



CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES AWARDS \$400,000 TOTAL TO TEN 2024 (Egg)CELERATOR LAB GRANTEES

New this year are attendance stipends to support grantees in attending in-person program retreats and activities

NEW YORK, NY— March 5, 2024—Chicken & Egg Pictures, the organization dedicated to supporting women and gender-expansive filmmakers with funding and mentorship, today announced its **2024 (Egg)celerator Lab grantees**. Ten feature documentary film projects, directed or co-directed by first- or second-time directors, will each receive year-long mentorship and a \$40,000 grant, to be put towards production of their next feature-length documentaries.

The 2024 (Egg)celerator Lab films find families reimagining their histories, legacies, generational grief, and intimate end of life journeys such as in **Ashley O'Shay's** *Southmont Drive* (Working Title), **Gabriela Díaz Arp's** *Matinó*, and Emma Francis-Snyder's *Anatomy of a Life*. They navigate struggles for justice in the face of incarceration, modern day colonization, and longstanding racism as in **Rachael DeCruz and Jeremy S. Levine's** *NINE* and **Tsanavi Spoonhunter's** *Holder of the Sky*. Their films explore gender, sexuality, and cultural identity as in **Viv Li's** *Two Mountains Weighing Down My Chest* and **Efraín Mojica and Rebecca Zweig's** *Jaripeo*. They investigate the tension between environmental conservation and economic necessity in **Ragini Nath and Chinmoy Sonowal's** *Our Hoolocks* (Working Title). And they follow women confronting threats to reproductive rights and strengthening communities through collective resistance as in **Maris Salumets' War on Women** and **Amada Torruella's** *Vena Acuática*.

For the first time in its eight year history, the (Egg)celerator Lab is offering attendance stipends to all participants. The stipends are being offered in recognition that while retreats and mentoring components of grants are opportunities for project and career development, they can also create hardship in the form of travel, time away from family, and even turning down revenue-generating work.

"The Chicken & Egg Pictures' team and I are extremely excited to be working with this group of first and second-time filmmakers who are using the art of documentary filmmaking to tell incredibly vital stories in innovative ways," said **Sabine Fayoux Cantillo, Associate Director of Program at Chicken & Egg Pictures** who leads the (Egg)celerator Lab. She continued, "We are also proud to be now providing attendance stipends for all Lab participants, building off of our childcare stipend offering, which started in 2021. Through the attendance stipend, we are recognizing that each



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individual is taking time away from their day-to-day life to immerse themselves fully in the program retreats. This commitment furthers our holistic support to our grantees.”

The international cohort includes directors hailing from China, El Salvador, Estonia, Germany, India, Mexico, Northern Arapaho and Northern Paiute Nations, Puerto Rico, and the US. Their work has been supported by Brown Girls Doc Mafia, ITVS, Ford Foundation, IDA, Doc Society, Points North Institute, and the Sundance Institute. Their projects have been featured in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times* OpDocs, on PBS’ POV series, and at festivals including IDFA, DMZ International Documentary Film Festival, Nordisk Panorama, HotDocs, and DOC NYC.

These emerging directors come from a range of backgrounds in the documentary field and beyond: Efraín Mojica, director of *Jaripeo*, is a photographer, filmmaker, and multidisciplinary artist whose work has been exhibited in Berlin, Barcelona, and Mexico City; Amada Torruella (*Vena Acuática*) co-founded ZOLAS, a multidisciplinary cultural studio based in San Salvador, run by women artists. They have experience in journalism, social justice, and multiracial racial justice initiatives (Ragini Nath and Rachael DeCruz); Emma Francis-Snyder’s directorial debut, *Takeover*, was nominated for a News and Documentary Emmy® and shortlisted for an Academy® Award.

Past participants of the (Egg)celerator Lab include Jessica Kingdon, director of Oscar nominated and Tribeca Film Festival Award-winning *Ascension*; Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, directors of Oscar nominated *Writing With Fire*, which was also the recipient of the Sundance Audience Award in the World Cinema Documentary competition; Jude Chehab, whose film *Q* won the Tribeca Film Festival’s Albert Maysles Award for Best New Documentary Director; and Sierra Ulrich, director of *Joonam*, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and received the Cleveland Film Festival’s Nesnadny + Schwartz Portrait Documentary Award.

The 2024 (Egg)celerator Lab projects and filmmakers are:

Anatomy of a Life

Director: Emma Francis-Snyder (US)

An exploration of the end of life—both as imagined by the dying, and as experienced by the ones they are leaving behind.

Holder of the Sky

Director/Producer: Tsanavi Spoonhunter (US / Northern Arapaho Nation and Northern Paiute Nation)

In Wisconsin, three tribal members battle to reclaim the promises made in historic treaties while facing longstanding racism and lingering land lust in this story of modern-day American colonization.



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Jaripeo

Directors: Efraín Mojica (MEXICO), Rebecca Zweig (US)

Producer: Sarah Strunin

A rural rodeo in Michoacán, Mexico offers an unexpected portrait of the intersections between machismo, queer desire, and the forces of mass migration.

Matinó

Director: Gabriela Díaz Arp (US)

Co-Producers: Karla Claudio-Betancourt, Wendy Muñiz

A multi-generational family of Puerto Rican women transform their experiences of violence into a fantasy film.

NINE

Directors: Rachael DeCruz, Jeremy S. Levine (US)

Producer: Rajal Pitroda

Two men who meet in prison — one a teenager, the other in his late forties — forge a beautiful relationship that spans generations, decades, and a long struggle for justice.

Our Hoolocks (Working Title)

Directors: Ragini Nath, Chinmoy Sonowal (INDIA)

Producers: Gary Byungseok Kam, Kweighbaye Kotee

In a picturesque village in Northern India, the endearing coexistence between humans and an endangered species of Gibbons ape is threatened by an oilfield blast.

Southmont Drive (Working Title)

Director/Producer: Ashley O'Shay (US)

A Black family from Tuskegee, Alabama reimagines a gathering space for themselves in this reflective portrait of history, memory, and legacy.

Two Mountains Weighing Down My Chest

Director: Viv Li (CHINA)

Producers: Daniela Dieterich, Erik Winker

Co-Producer: Olivia Sophie van Leeuwen

A witty yet insightful search of identity and belonging of a Chinese filmmaker, who suddenly finds herself amidst the overwhelming art scene and queer culture after moving to Berlin.

Vena Acuática

Director/Producer: Amada Torruella (EL SALVADOR / US)

A mosaic of documentary vignettes explores collective resistance, womanhood, love, and family through the body-territory relationship in El Salvador.



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War on Women

Director: Maris Salumets (ESTONIA)

Producers: Volia Chajkouskaya, Elina Litvinova

Co-Producer: Tereza Nvotova

A single mom on a global quest reveals a network of organizations behind the ultra-conservative movement attacking our constitutional rights.

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ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

Chicken & Egg Pictures shapes a more equitable and just world with the catalytic power of documentary films by providing funding, mentorship and industry access to a global community of women and gender-expansive filmmakers. Our work is done through an intersectional lens that acknowledges that various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other, slowing or even halting people's careers. It is our mission to disrupt and help dismantle these barriers. Since its inception, Chicken & Egg Pictures has awarded over \$12.5 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 500 filmmakers from more than 50 countries. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

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