



## Chicken & Egg Pictures Announces Inaugural 27 Grantees of its Research & Development Grant, Supported by Netflix

*Grant provides flexible financial support for experienced filmmakers working on new documentary projects during the most difficult fundraising stage*

**New York, NY (October, 19, 2023)** Chicken & Egg Pictures, which provides support and funding to women and non-binary documentary filmmakers, announced today the 27 filmmaking team recipients of its inaugural **Chicken & Egg Pictures Research & Development Grant**. The grants provide experienced directors with \$10,000 USD for research or \$20,000 USD for development of a new documentary project. These stages are often unpaid and unsupported. In addition, grantees will have access to the Chicken & Egg Pictures' team and community of filmmakers for further peer support, mentorship opportunities and the chance to develop deeper connections in the documentary industry.

The 2023 Chicken & Egg Pictures Research & Development Grant is supported by Netflix's [Fund For Creative Equity](#), a dedicated effort to help build new opportunities for underrepresented communities within entertainment.

The grantees are experienced filmmakers who have directed or co-directed at least two feature-length documentary films. The 27 grantees were selected from among 170 applications representing 36 countries and myriad topics ranging from criminal justice in Romania, Feminist AI in Bolivia to the effects of the war in Ukraine. A full list of grantees appears below.

"We created the Chicken & Egg Pictures Research & Development Grant in response to the reality that it is challenging for women and non-binary filmmakers to make a living in documentary, especially when they are fundraising for a new project," said Jenni Wolfson, CEO of Chicken & Egg Pictures. Wolfson continued, "We designed the grants to be flexible—to support the time and space for filmmakers to think, plan, and write. Grantees can also use the funds for expenses such as salaries or caregiving costs for the team members during the filmmaking process. We are grateful to Netflix for their support of this program and their investment in the sustainability of nonfiction filmmakers' careers."

"While documentaries need resources in all stages, from research to post-production, the research and development phase is particularly challenging for independent films to get support. This grant aims to support early exploration, ideation, and experimentation," said Kiyoko McCrae, Program Director of Chicken & Egg Pictures. "Our reviewers, led by Senior Program Manager Elaisha Stokes, prioritized projects in the early stages of research and development that articulated clear goals. Elaisha Stokes joined Chicken & Egg Pictures this year, bringing her extensive experience in documentary filmmaking to lead our program with integrity."



“The applications that we reviewed confirmed a long-standing issue in the field. Filmmakers lack freedom and support to invest in the creative process during the R&D stage” McCrae continued, “R&D has often become synonymous with fundraising. We hope this grant will allow filmmakers to invest creative time in pursuing stories.”

The 2023 Chicken & Egg Pictures Research & Development Grant recipients listed below are divided into two segments: 1) The Research Grant recipients who are in the ideation period including identifying secondary sources, following storylines, and building foundational relationships, and 2) The Development Grant recipients who are in a deeper exploration period including securing access to core characters and collaborators, solidifying budgets, fundraising, story development and other tasks.

### **Research Grant recipients:**

1. Marah Strauch (dir. & prod.), Eric Bruggemann (prod.) - Austria, United States
2. Corine Shawi (dir. & prod.), Nancy Sabbagh (prod.) - Lebanon
3. Daniela Muñoz Barroso (dir.), Leila Montero (prod.) - Cuba
4. Anjali Nayar (dir.), Kenya-Jade Pinto (dir.) - Canada, India, Kenya
5. Sandra Luz López Barroso (dir.), Karla Bukantz (prod.) - Mexico
6. Violeta Ayala (dir. & prod.), Redelia Shaw (prod.), Dan Fallshaw (prod.) - Australia, Bolivia
7. Ilinca Calugareanu (dir. & prod.) - Romania, United Kingdom
8. Erika Cohn (dir. & prod.) - United States
9. Yoruba Richen (dir. & prod.), Lacey Schwartz Delgado (dir. & prod.), Mehret Mandefro (prod.), Kristi Jacobson (prod.) - United States, Ethiopia

### **Development Grant recipients:**

1. Tatiana Fernández Geara (dir. & prod.), Wendy P. Espinal (prod.) - Dominican Republic (*I am my Grandma's Granddaughter*)
2. Sabaah Folayan (dir. & prod.) - United States (*Worth the Risk (working title)*)
3. Rita Baghdadi (dir. & prod.), Sahar Yousefi (prod.) - United States, Morocco (*Stallions*)
4. Iva Radivojević (dir. & prod.), Madeleine Molyneaux (prod.), Marija Stojnić (prod.), Andrijana Sofranić Šućur (prod.) - Serbia (Formerly Yugoslavia), United States (*When The Phone Rang*)
5. Angeliki Aristomenopoulou (dir.), Rea Apostolides (prod.), Yuri Averof (prod.) - Greece, Iceland, United Kingdom (*Holy Human Angel*)
6. Farihah Zaman (dir. & prod.), Jeff Reichert (prod.) - United States, Bangladesh (*Soulmates*)
7. Luchina Fisher (dir. & prod.), Yvonne Welbon (prod.), Thomas Allen Harris (prod.) - United States (*The Untitled Gary Fisher Project*)
8. Svitlana Lishchynska (dir.), Anna Kapustina (prod.), Alex Tondowski (prod.), Derren Lawford (prod.) - Ukraine, Germany, United Kingdom (*A Bit Of A Stranger*)



9. Habiba Nosheen (dir. & prod.), Amar Lohana (prod.) - Pakistan, Canada, United States (*The Gymnasts of Machar Colony*)
10. Isabella Rinaldi (dir. & prod.), Arya Rothe (dir. & prod.), Cristina Hanes (dir. & prod.) - Italy, India, Romania (*Untitled*)
11. Bora Lee-Kil (dir.), Sona JO (prod.) - Republic of Korea (*Our Bodies*)
12. Cynthia Lowen (dir. & prod.), Jon Cohrs (co-dir.), Jim LeBrecht (prod.) - United States (*Kids Like Me*)
13. Grace Lee (dir. & prod.), Alicia Sams (prod.) - United States (*The Franklin Experiment*)
14. Petra Costa (dir. & prod.) - Brazil (*Untitled 2*)
15. Elwira Niewiera (dir.) - Poland, Germany (*Untitled 3*)
16. Mila Turajlić (dir. & prod.), Carine Chichkowsky (prod.) - Serbia, France, (*Second World, Second Sex*)
17. Sarvnik Kaur (dir. & prod.), Quentin Laurent (co-prod.) - India, France (*Disruption*)
18. Carmen Castillo (dir.), Camille Laemlé (prod.), Macarena Aguiló (prod.) - Chile, France (*Memories of an Oblivion*)

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### **ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES**

Chicken & Egg Pictures provides a global community of women and non-binary documentary filmmakers with creative and financial support to realize their cinematic visions and build fulfilling careers in a gender inclusive media industry. Our work responds to the reality that sexism, racism, classism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, and xenophobia can still slow or even halt too many people's careers. Our mission lays the groundwork to disrupt these barriers.

Since its inception, Chicken & Egg Pictures has awarded over \$12 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 500 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

### **ABOUT NETFLIX**

Netflix is one of the world's leading entertainment services with over 238 million paid memberships in over 190 countries enjoying TV series, films and games across a wide variety of genres and languages. Members can play, pause and resume watching as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, and can change their plans at any time.