

BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

NATIVE FILMMAKER FELLOWSHIP

The city of Missoula sits on Salish land, and Montana is home to twelve tribal nations and seven Indian reservations, each with its own culture, language, identity, and history. Uniquely located to elevate Native voices, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival has a long tradition of celebrating Indigenous documentary film, stories from Indian Country and expressions of American Indian filmmakers.

In 2018, the Big Sky Film Institute is proud to introduce the Native Filmmaker Initiative to bring more Indigenous stories to the festival, support and engage the American Indian media arts community and have a greater impact on community youth. The initiative includes special festival programming, educational outreach, a digital toolkit curated for Native filmmakers, and a fellowship program.

The Native Filmmaker Fellowship offers four filmmakers the opportunity to attend the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, DocShop filmmaker's forum, and a private seminar with leaders in the Indigenous filmmaking community and the film industry at large. The fellows will also automatically qualify to participate in the 4th World Media Lab at the Seattle International Film Festival in May 2018.

The program will be open to American Indian, Alaska Native and Hawaiian Native applicants from around the country, fellows will be selected and announced in early December. The selected fellows will receive:

- One All Access pass to BSDFF including all screenings, DocShop sessions, VIP events and special performances
- Five nights of accommodations during the festival
- One round trip ticket to Missoula, ground transportation arranged
- A cash stipend for meals and incidentals in Missoula
- All expenses 4th World Lab experience to include round trip transportation, lodging and food for 4 days in Seattle



**NATIVE
FILMMAKER
INITIATIVE**

About DocShop 2018

The Big Sky DocShop is a five-day filmmaker's forum and gathering place that takes place every year during the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival (BSDFF). The conference is geared towards filmmakers, innovators, students, and media industry leaders to explore cutting-edge ideas that are shaping the field of documentary film today. The conference includes workshops and panels that cover diverse aspects of the filmmaking process, and culminates with the Big Sky Pitch, an opportunity for filmmakers to pitch works-in-progress to a panel of industry representatives and funders. The festival-conference energy creates a unique and fruitful experience for emerging and award-winning filmmakers alike.

The workshops and panels for DocShop 2018 will focus on the intersection of film and technology. As filmmakers, our medium is rapidly changing and it is difficult, yet essential, to keep up with technological trends. DocShop 2018 will explore innovative cameras and production equipment, multi-media platforms for distribution, and how to navigate the increasingly prominent world of virtual reality. We will also entertain critical conversation about disruptive ramifications of tech on documentary and implications for the future of this storytelling form.

Native Fellows Seminar

The Native Filmmaker Fellowship will conclude with a private seminar at the University of Montana Native American Studies Department led by industry leaders in Native American film, including representatives from ITVS and Vision Maker Media. The seminar will explore the state of Indigenous cinema and the opportunities and points of entry for Indigenous film and filmmakers, followed by crash course workshops in producing and editing.

The goal of the seminar is to provide a foundation network for the fellows and spur conversation on the role of Indigenous filmmakers as storytellers, artists and torchbearers. The seminar will also provide tools to the fellows for advancing projects at different stages, from treatment writing and funding opportunities to sample reels and editing expertise.

4th World Media Lab at SIFF

Produced by Longhouse Media in partnership with the Seattle International Film Festival, the 4th World Media Lab is a professional development and community-building opportunity for emerging filmmakers. Created to support Native filmmakers by increasing access to classes and equipment, 4th World fellows take part in a 3-day filmmaking intensive during SIFF in Seattle Center. The lab will welcome Big Sky Native Filmmaker fellows to join the 4th World cohort for the lab's fourth edition in May 2018.



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