

**\$100,000 TO BE AWARDED
TO DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT**

DOCPITCH @ DOCLANDS

SUBMISSIONS ARE OPEN NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 11, 2022

SAN RAFAEL, CA (November 3, 2022) – After a successful and highly enthusiastic response from filmmakers and audience members, the California Film Institute’s virtual documentary pitching forum DocPitch is returning for its seventh year to DocLands Documentary Film Festival (May 11-14, 2023); announced Mark Fishkin, Founder of the internationally known Mill Valley Film Festival and Executive Director/Founder of the California Film Institute (CAFILM). With support from the Nancy P. & Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation and Resonance Philanthropies DocPitch 2023 will award five independent documentary filmmakers cash awards totaling **\$100,000** to aid in the completion of their feature documentary film projects currently in production/development.

Submissions for the 2023 DocPitch are now open for feature-length (70+ minutes) documentary projects currently in development through FilmFreeway: <https://bit.ly/DocPitchSubmissions>
The submission deadline is Sunday, December 11, 2022.

From the submissions, a jury of industry professionals will select five (5) filmmaking teams with feature-length documentary projects currently in early to late-stage development to participate. Each team will present a verbal pitch and a three- to five-minute trailer. All members of the worldwide virtual audience, including invited funders, organization representatives, distributors, media, and the public, will cast one vote per person for their favorite project. The overall Audience favorite will receive the Audience Award of \$45,000.00. The additional \$55,000 will be awarded to the remaining four film teams through a juried selection.

The five (5) shortlisted filmmakers will be notified by Friday, February 17, 2023, with a deadline of Monday, April 3, 2023, to submit all final materials, including a final trailer and video pitch.

**FULL LIST OF RULES AND SUBMISSION CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY
CAN BE FOUND ON THE DOCPITCH FILMFREEWAY PAGE:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/DOCPITCHSUBMISSIONS](https://bit.ly/DOCPITCHSUBMISSIONS)**

The six previous DocPitch Audience Award winners include Theo Rigby’s ***Sanctuary Rising*** (2017), now available online; James LeBrecht & Nicole Newnham’s 2020 Independent Spirit Awards winning and Oscar® nominated documentary ***Crip Camp*** (2018); Chris Temple & Zach Ingrasci’s ***Five Years North*** (2019), which screened at many film festivals, including DocLands 2020; Dianne Whelan’s ***500 Days in the Wild*** (2020) completion scheduled for 2024; Maren Poitras’ ***Finding the Money*** (2021) completion planned for 2023; Alana Maiello’s ***Chewed Gum*** (2022) currently in production.

About DocLands

Presented by the California Film Institute, DocLands Documentary Film Festival brings compelling stories and the provocative insights behind them to Marin County, California. Expanding upon the exchange of ideas and inspiration through public screenings, networking and pitching events, and engaged conversations, DocLands aims to bring diverse communities together for dialogue and build an active, inclusive, and fully supportive community around documentary film. Dedicated to initiating connections and partnerships that will illuminate and invigorate the business and art of non-fiction filmmakers.

DOCLANDS Film Strands

- **Art of Impact** engages and sparks action by sharing stories that open our eyes to the global community and its disparate cultures, politics, personal narratives, and biographies.
- **The Great Outdoors** transports us outside to truly appreciate, explore, and ultimately compel us to save and conserve our environment and the wilds of our precious planet.
- **WonderLands** lifts our spirits through stories of joy, wonder, and possibility.

About California Film Institute

The California Film Institute (CAFILM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating and promoting film and media arts through the presentation of the internationally acclaimed Mill Valley Film Festival, DocLands Documentary Film Festival, and the ongoing cultivation of the next generation of filmmakers and film lovers through CAFILM Education. CAFILM Education features a broad range of activities, including screenings, Q&A sessions, seminars with top international & local filmmakers and industry professionals, and a rich program of classes and hands-on workshops. Additionally, CAFILM acts as a year-round film-centric town hall with a diverse calendar of programming at the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, one of the leading non-profit independent theatres in the country. The art of storytelling through film enables CAFILM to touch 275,000 guests throughout the year with films and events that entertain and address a breadth of social, environmental, and cultural issues. CAFILM is also the majority owner of the Sequoia Theater in Mill Valley, California. CAFILM relies on the generosity of its community to sustain these core programs; the invaluable support of our sponsors, foundations, individual donors, and members ensures our continued success. For more information, visit cafilm.org.

The California Film Institute and the DocLands Documentary Film Festival are located in Marin County, California, on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary homelands of the Coast Miwok, Pomo, and Wappo peoples. This includes the Southern Pomo and Graton Rancheria Tribes. These tribes were removed or displaced from their lands. We recognize this history and the harm to present-day Coast Miwok, Pomo, and Wappo peoples and to their ancestors. The California Film Institute commits to moving forward from a place of authenticity and working with present-day tribes to elevate their stories, history, and present-day legacy through film.

Supporters | DocPitch

CAFILM is proud to acknowledge the Nancy P. & Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation and Resonance Philanthropies for their generous support of DocPitch.

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#Doclands

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