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# Film as a Force for Change

THE REDFORD CENTER

2025 ANNUAL  
IMPACT REPORT

# Two Decades In. Just Getting Started.

This year, we celebrated our 20th anniversary, marking two decades since Robert Redford and his son James founded The Redford Center with a simple yet powerful belief: that storytelling through film can be a catalyst for environmental progress.

Twenty years later, we have supported more than 1,000 independent filmmakers and helped move more than \$32 million to over 400 environmental film projects. But the real measure of our impact goes beyond numbers. It's in the policy and structural changes sparked by the films we support. It's in the communities who have been mobilized by stories that center their voices. And it's in our treasured collaborators and supporters who see this work as a legacy worth advancing.

— “

2025 has been  
a year of profound  
reflection & renewed  
commitment.

We lost our dear friend and esteemed founder, Bob Redford. The outpouring of love and admiration for him that came from around the world reminded us just how deeply his values resonate: his dedication to the environment and his commitment to empowering others to tell their stories and enact change.

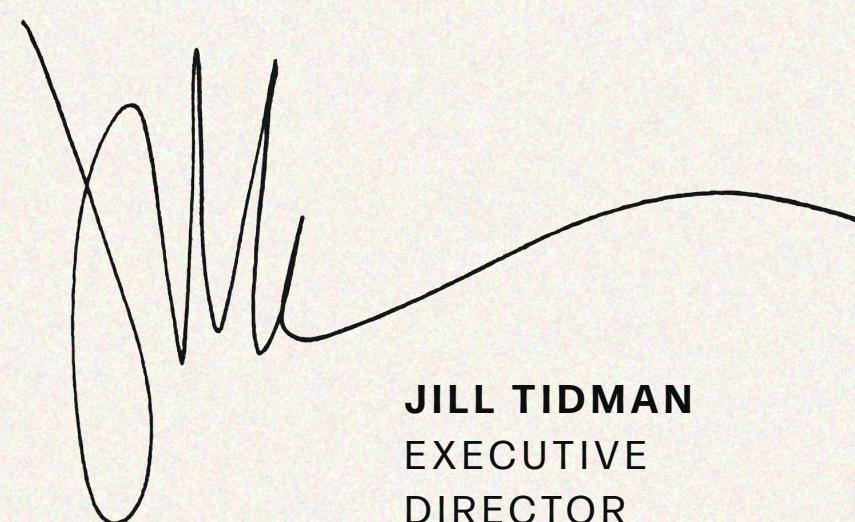
The day after Bob's passing, his grandsons and our board members, Dylan Redford and Conor Schlosser, wrote to us with a message: **"We're standing strong and committed to this initiative."**

We are clear-eyed about where we are headed: *a future where environmental films are resourced and distributed at the scale required to inspire meaningful, durable, cultural change.*

We are committed to reaching this vision with more and larger film grants, expansive collective action work, and innovative strategies to grow the market for and impact of environmental films.

**As you will see in this report,  
the evidence of progress is real.**

It is an honor to carry Bob's vision forward in partnership with the filmmakers and movement leaders paving the way.



JILL TIDMAN  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR



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Our planet's resources are limited, but there's no limit to the human imagination and our capacity to solve bigger problems.

— ROBERT REDFORD

# How We Drive Impact

The numbers behind the movement.

## FUNDING

**\$7M**

We have distributed \$7 million to filmmakers.

## REACH

**500K**

We brought environmental storytelling to more than 500,000 people through our digital ecosystem and Films That Move screenings.

## INFLUENCE

**2,000**

We connected with more than 2,000 leaders shaping environmental action, filmmaking, and philanthropy at premier convenings like Sundance Film Festival, Climate Week New York, Mountain Film Festival and Bloomberg Green Docs.

# Reach and Recognition

## AWARDS

From Emmy nominations to Netflix premieres, our supported films are earning recognition and reaching millions across dozens of global film festivals and digital platforms.



Razing  
Liberty  
Square



Impossible  
Town



Nuraga  
Bhumi



Giants  
Rising



Zag



To Use A  
Mountain

## FILM FESTIVALS

Supported films screened at more than 60 film festivals in 2025



BLACKSTAR



CAAM Fest



CLIMATE FUTURE



## SCREENING PLATFORMS



Los Angeles Times

Bloomberg  
ORIGINALS

# Our Programs In Action

How we resource filmmakers, mobilize collective action, and expand the market for environmental storytelling.

1

## NATURE CONNECTION x REI PARTNERSHIP



BOYZ N THE WOOD

We partnered with the REI Cooperative Action Fund to produce short films featuring organizations that break down barriers for all communities to get outdoors.

2

## \$100,000 IMPACT FUND



REMAINING NATIVE

To invest in transforming films into real-world impact, we launched our Impact Fund, awarding \$100,000 to five environmental films: *The Here Now Project*, *KULEANA*, *Remaining Native*, *Symphony of Silence*, and *VS. Goliath*. Supported by the Manitou Fund, Tauck Family Foundation, and Baker Family Foundation, the grants help filmmakers design strategic campaigns that drive measurable change.

**3** SOLUTIONS FILMS SHORTS

ENRAIZADOS

We funded four short films spotlighting Indigenous women-led efforts to reforest land, protect wildlife, decolonize forests, and reclaim sovereignty. Produced in collaboration with Pat Mitchell and the Helen Gurley Brown Foundation, the initiative culminated in a live-streamed conversation with the filmmakers about their impact campaigns. Donations went to the group Indigenous Climate Action.

**4** NATURE CONNECTION PITCH

PITCH 2026

To spotlight stories of restoring humanity's interdependent connection to nature, we launched our fourth Nature Connection Pitch in partnership with DC/DOX. Five finalists will pitch live at the Washington, D.C. documentary festival in June 2026, with each receiving at least \$10,000 in production and impact funding, and one taking home a \$50,000 grand prize.

**5** FILMMAKER SUMMIT

SUMMIT 2025

Our 2024-25 grantee cohort gathered at Mountainfilm Festival for a two-day summit to workshop environmental stories, navigate today's funding landscape, and build community. The program featured a keynote by Environmental Grantmakers Association President Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, advisory sessions with film industry leaders, community building opportunities, and festival screenings of Redford Center-supported films *Enraizados* and *Between Moon Tides*.

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## FILMS THAT MOVE



FAMILY TREE

We hosted 16 free virtual film screenings, spanning stories from citizen scientists protecting endangered birds in Rhode Island (*Between Moon Tides*) to a homemaker-turned-journalist uncovering a government coverup near abandoned coal mines in Siberia (*Black Snow*). The free screenings broadened the audiences of complex issues that are both personal and urgent.

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## \$400,000 FILMMAKER GRANTS



GREEN GOLD

Through our two-year grants program, filmmakers receive \$25,000 and mentorship in the first year, and select projects receive additional funding to complete their films and amplify their impact in the second year. In October, eight projects from the 2024-25 cohort received **\$400,000** total to bring their solutions-forward environmental stories across the finish line.

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## BRIDGING VALUES



IMPOSSIBLE TOWN

Most Americans agree environmental protection is essential, yet polarizing narratives dominate the discourse. Our Bridging Environmental Values initiative showcases nine films that connect across political divides through shared values: clean air and water, thriving communities, and a livable future. We partnered with Bridge Entertainment Labs to test how human-centered stories foster cross-ideological dialogue, and are now partnering with Working Films to bring this work to communities nationwide.

# The Impact Model

THE IMPACT MODEL

Real-world change starts with a story. We support the bold filmmakers who seed interconnected change.



## NARRATIVE SHIFTS

Stories spotlight solutions and inspire audiences to take action.

## POWER SHIFTS

Audiences become movements that build collective power.

## SYSTEMIC SHIFTS

Collective power transforms policy and institutions.

# Measuring What Matters

We know films create change because we see the evidence. As part of our practice to keep learning and iterating, we ask filmmakers in our active portfolio: How is your work driving impact? This year, 79 projects received the survey, and 63% responded.

Their answers prove our theory of change works.

Impact outcomes fall into three categories – narrative shifts, power shifts, and systemic shifts – a shared framework for measuring how films serve as tools for environmental action.

**85%**

**ACHIEVED  
NARRATIVE  
SHIFTS**

Igniting discourse,  
expanding media and  
environmental literacy,  
and driving innovation.

**77%**

**ACHIEVED  
POWER  
SHIFTS**

Amplifying frontline voices,  
mobilizing communities,  
and prioritizing cultural  
inclusion.

**79%**

**ACHIEVED  
SYSTEMIC  
SHIFTS**

Engaging government,  
connecting movements,  
and improving health  
and well-being.

The  
conclusion:

**Film is a force for change.**

# Meaningful Grants. Massive Impact.

We resource filmmakers with grants, strategic guidance, and industry connections. We connect independent voices to distribution power and engaged audiences. And we show philanthropists how film amplifies their environmental priorities. We are the connective tissue the movement needs.

# Undamming → Klamath

**\$175,000** in grants

- + Fiscal Sponsorship
- + Philanthropic and industry access
- + Impact documentation

## NARRATIVE SHIFTS

The film reframed dam removal as a ecological and moral imperative, centering Indigenous leadership through intimate footage that revealed how dams devastate salmon runs and livelihoods.

## POWER SHIFTS

Major news outlets used film footage to amplify Indigenous and environmental advocates' voices, strengthening their influence in public and policy debates.

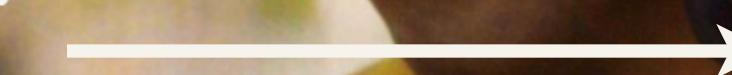
## SYSTEMIC SHIFTS

The filmmakers' coalition-building approach became a replicable model, informing dam-removal campaigns and cross-stakeholder strategies worldwide.

# Razing Liberty Square

**\$95,000** in grants

- + Philanthropic and industry access
- + Media attention
- + Impact documentation



## NARRATIVE SHIFTS

The film introduced the term "climate gentrification" to wide audiences, showing the stark intersection between climate justice and housing justice.

## POWER SHIFTS

By strategically premiering outside Miami first, the campaign built national pressure before the local screening, forcing Miami officials to publicly respond to Liberty Square residents' demands.

## SYSTEMIC SHIFTS

After watching the film, communities in New York, Los Angeles, Maui, and other cities used it as a blueprint to re-examine redevelopment plans and build coalitions to protect marginalized communities.

# Enraizados →

**\$37,682** in grants

- + Screening opportunities
- + Strategic guidance
- + Impact strategy support

## NARRATIVE SHIFTS

By spotlighting Cherán nationally and internationally, Enraizados catalyzed plans for a local media hub and training program, enabling residents to tell and sustain their own stories.

## POWER SHIFTS

The film elevated Cherán's Indigenous self-governance model as a blueprint, inspiring communities facing illegal land grabs and deforestation to pursue Indigenous-led solutions.

## SYSTEMIC SHIFTS

Mexico's lead climate negotiator incorporated the film's community-centered perspectives into policy discussions, directly informing the country's approach to Action for Climate Empowerment.

# Standing Above the Clouds

**\$23,000** distributed through  
fiscal sponsorship

- + Fiscal Sponsorship
- + Screening opportunities
- + Industry sponsorship



# Nuraga Bhumi

**\$30,000** in grants

- + Philanthropic and industry access
- + Screening opportunities
- + Impact strategy support

## NARRATIVE SHIFTS

The film dismantles colonial conservation narratives by centering Indigenous stewardship, challenging audiences to rethink who should lead environmental protection.

## POWER SHIFTS

Nuraga Bhumi is mobilizing women, youth, and LGBTQIA+ communities to reclaim their role in protecting wild spaces – expanding who holds power in conservation.

## SYSTEMIC SHIFTS

Wildlife authorities publicly endorsed women's leadership on camera for the first time, catalyzing a broader shift toward inclusive conservation across Sumatra.

# Path of —————→ the Panther

**\$20,000** in grants

- + Philanthropic and industry access
- + Screening opportunities
- + Impact documentation

## NARRATIVE SHIFTS

The film reframed the Florida panther not as an isolated species, but as a keystone indicator of ecosystem and human health, helping viewers understand wildlife corridors as essential infrastructure for Florida's future.

## POWER SHIFTS

Path of the Panther galvanized a coalition of conservation advocates, scientists, and community leaders, building public momentum that elevated their influence in land-use and development fights.

## SYSTEMIC SHIFTS

The film helped secure passage of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act and established a global blueprint for habitat conservation. Its coalition-building strategies are now being replicated to build cross-ideological support worldwide.



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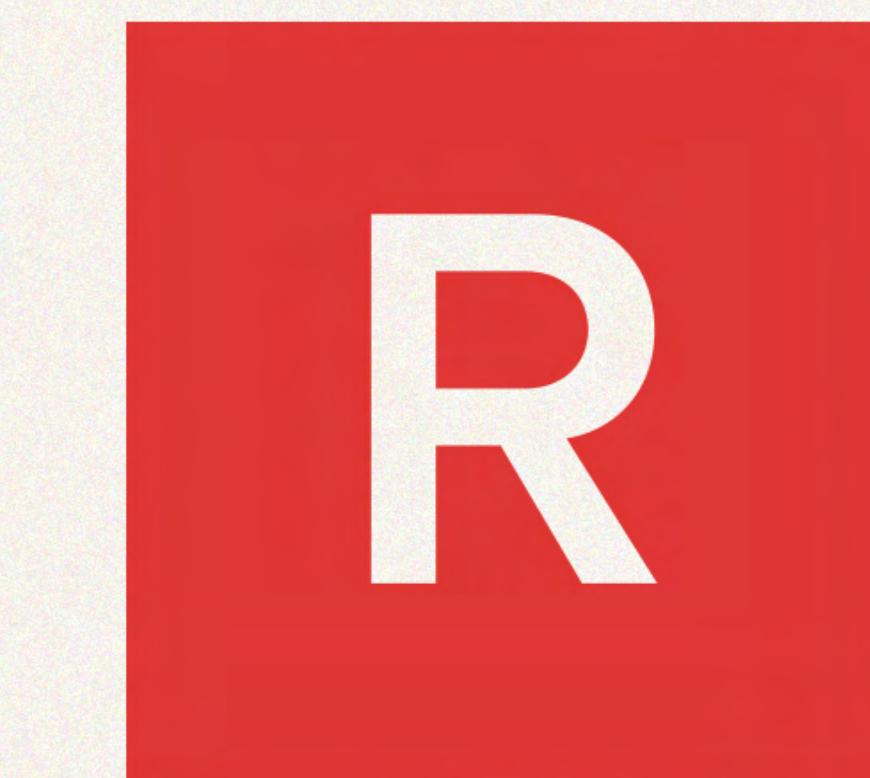
# We've Proven the Model. Now It's Time to Go Big.

Our goal: Raise \$50M by 2030 to transform  
environmental filmmaking at every level.



Change Starts Here.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



To learn more, go to **www.redfordcenter.org**  
or contact Nicole Kite, Development Director,  
at **nkite@redfordcenter.org**

