

*MEDIA RELEASE*

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

**UNVEILING THE FUTURE OF DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING:  
DOCPITCH 2024 FINALISTS REVEALED!**

SAN RAFAEL, CA (April 11, 2024) – 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 eighth year to DocLands Documentary Film Festival (May 2-5, 2024); 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 2024 will award five independent documentary filmmakers cash awards totaling **\$100,000** to aid in completing their feature documentary film projects currently in production/development.

What: **2023 DocPitch Fundraising Forum**  
Voting Opens: **Monday, April 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM (PT)**  
Voting Closes: **Wednesday, May 1 at 11:59 PM (PT)**  
Awards Announced: **Saturday, May 4, 2024**  
Awards: **\$45,000 Audience Award**  
**\$40,000 Jury Award**  
**\$5,000 Award to each of the remaining three films**

The filmmaker pitches will be available for global audiences to view starting Monday, April 15, at 10:00 AM (PT). Voting for the Audience Award will be open until Wednesday, May 1, at 11:59 PM (PT). The winners of the four Jury Awards and the Audience Award will be announced on Saturday, May 4.

The Audience Award, valued at \$45,000, will be determined by audience votes. The remaining \$55,000 will be distributed among the four film teams selected by the Industry Jury, this year comprised of Jim LeBrecht, Filmmaker and Co-Founder, FWD-Doc; Evan Neff, Documentary Fund Coordinator, Sundance Film Institute; Louie Psihoyos, Executive Director, Oceanic Preservation Society; and Diane Quon, Oscar®-nominated Independent Producer.

The DocPitch selection committee comprised Julie Campfield, formerly of ROCO Films; Kelly Clement, Film Educator and DocLands & Mill Valley Film Festival Programmer; Joni Cooper, Director of Programming at DocLands; Sapana Sakya, Talent Development and Special Projects Director at Center for Asian American Media (CAAM); and Michelle Svenson, Programmer at DocLands and Brown Girls Doc Mafia, have chosen the following five feature-length documentary film projects currently in early-to-late stages of completion to participate in DocPitch 2024.



**A BIRD WITH A KNIFE** ~ View the Project [Here](#)

**Pitching:** Directors Winslow Crane-Murdoch and Cecilia Brown

*A Bird with a Knife* is a feature-length documentary examining the fifty-year mystery surrounding the mutilation of thousands of cattle across the American West. Following a veteran investigator, an Oregon sheriff, and the ranchers whose cases they're working to solve, this is a story about obsession, mystery, and how we live with the unknown.

**THE CO-OP: THE KIDS OF DORIE MILLER** ~ View the Project [Here](#)

**Pitching:** Director/Producer Paulina Davis

*The Co-Op: The Kids of Dorie Miller* is a feature-length documentary about a New Yorker who examines her family's roots in New York City's first unsegregated housing co-op, finding and examining an old solution to the current affordable housing crisis.

**GOOD FIRE** ~ View the Project [Here](#)

**Pitching:** Directors Roni Jo Draper and Marissa Lila

*Good Fire* is a feature-length documentary about how fire came to the land as a tool to warm people, cook meals, and purify the land. It also tells the story of how colonization separated the Yurok people from their cultural fire practices and how that separation of people, land, and fire has had dire consequences for the people and the land. Ultimately, *Good Fire* is the story of how Yurok people are working to ensure that people, land, and fire remain united now and into the future.

**TIME HUNTER** ~ View the Project [Here](#)

**Pitching:** Director, Writer, Producer Daniel Chein; Director, Writer, Protagonist Mushiva; and Producer David Felix Sutcliffe

*Time Hunter* is a feature-length documentary about a revolutionary spy who is dispatched to steal technology from his colonial oppressors to use against them. Can he liberate his people without losing himself in the maze of the diaspora?

**UNTITLED LORENA** ~ View the Project [Here](#)

**Pitching:** Directors, Producers Rodrigo Reyes and Dawn Valadez

After losing her 12-year-old daughter Fátima to a horrible attack and fleeing her home in a village in Mexico, Lorena leads her family on a quest for justice against a corrupt system that kills thousands of women and girls each year, taking her fight to the country's Supreme Court.

The seven previous DocPitch Audience Award winners include Theo Rigby's *Sanctuary Rising* (2017), now available online; James LeBrecht & Nicole Newnham's 2020 Independent Spirit Award-winning documentary *Crip Camp* (2018), which Netflix acquired, and was nominated in the Best Documentary Feature category at the 2020 Academy Awards®; 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) scheduled for its US premiere at DocLands 2024; Maren Poitras' *Finding the Money* (2021) is scheduled for a US theatrical release in May 2024; Alana Maiello's *Chewed Gum* (2022) currently in production; and Kevin Truong's *Mai American* (2023) currently in production.

Audience Voting Window is **Monday, April 15 @ 10:00 AM (PT) – Wednesday, May 1 @ 11:59 PM (PT)**

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### **About DocLands**

DocLands Documentary Film Festival, presented by the California Film Institute, is a vibrant celebration of nonfiction storytelling held annually in Marin County, California. Expanding upon the exchange of ideas and inspiration through captivating screenings, networking, and engaging conversations, DocLands strives to foster dialogue, inspire connections, and build an inclusive community around the art of documentary filmmaking. DocLands aims to illuminate filmmakers' diverse perspectives and ignite a passion for exploring real-world issues by showcasing compelling stories and the thought-provoking insights behind them. Join us as we embark on a journey to discover, connect, and celebrate the power of documentary cinema.

### **About DocLands Sections**

- **Art of Impact:** Experience stories that illuminate the diverse cultures, politics, and personal narratives shaping our global community.
- **The Great Outdoors:** Journey outside to explore and appreciate the beauty of our environment, compelling us to protect and conserve our planet's natural wonders.
- **WonderLands:** Discover stories of joy, wonder, and possibility that uplift and inspire audiences.

### **About the California Film Institute**

The California Film Institute (CAFILM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing film and media arts through acclaimed programs like the Mill Valley Film Festival and DocLands Documentary Film Festival. CAFILM Education provides students of all ages with opportunities to learn about the world through the art of film and filmmaking. Our premier independent theater, the Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, engages over 275,000 guests annually with compelling cinema and storytelling on pressing social, environmental, and cultural issues. Additionally, CAFILM now owns and operates the Sequoia Cinema, reinforcing our commitment to preserving cinematic heritage and access to fine films locally. The organization relies on the generosity of its community; the invaluable support from our sponsors, foundations, donors, and members ensures our ability to continue expanding and sustaining our vital programs. Join us in celebrating, exploring, and championing the art of film. For more information, visit [cafilm.org](http://cafilm.org).

### **Supporters | DocLands**

CAFILM is proud to acknowledge the Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation, Jennifer Coslett MacCready, Vickie Soulier, Resonance Philanthropies, Bellam Self Storage and Boxes, Jackson Square Partners, Jim Boyce Trust and Kris Otis, Downtown San Rafael Arts District, and the Academy of Integrated Humanities and New Media for their generous support of DOCLANDS. We are also fortunate to have the contributions of the following DocPitch supporters: Nancy P. & Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation and Resonance Philanthropies.

### **For Calendar Editors:**

#### **DocLands Documentary Film Festival**

In-person at the Smith Rafael Film Center in San Rafael  
**May 2 – 5, 2024**

#### **Tickets:**

On-sale to CAFILM members Wednesday, April 3 at 7:00 PM (PT)

On-Sale to General Public Saturday, April 6 at 10:00 AM (PT)

**\$16.50 general | \$14 CAFILM member | \$15 senior (65+) |**

**\$8.00 Students (with ID) | \$8.00 Youth (12 & under)**

Opening Night • **Film Only \$25 general | \$20 CAFILM member**  
**Film & Party \$45 general | \$40 CAFILM member**

Closing Night • **Film Only \$25 general | \$20 CAFILM member**  
**Film & Reception \$45 general | \$40 CAFILM member**

### **Social Media**

#DocLands2024

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