



WORKING FILMS ANNOUNCES \$900,000 MULTI-YEAR GRANT FROM THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Working Films, a nonprofit organization that uses documentary film to advance social justice and environmental protection, has been awarded a \$900,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the organization and foundation announced today. This gift will allow Working Films to launch *Docs In Action*, a new program to fund and distribute short documentaries that explore social and environmental justice in communities across the United States. Through *Docs In Action*, Working Films will provide finishing funds to makers of short documentaries and offer early impact strategy for filmmakers, with a special focus on serving filmmakers of color and other underrepresented artists.

Founded in 1999, Working Films is a leader at the intersection of documentary storytelling, community engagement, and social justice. Working with shorts, feature films, and interactive media, Working Films puts documentaries to work through screening tours, trainings, policy briefings, and in other strategic settings. Over the past two decades, the nonprofit has partnered and collaborated with more than 1,000 organizations and nearly 900 film teams to illuminate matters such as climate change, civil rights, and economic inequality.

The gift, dispersed over three years, will allow Working Films to deepen and expand the services they offer to documentary filmmakers, grassroots organizations, and nonprofits. Ultimately it will increase their capacity to bring people together in communities across the country – to watch, learn, connect, and act for a more equitable and sustainable future.

“Funding short films is an exciting new chapter for Working Films and a natural extension of our recent work,” said Working Films’ co-director Molly Murphy. “We are deeply grateful to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for investing in our vision. Their support will allow us to advance the work of talented, underrepresented storytellers who can bring challenges to light and inspire solutions. It will also enable us better resource our partners on the frontlines of the most important issues of our time.”

In addition to funding filmmakers, this significant grant will allow Working Films to expand their efforts with short documentaries to reach more communities around the nation, with an emphasis on serving and building power among people most impacted by the issues addressed in the films.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world’s most pressing social challenges, including over-incarceration, global climate change, nuclear risk, and significantly increasing financial capital for the social sector. In addition to the MacArthur Fellows Program, the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of journalism in a responsible and responsive democracy, as well as the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, Chicago.

Working Films’ grant is provided through MacArthur’s [Journalism and Media Program](#), which works to strengthen American democracy by informing, engaging, and activating Americans through deep investments in independent journalism and media. The Journalism and Media Program focuses on nonfiction multimedia storytelling that inspires self-reflection and public discourse, and civic media that enables individuals and groups to express and organize themselves for social change. This focus aligns with Working Films’ commitment to authentic and accountable storytelling and engagement with film.

For more information about Working Films, visit www.workingfilms.org.