We produce our own original films as well as projects for nonprofits, government agencies, and other organizations as part of our commitment to mission-driven filmmaking.



IMPACT CAMPAIGNS

We build partnerships with affinity organizations and other stakeholders to optimize outreach and distribution to create impact with our films.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS



FOR US, BY US

We launched our inaugural **For Us, By Us Filmmaker Incubator program** with seven filmmakers working on six films telling personal stories of underrepresented communities in the Bay Area. We provided workshops, mentoring, and a stipend over six months, helping the filmmakers gain momentum to take their projects to the next stage.

FILMMAKER SUPPORT

We continued our **support for 500+ independent filmmakers** through fiscal sponsorship, sliding-scale consulting, fundraising research, work-in-progress screenings, mixer events, and other activities. We now have 75+ members, 40+ active fiscally-sponsored projects, and have helped shepherd 35+ films into distribution.

WORKSHOPS

We collaborated with Re-Present Media to offer two **free virtual workshops** for filmmakers. Over 400 people total registered for the workshops.

- “Getting Unstuck” in conjunction with Show & Tell
- “Working with PBS” with Donald Thoms and Stephen Talbot

NETWORKING EVENTS

We hosted our first **in-person mixer event** for our members and friends at Ninth Street Independent Film Center. We also participated in other industry events, including BAMMS and the SF Cinema Block Party, that brought together local media organizations.

FILM DISTRIBUTION

We continued to do outreach and engagement with our own films and those we played a producing role in, including **Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests, and the Future**, which has had 450 community screenings and over 1,000 PBS telecasts, and **Stewart Udall: The Politics of Beauty** by John De Graaf, which has had 75+ community screenings and many more scheduled with a PBS release forthcoming.

2024 GOALS & OBJECTIVES



Increase our organizational profile and activities to support the filmmaker community

- Increase collaboration with media organizations for events and partnerships.
- Increase communication with filmmakers through strategic email, social media content, our newsletter, and our filmmaker Resources section on our website.
- Sponsor film screenings of our filmmakers' films.
- Offer more opportunities for mixer and screening events.

Expand our filmmaker support programs

- Launch another *For Us, By Us* incubator program and leverage the program to:
 - Support filmmakers from underserved communities.
 - Build relationships with more funders.
 - Reach new filmmakers for our workshops and membership.
- Continue holding workshops and other events on a regular basis.
 - Co-present five screenings as part of *For Us, By Us: Our Beloved Communities* supported by California Humanities.
 - Present three educational workshops.
 - Present member work-in-progress screenings.
 - Sponsor local film festival screenings.
 - Host a filmmaker mixer event.

Additional Programmatic activities

- Continue to grow our fiscal sponsorship program.
- Continue to grow our membership program.
- Explore adding a mission-driven filmmaking program.

DELIVERING IMPACT



500+

independent filmmakers served in 2023

\$790K

donations received for our fiscally-sponsored films in 2023 from 157 donors

35

fiscally-sponsored films in distribution

40

fiscally-sponsored films in progress

20

original films in distribution

1650+

PBS telecasts since 2020

(Saving Species Together and Wilder than Wild: Fire, Forests, and the Future)

400+

total registered participants for 2023 workshops



The most important measure of our work is impact. While audience size and honors help, we measure impact in real-world changes to awareness, behaviors, or policies.

IMPACT CASE STUDY



For Us, By Us Filmmaker Incubator

In 2023, **Re-Present Media** and **Filmmakers Collaborative SF** launched the **For Us, By Us Filmmaker Incubator program**, a six month intensive to support a diverse cohort of seven local documentary filmmakers who are telling personal stories from underrepresented communities in the Bay Area. Through workshops, group mentoring, and a stipend, the program helped filmmakers gain momentum to take their projects to their next stage.

These films feature community members expressing their points of view and providing insight into how we can better understand each other and ourselves. These projects include intersections of race, class, and gender from across the Bay Area.

6 months

3 months of biweekly workshops
3 months of biweekly group mentoring
filmmaker stipend

What did the filmmakers gain from the program?

“skills for talking about visual language and storytelling”

“confidence in our story”

“connection with other filmmakers”

“knowing where we are and need to go”

For more information, please view the [Program Report](#).



This program was supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Comcast NBCUniversal Foundation, Hobson Lucas Family Foundation, and 21 individual donors.

IMPACT CASE STUDY



Fiscal Sponsee: *The Movement and the “Madman”*

The Movement and the “Madman” is an independent film we fiscally sponsored that demonstrates how two antiwar protests in the fall of 1969 – the largest the country had ever seen – pressured President Nixon to cancel what he called his “madman” plans for a massive escalation of the U.S. war in Vietnam, including a threat to use nuclear weapons. At the time, protestors had no idea how influential they could be and how many lives they may have saved.

Told through remarkable archival footage and firsthand accounts from movement leaders, Nixon administration officials, and historians, the film explores how antiwar movement leaders mobilized disparate groups from coast to coast to create two massive protests. Most of all, it carefully chronicles the potential of protest to impact the course of history.

Director/Producer: Stephen Talbot
Co-Producer: Steven Ladd

Executive Producer: Robert Levering
Editor: Stephanie Mechura

- National broadcast premiere on the PBS series *American Experience* and international distribution through PBS.
- Now screening at festivals and community events.
- Now streaming on PBS Passport, Amazon Prime, and Kanopy.

*“The engaging, well-made film,
The Movement and the “Madman”
...resonates in our own time.”*

– THE PROGRESSIVE

*“Does protesting actually work? ...we
now know that unrest at home forced
Nixon to back off from plans for
dangerous escalation, including a threat
to use nuclear weapons.”*

– PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



2023 Workshops

We collaborated with Re-Present Media to offer two free virtual workshops.

- “Getting Unstuck”
Practical strategies to get past sticking points and move your film forward.
Presented in conjunction with Show & Tell.
- “Working with PBS”
Helping independent filmmakers navigate the PBS system
Guests: Stephen Talbot (producer/filmmaker) and Donald Thoms (former VP of Program Management, PBS)

400+ people registered for our workshops. Feedback surveys for the PBS workshop were very positive with an average 4.3/5 rating.

“Concrete advice”

“Welcoming and helpful”

“A very informative and inspiring conversation”



Events

We hosted our first in-person member mixer event, multiple work in progress screenings, and participated in industry events that brought together local media organizations, including BAMMS and the SF Cinema Block Party.

FINANCIALS

Revenue

Contributed Income FCSF	\$80,983
Contributed/Restricted - Fiscal Sponsor	\$791,492
Fiscal Sponsor Program Service	\$31,181
Program Service Income	\$10,432
Sale of Media	\$408
Total Revenue	\$914,495

Expenditures

Office/General Administrative	\$57,513
Program Service Expense	\$65,712
Fiscal Sponsorship Expenses	\$791,524
Total Expenditures	\$914,749

Assets

Current Assets	
Cash	\$237,846
Fixed Assets	\$4,984
Other Assets	\$500

NET REVENUE -\$254

TOTAL ASSETS \$243,330

Liabilities

Current Liabilities/Accounts Payable	\$117,775
Total Liabilities	\$117,775

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	\$72,953
With Donor Restrictions	\$52,602

TOTAL NET ASSETS \$243,330

CONTACT INFO

Kevin White, Executive Director
kevin@filmmakerscollaborative.org

Find us online:
www.filmmakerscollaborative.org



@FilmmakersCollaborativeSF



@FilmCollabSF

BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer Crystal Chien - President
Filmmaker & Nonprofit Administrator

Kevin White - Co-Founder and Executive Director
Filmmaker, Producer/Director/Writer

Eva Santelli - Secretary & Treasurer
Nonprofit Consultant & Bookkeeper

Michal Aviad - Co-Founder & Director
Filmmaker & Professor

Steve Ladd - Director
Distribution & Media Consultant

Michael Mitrani - Director
Nonprofit Consultant

Jason Wolos - Director
Creative Director, Producer & Filmmaker

Jamie Wright - Director
Filmmaker & Improviser