



FOR US, BY US

Presented by
**Re-Present Media
& Filmmakers
Collaborative SF**

Filmmaker Incubator 2023





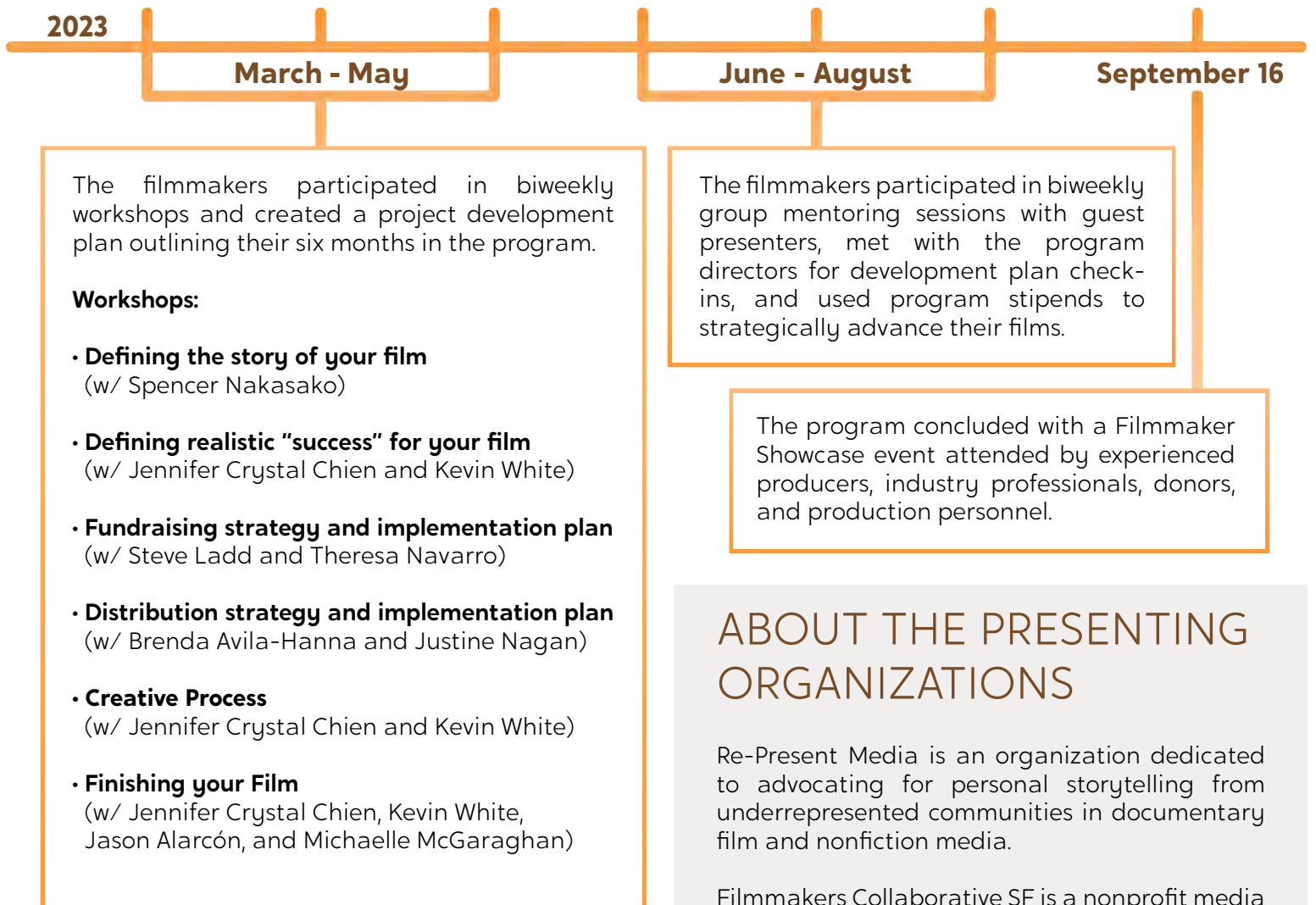
For Us, By Us

FILMMAKER INCUBATOR

Pictured: Five of the seven program fellows and the program staff.

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 six personal stories from underrepresented communities in the Bay Area.

With each film comes an opportunity for community members to express their points of view and provide insight into how we can better understand each other and ourselves. These projects highlight intersections of race, class, and gender from across the Bay Area.



ABOUT THE PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Re-Present Media is an organization dedicated to advocating for personal storytelling from underrepresented communities in documentary film and nonfiction media.

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

ABOUT THE FILMS



Manilatown Manang

directed by Caroline Julia Cabading

When I-Hotel Tenant Activist Jeanette Lazam learns that a vacancy has opened up at the rebuilt International Hotel, she embarks on a road trip to claim back the home she was forcibly evicted from 44 years ago.



Safe Harbor

directed by Erika Staud

A single mother has dreams of setting sail on her new home with her young daughter and cats but must first juggle her time and various jobs and stay afloat financially to provide for her family.



Bienvenida Abuelita

directed by Megan Martinez Goltz

Two generations after Celia assimilated to the United States, her queer grandchild Megan battles distance, language and religion to recover what remains of their Mexican heritage before Celia's body and mind erode from terminal cancer.



Sammy's Final Arrangement

directed by Chad Santo Tomas

A young, successful florist reflects on the beauty of impermanence as he brings an end to a once-flourishing floral studio and retires from his career ahead of the birth of his second child.



Saranam Gacchâmi (I take refuge)

directed by Priyanka Suryaneni

An enterprising Buddhist Monk defies all odds to set up one of the largest Tibetan Monasteries in the Bay Area to preserve the endangered Tibetan culture and traditions.



We Just Want to Be

directed by Mauro Sifuentes & Sé Sullivan

A trans survivor of experimental conversion therapy from the 1960s makes an unlikely friend in the present-day Bay Area, and the two go on a journey to explore their shared history of clinical experimentation, practices that continue to shape the lives of trans youth today.



FILMMAKER SHOWCASE • September 16, 2023



At the end of the program, we held a Filmmaker Showcase event with experienced producers, industry professionals, donors, and production personnel.

The fellows presented a 5 minute clip from their projects, fostered an audience discussion on themes, and talked about their future plans for their projects.



FILM THEMES

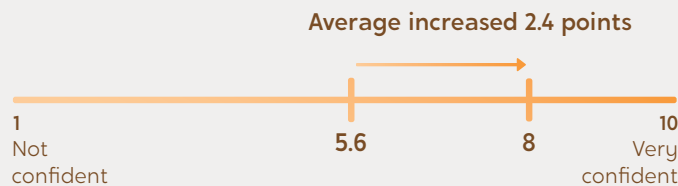
- Preserving the history and legacy of activism in the Filipino community in San Francisco, especially as it relates to the eviction of tenants from the I-Hotel in the 1970s.
- Sacrificing an artistic passion to help foster quality family time.
- Honoring the grief of losing a grandmother and strengthening family relationships despite differences in generations, cultures, and identities.
- Through an intergenerational, cross-cultural friendship, exploring trans histories of oppressive experimental conversion therapy and clinical experimentation.
- Creating a home on the water of Monterey Bay as a fisherwoman and single mother.
- Sharing Tibetan culture and building community for refugees, immigrants, and their neighbors through a Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Richmond.



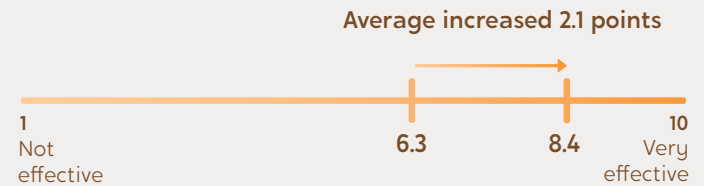
MEASURING IMPACT

We surveyed the filmmakers at the start and end of the program.

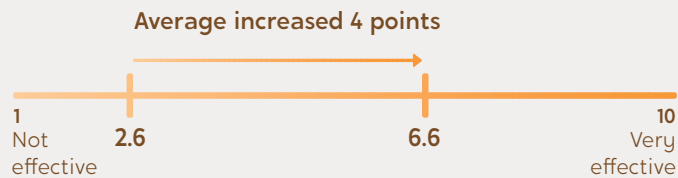
Confidence in your voice and vision as a director



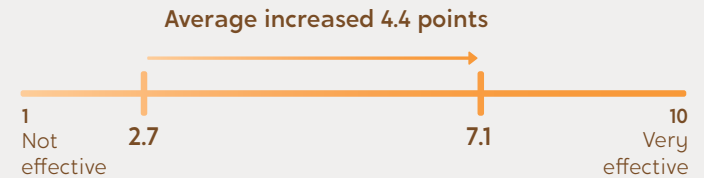
Effectiveness with setting attainable goals for your project



Effectiveness with developing a fundraising strategy



Effectiveness with developing a distribution strategy



What did you 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"

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

We have raised additional funds to present community screenings of the cohort's work in Spring 2024. By this time, we anticipate that the short films will be completed and the feature films will have a work sample to screen. We are excited to continue supporting these filmmakers as they make further progress on their films and to help them develop their community engagement screenings!

