



CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES AWARDS \$140,000 IN IMPACT FUNDING TO FIVE FEATURE FILMS AND TWO SHORT FILMS BY WOMEN AND GENDER NONCONFORMING DIRECTORS

NEW YORK, NY (SEPTEMBER 27, 2021)—Chicken & Egg Pictures, a leader in supporting women and gender nonconforming filmmakers, announced today the newest grantees of Project: Hatched. Directors behind short- and feature-length projects will receive **\$20,000** each toward film completion and **impact campaigns** and participate in a six-month program with tailored mentorship and goal-setting.

“From water rights to reproductive health, the subjects of Chicken & Egg Pictures’ newest grantees are ones that come up constantly in our cultural and political conversations. These seven films push past the headlines to reveal intimate character studies that investigate how social issues impact everyday lives,” said Program Director Lucila Moctezuma. *“For the first time in our Project: Hatched program, two short films were selected alongside features. Not only can shorts act as critical stepping stones to help emerging filmmakers build careers, but they also have strong potential to create impact and engage broader audiences.”*

Project: Hatched grantee ***On The Divide*** chronicles the lives of three Latinx people whose lives intersect at Whole Woman’s Health, the last abortion clinic on the Mexico/Texas border; impact plans include connecting Texans to reproductive rights resources after the recent laws passed surrounding abortion. The two short films in the cohort are: ***Change The Name***, which follows students and educators in Chicago who fight to rename a public park from the name(s) of a slaveholder to abolitionists; and ***I’m Free Now, You Are Free***, an intergenerational story about the reunification of a political prisoner and her son. Both short films’ impact plans are targeted to reach young people and mobilize them toward movements for abolition and activism.

The filmmakers of Project: Hatched 2021 films bring their personal experiences to their work: ***And So I Stayed*** co-director Natalie Pattillo is an experienced journalist, and her filmmaking is informed by her experience with domestic violence and personal mission to uplift survivors. Brooke Pepion Swaney works to tell Native stories, and made her feature film debut with ***Daughter of a Lost Bird***; main character Kendra Mylnechuk Potter is also producer on the film. Director Ann Kaneko is known for her films that weave her poetic aesthetic with our political reality and in ***Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust***, she follows intergenerational women defending land and water from Los Angeles. Beth Levison is an Emmy-winning producer and a co-founder of Documentary Producers Alliance (DPA); her film ***Storm Lake*** documents the intricacies of the small, family-run newspaper of an Iowan farming town.

Their cohort will join an existing Project: Hatched 2021 slate. This program is generously supported by The New York Community Trust.

The Project: Hatched 2021 participants are:

And So I Stayed

Directors: Natalie Pattillo, Daniel A. Nelson (SINGAPORE/UNITED STATES)

Producers: Natalie Pattillo, Daniel A. Nelson

And So I Stayed is a documentary about survivors of domestic violence who are unjustly incarcerated for killing their abusers in self-defense.

Daughter of a Lost Bird

Director: Brooke Pepion Swaney (UNITED STATES)

Producers: Jeri Rafter, Kendra Mylnechuk Potter, Brooke Pepion Swaney

Impact Producer: Colleen Thurston

A Native adoptee reconnects with her birth family and her Lummi heritage—confronting her identity. Her singular story represents many affected by the Indian Child Welfare Act and Indian Adoption Project in the US.

Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust

Director: Ann Kaneko (UNITED STATES)

Producers: Ann Kaneko, Jin Yoo-Kim

Impact Producer: Jin Yoo-Kim

This film poetically weaves together memories of Payahuunadü, “the land of flowing water,” where Native Americans, Japanese-Americans, and environmentalists defend land and water from Los Angeles.

I'm Free Now, You Are Free

Director: Ash Goh Hua (SINGAPORE)

Producer: Arielle Knight

I'm Free Now, You Are Free is a short documentary about the reunion and repair between Mike Africa Jr. and his mother Debbie Africa—a formerly incarcerated political prisoner of the MOVE 9.

On The Divide

Directors: Maya Cueva, Leah Galant (UNITED STATES)

Producers: Melanie Miller, Diane Becker, Amanda Spain, Elizabeth Woodward

On The Divide follows the story of three Latinx people living in McAllen, Texas who, despite their views, are connected by the most unexpected of places: the last abortion clinic on the US/Mexico border. As threats to the clinic and their personal safety mount, these three are forced to make decisions they never could have imagined.

Change The Name

Director: Cai Thomas (UNITED STATES)

Producers: Cai Thomas, Donald Conley

Student activists and educators from Village Leadership Academy campaign to change the name of a park from a slaveholder to abolitionists Anna Murray and Frederick Douglass in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood.

Storm Lake

Directors: Beth Levison, Jerry Risius (UNITED STATES)

Producer: Beth Levison

Impact Producer: Alice Quinlan, Eliza Licht

Pulitzer Prize-winner Art Cullen and his family fight to protect their Iowan farming community through their biweekly newspaper, The Storm Lake Times—come hell or pandemic.

Note: The parentheses next to the directors' names indicate the filmmakers' nationalities and/or countries of origin.

ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. We envision an inclusive media industry in which women filmmakers, representing a range of experiences and backgrounds, are fully supported to realize their artistic goals, and to build sustainable and fulfilling careers.

Chicken & Egg Pictures was founded in 2005 by Julie Parker Benello, Wendy Ettinger, and Judith Helfand. Since inception, the organization has awarded over \$8 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 350 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

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