

May 12, 2016

LEF Foundation Awards \$195,000 in Moving Image Fund Grants to New England Independent Documentary Filmmakers

The LEF Foundation is excited to announce **11 Moving Image Fund grants totaling \$195,000** in production and post-production support to New England-based independent documentary filmmakers.

The LEF Moving Image Fund invests in innovative feature-length documentary films that demonstrate excellence in technique, strong storytelling ability, and originality of artistic vision and voice. The selected projects address a broad range of topics and represent a variety of approaches to the documentary form. All of these filmmakers bring a strong creative eye to their work and share a unique intimacy with their subjects. Additionally, the grantees represent a group of filmmakers at different stages in their artistic careers, from emerging to established artists.

Production Grants



Ilisa Barash & Lucia Small

The Debate Film (wt) (\$15,000)

An intimate journey into the world of a top Massachusetts high school debate team who practice daily, mostly coach themselves, and compete in tournaments nearly every weekend. Focusing on the girls' experience in a male dominated activity, we bear witness to how the older, experienced girl debaters navigate their own busy schedules, ambitions to win, desire to teach and inspire novices, and the realities of sexism they encounter along the way.



Jane Gillooly

Missing (wt) (\$15,000)

MISSING compares a dispute over a road blockade that separated the then white "sundown" town of Ferguson Missouri from the neighboring African-American town of Kinloch in 1968, to the infamous road where Michael Brown's body lay 46-years later. This essay film uses "the road" as a metaphor to examine the racial history that shaped these adjacent towns and the current politics that defines them now.



Jodie Mack

The Pleasure of the Textile (wt) (\$15,000)

A kinetic journey through the graphic motifs of textiles pairs figure and landscape to explore the technological development of fabric production and consumption alongside systems of visual and spoken language. The piece investigates recurring graphic symbols and how their cross-cultural appropriation functions within a global economy.



Verena Paravel & Lucien Castaing-Taylor

Caniba (\$15,000)

A film that reflects on the discomfiting significance of cannibalistic desire in human history and culture through the prism of one Japanese man, Issei Sagawa, and his unsettling relationship with his brother.



Llewellyn Smith, Franziska Blome, & Annie Stopford

Bound by Blood (\$15,000)

We carry our history within us. Even generations later, historic events continue to shape opportunities, identity and meaning for descendants and communities. BOUND BY BLOOD exhumes a largely unknown tragedy that occurred in the Arkansas Delta during the Red Summer of 1919 - a brutal massacre of black sharecroppers by white posses - and shows how economic, social and psychological reverberations still linger to this day.



Thenmozhi Soundararajan & David Allen

#Dalitwomenfight! (\$15,000)

#DALITWOMENFIGHT! is a feature-length documentary that follows a courageous group of Dalit women who overcome unspeakable attacks to spearhead a bold campaign to end Caste-based sexual violence in India. Their remarkable journey catapults them from their humble villages onto the center stage of Indian politics as they fight to heal not only themselves but the very soul of their country.



Denali Tiller

Sons and Daughters of the Incarcerated (\$15,000)

Growing up is full of challenges, but for Tre, Maison, and Giana those challenges reach beyond those we would expect. **SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE INCARCERATED** tells the story of three children whose fathers are in prison, and a formerly incarcerated mother who is now working to stop the cycle. How do the stigmas of incarceration shape their identities as they struggle to find their places in their communities and the world? What will it take to break the cycle of violence, crime, and imprisonment that pulls so hard on these kids' lives and millions more like them?



Frederick Wiseman

Ex Libris: New York Public Library (wt) (\$15,000)

The New York Public Library is the dominant cultural and democratic institution in the City of New York. Libraries throughout the US are undergoing challenges to simultaneously sustain their traditional activities and concurrently develop new programs that are both related to the digital revolution and are expansions of their well-established practices. This is the first time permission has been given to make a documentary about this important, vast and complex institution.

Post-Production Grants



Amelia Evans

Minor Attraction (\$25,000)

Pedophiles are synonymously known as monsters, aberrations and perverts. But what if someone is attracted to children and does not act on that attraction? How do you cope with unwanted desire? **MINOR ATTRACTION** follows the lives and struggles of three men who have made a life-long commitment to not act on their attractions, reflecting on how we can prevent child sexual abuse if we do not first understand it.



Luke Meyer

Fourth Wall (\$25,000)

FOURTH WALL tells the largely forgotten story of New York's "psychotherapy cult," the Sullivanians, whose dramatic rise, fall, and aftermath still resonate today. With unique access to some of the more accountable former members, the film steps beyond the typical cult-narrative to explore the emotional fallout for perpetrators as well as victims, revealing both the trauma and the guilt of those who were involved.



Cynthia Wade & Sasha Friedlander

Mudflow (\$25,000)

MUDFLOW takes place in Indonesia's fledgling democracy as citizens of East Java fight for reparations in the wake of a man-made environmental disaster that has destroyed their lives – a giant toxic mud volcano that has swallowed 17 villages, caused by natural gas drilling gone wrong. A historic presidential election offers change, but will it succeed?

In addition to this group of grantees, LEF also awarded \$30,000 to 6 projects in pre-production earlier in the fiscal year. **In total, LEF will be distributing \$225,000 in funding to documentary production over the course of our 2016 fiscal year.**

The next grant deadline is **Friday, June 3, 2016** for projects seeking pre-production support. Please check www.lef-foundation.org for details regarding LEF Moving Image Fund guidelines and eligibility. For more information on the Foundation or its funded projects, please contact Program Director Sara Archambault: 617.492.5333 or sara@lef-foundation.org.

We extend our warmest congratulations to this group of grantees and our best wishes for success to all the projects reviewed for this deadline.