



Winter 2024

Redford Center Grants Impact Report





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**R**

Environment is our mission.

Film is our medium.



About The Redford Center

Co-founded in 2005 by activists and filmmakers Robert Redford and James Redford, The Redford Center is a nonprofit that advances environmental solutions through the power of stories that move. As one of the only US-based nonprofits solely dedicated to environmental impact filmmaking, The Redford Center develops and invests in projects that foster action and strengthen the reach of the grassroots efforts powering the environmental movement.

Over the years, The Redford Center has produced three award-winning feature documentaries and more than 40 short films, supported over 200 film and media projects with grants and other services, inspired the creation of 550 student films, and disbursed more than \$23 million to environmental film projects, amplifying change-making environmental solutions to millions of people worldwide.

[Learn More](#)

Stories change the way people think, feel, and behave.

**Stories move people.
And we need people moving.**



Our Approach

For decades, well-meaning yet harmful environmental narratives have perpetuated defeatist, alarmist ideas, exclusion, extraction, and creative stagnation. We seek to balance out this context by supporting films that spotlight the solutions and show the progress, the wins, and the examples of how people are already moving towards a more just, healthier future. We know that the most effective films offer unmatched potential to ignite action and societal change. They shift culture, shape policy, and drive innovation. They connect movements and spark dialogue and imagination. They give voice to and aid in healing communities disproportionately impacted by climate and environmental disasters.



Redford Center Grants

The World Needs Your Story

We're at a pivotal moment in our cultural awareness of climate and environmental issues. Our movement needs stories that not only describe the issues we face, but that activate hope and illuminate pathways for people to meaningfully engage in solutions.

Redford Center Grants is one of the few vehicles of philanthropic support available to environmental documentary filmmakers working today. The program employs a cohort-based model to resource filmmakers with financial support, professional development, and a global mentorship community. These supports empower them to develop and distribute urgently needed environmental films and docuseries that create impact across a broad spectrum of issue areas, geographies, and audiences.

Redford Center Grants

\$2 Million Invested Since 2016

Since launching in 2016 with the early support of the New York Community Trust, Redford Center Grants has invested \$2 million in funding to 60 environmental documentary projects.

Redford Center Grants prioritizes support for solutions-focused stories from communities most impacted by injustices, especially stories that feature narratives that intersect with racial, economic, social, gender, and health justice movements and originate from voices traditionally underrepresented in the field. We know that these types of stories are critical to expanding the diversity and intersectionality of the environmental movement, presenting the complexity of challenges and solutions, and creating trust and shared objectives among affected communities.

“ It wasn’t until after we received The Redford Center grant and recognition that a host of other funders came to the table to support the film. This momentum carried us all the way to the finish line and secured major support from Nat Geo. Of course, the direct funding was helpful, and yet the gift gave so much more.

—— Eric Bendick, Director, *Path of the Panther*

By the Numbers

\$2 million in funding awarded

150+ filmmakers supported

60 films supported

26 films completed

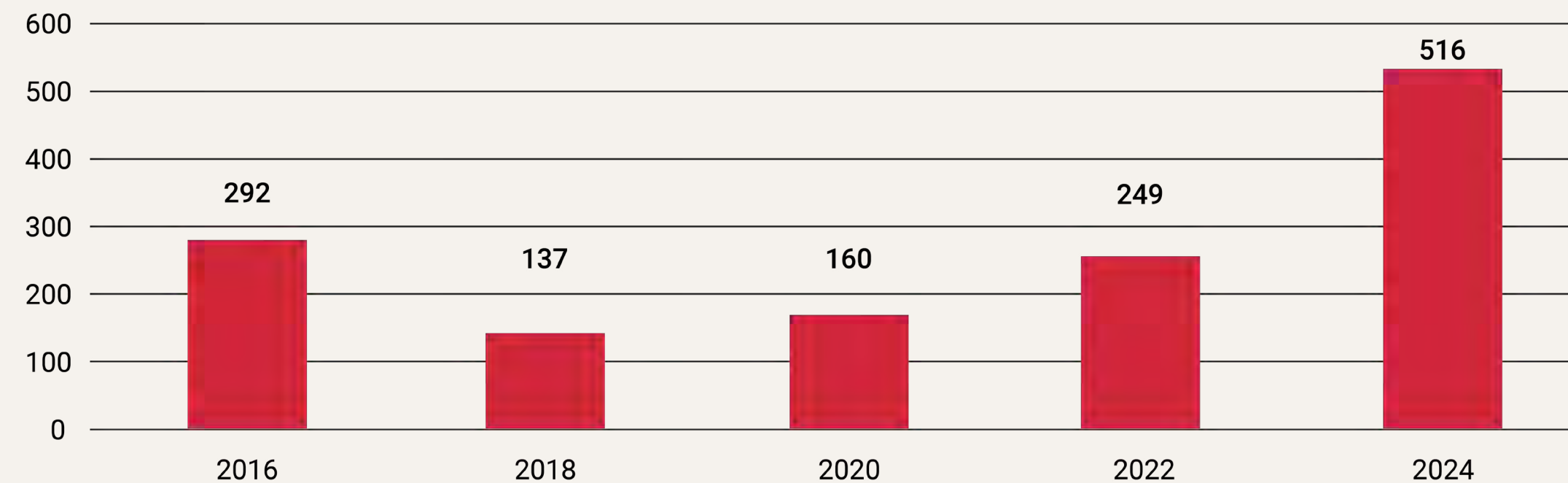
11 films secured distribution with major platforms, including PBS, Netflix, Hulu, and Disney+

5 grant cycles of the program since 2016



1,300 Applicants 67 Countries 5% Funded

Open Call Applications Received, 2016 – 2024*



*The 2018 and 2020 program cycles were only open to US-based filmmakers. During the 2016 cycle, 115 of the 292 applicants were US-based. In 2022, the program was reopened to international applicants.

Grounding the Need for Support

There are thousands of stories that hold the potential to ignite change. Across five cycles of grantmaking, we've received more than 1,300 applications for support from at least 67 countries; nearly 40% of those came in this year alone.

Films we know can create impact are grossly under-resourced. Though The Redford Center continues to grow our grantmaking, both in the number of projects supported and in amount of funding awarded, we have been able to fund less than 5% of the total applications we've received through Redford Center Grants.

Filmmakers looking for support elsewhere don't have many other resources to turn to. Of the roughly 306 organizations that support annual giving to nonfiction filmmakers, only five explicitly state that they prioritize environmental stories. There are only three grants where environment is the primary focus of the grant; The Redford Center funds two of those grants.

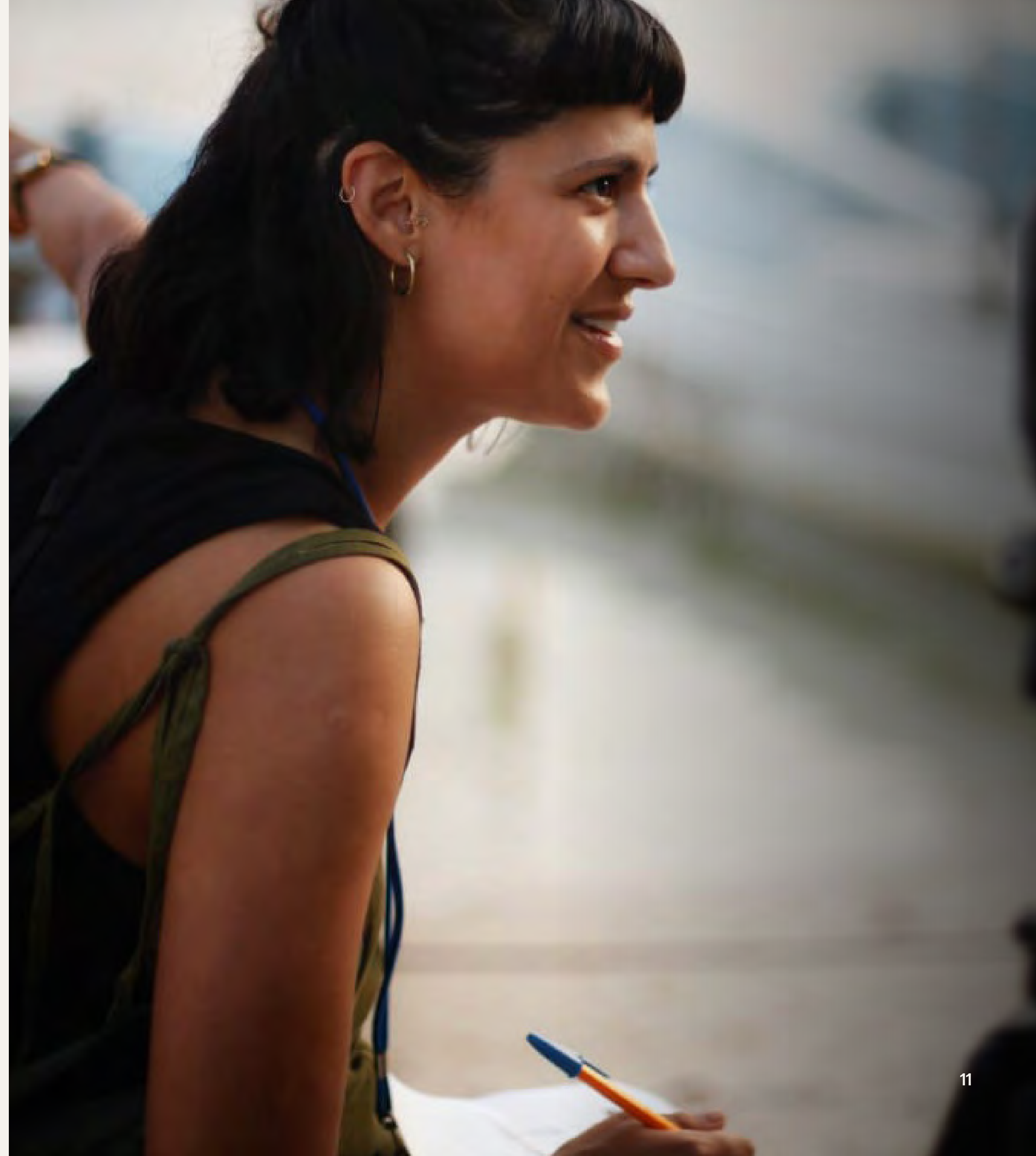
Without ample funding and mentorship, these essential stories simply cannot realize their full impact potential, to the detriment of our movement and our planet.



The Stories & Storytellers We Support

A Siberian-homemaker-turned journalist is exiled for exposing lethal methane leaking into her community. An animated docu-series illuminates the stories of climate refugees. A brother and sister filmmaking team who are enrolled members of the Blackfeet Nation depict a community's efforts to return Blackfeet buffalo to their native homeland. A Turkish farming family attempts to save a 1,500 year-old ancestral seed. An unlikely coalition of Indigenous people, utility corporations, farmers, and fisherman undertake the largest dam removal in US history. An exploration of how the climate crisis and a toxified environment affects Black reproductive health. A portrait of one of the greatest environmental success stories of all time: acid rain. A Mexican community risks everything to stop the cartels that are destroying their land and lives to make a fortune from avocados.

The stories we're supporting—and the filmmakers behind them—are as diverse and nuanced as the environmental challenges our planet is facing. We structure our program to support a broad range of projects intentionally, so that we can offer audiences as many unique entry points into the environmental conversation as is possible. There's something for everyone in our portfolio of grantees, but what unites them all is a shared future vision that we can all dream about: a world where all people and the planet can thrive.





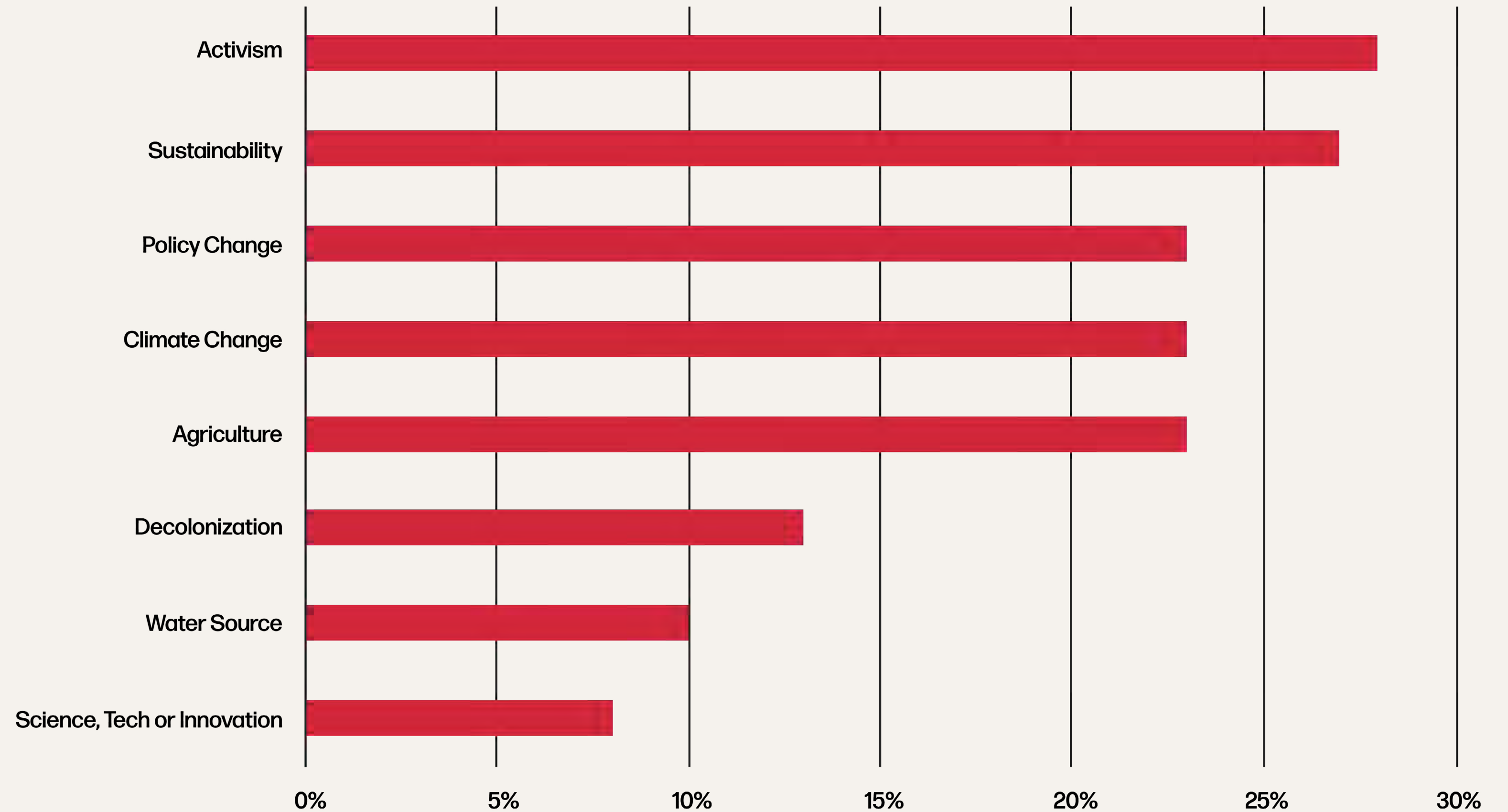
Storylines & Themes

Climate and Environmental Solutions

75% of Grantees

75% of Grantees selected Climate and Environmental Solutions as one of the primary themes of their supported project.

Climate and Environmental Solutions Subthemes





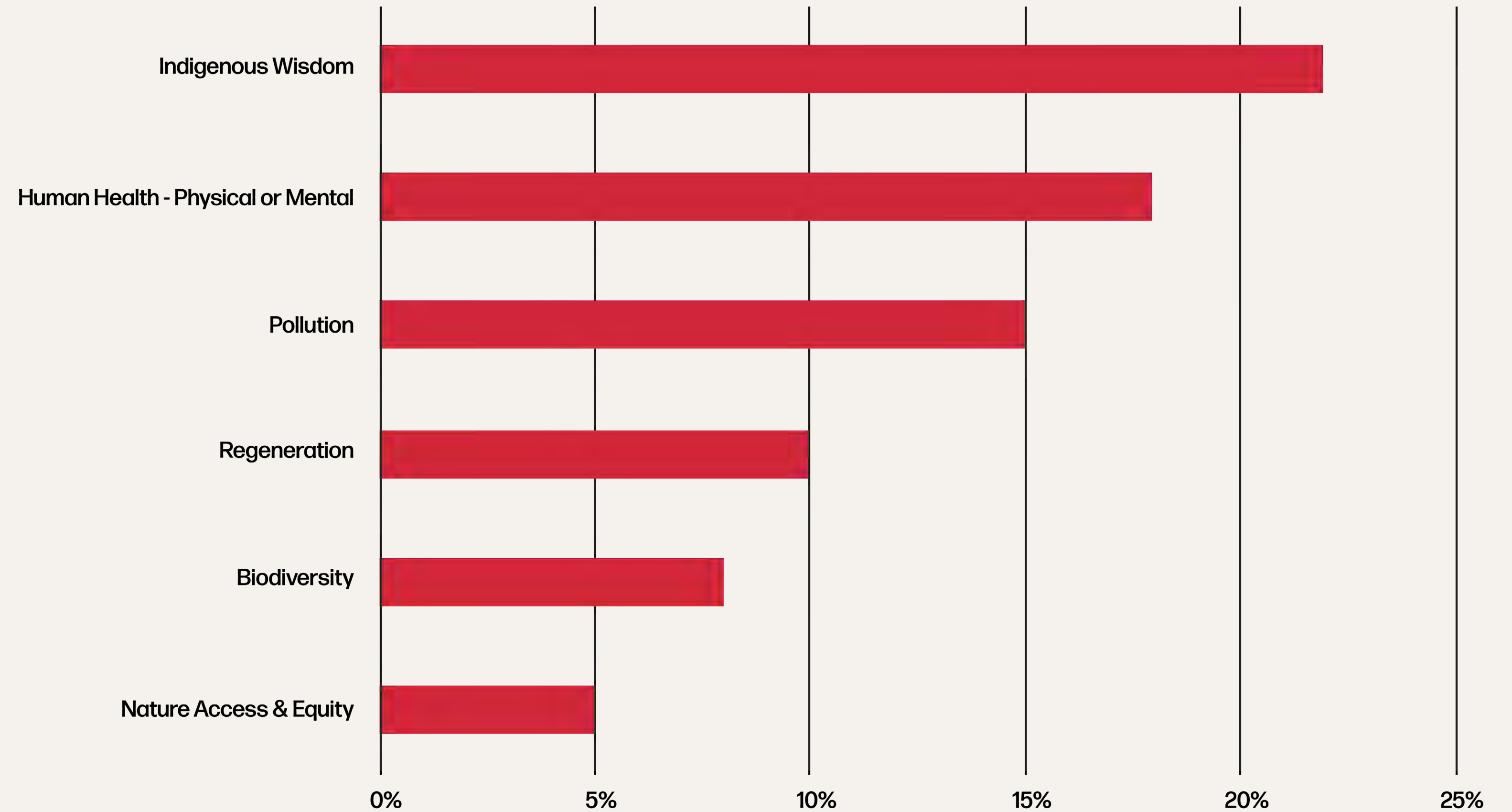
Storylines & Themes

Human and Planetary Health

47% of Grantees

47% of Grantees selected Human and Planetary Health as one of the primary themes of their supported project.

Human and Planetary Health Solutions Subthemes





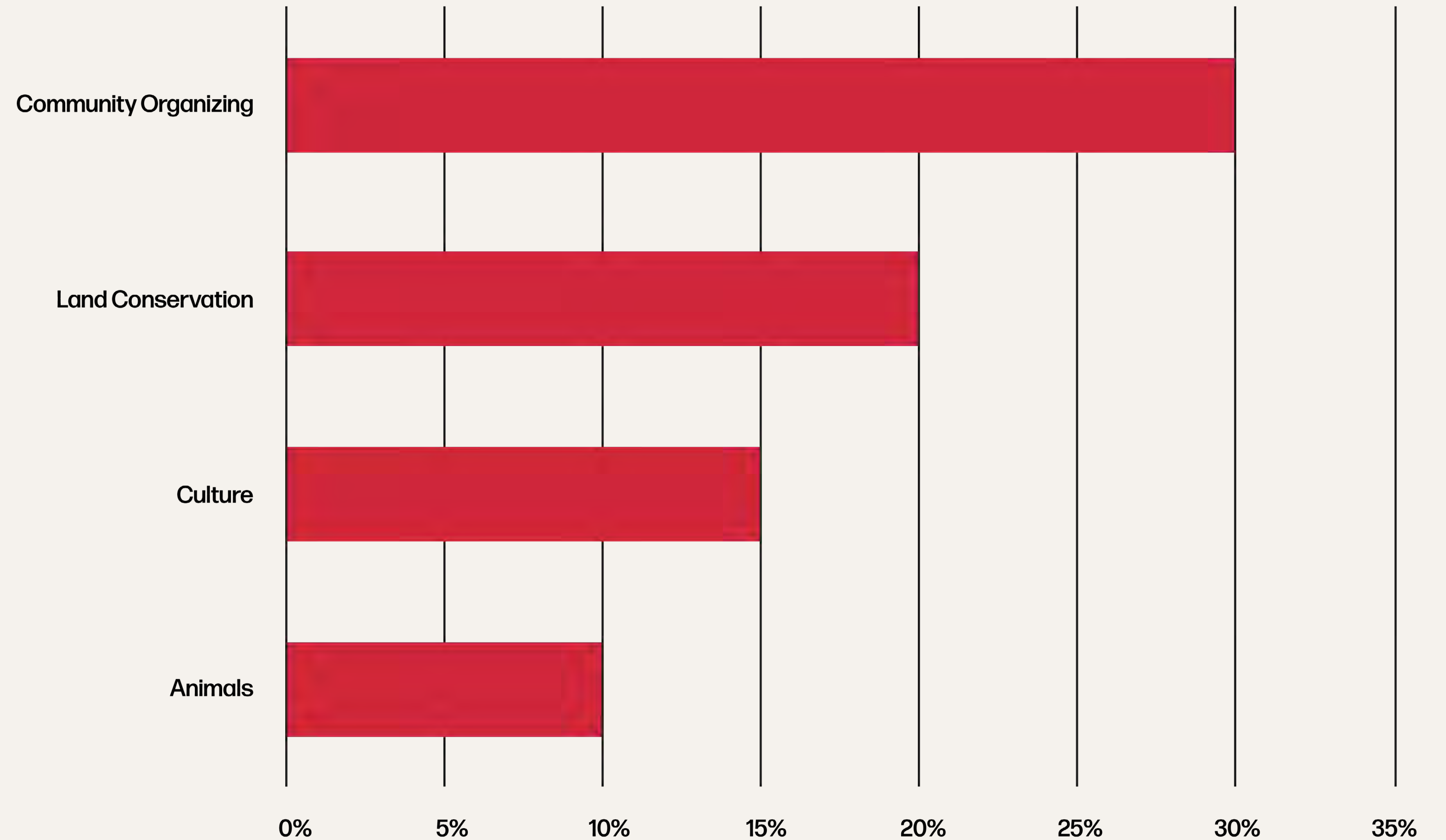
Storylines & Themes

Cultural and Environmental Values

55% of Grantees

55% of Grantees selected Cultural and Environmental Values as one of the primary themes of their supported project.

Cultural and Environmental Values Solutions Subthemes





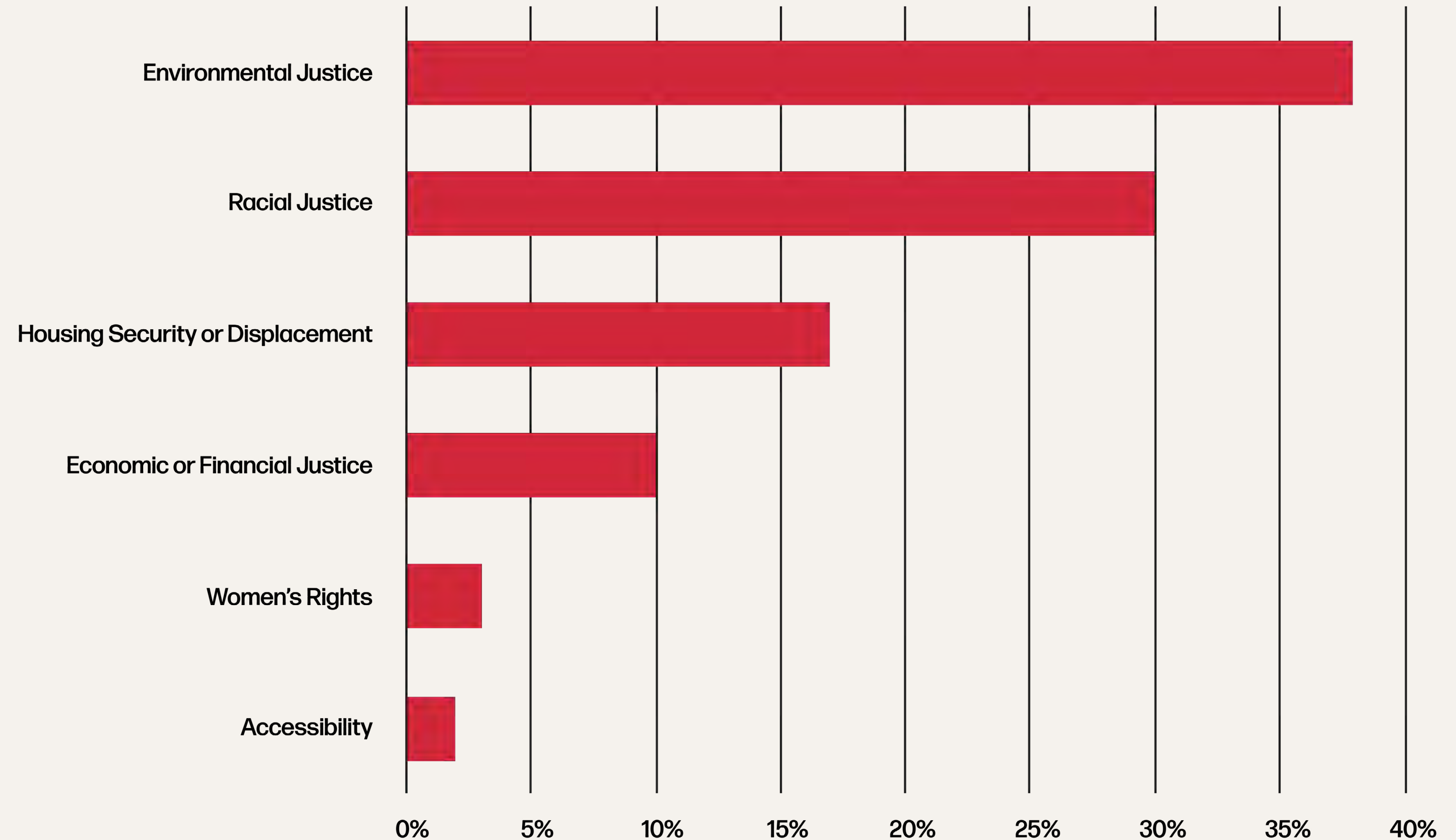
Storylines & Themes

Intersectional Environmental Justice

57% of Grantees

57% of Grantees selected Intersectional Environmental Justice as one of the primary themes of their supported project.

Intersectional Environmental Justice Solutions Subthemes





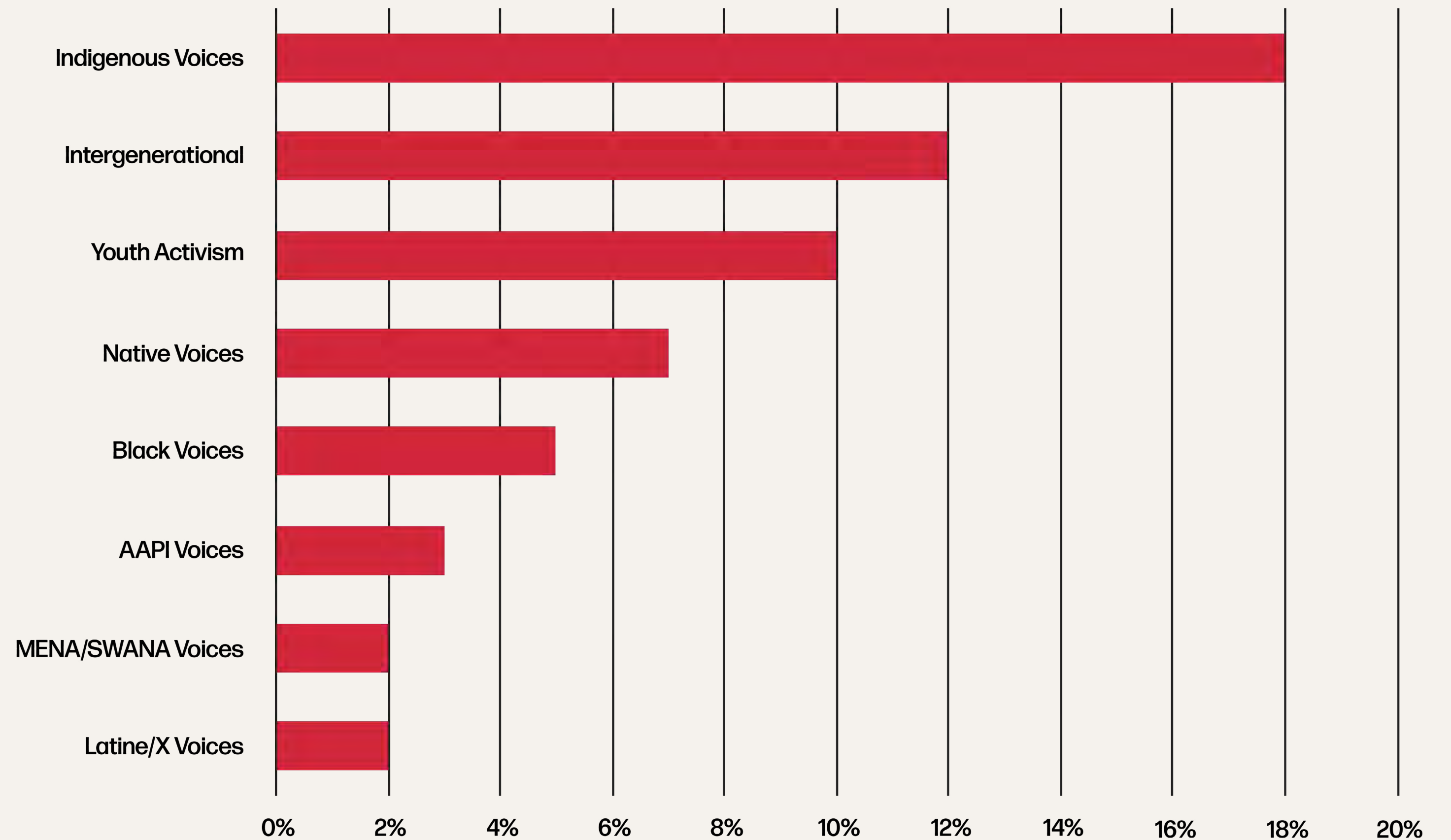
Storylines & Themes

Representation and Inclusion

35% of Grantees

35% of Grantees selected Representation and Inclusion as one of the primary themes of their supported project.

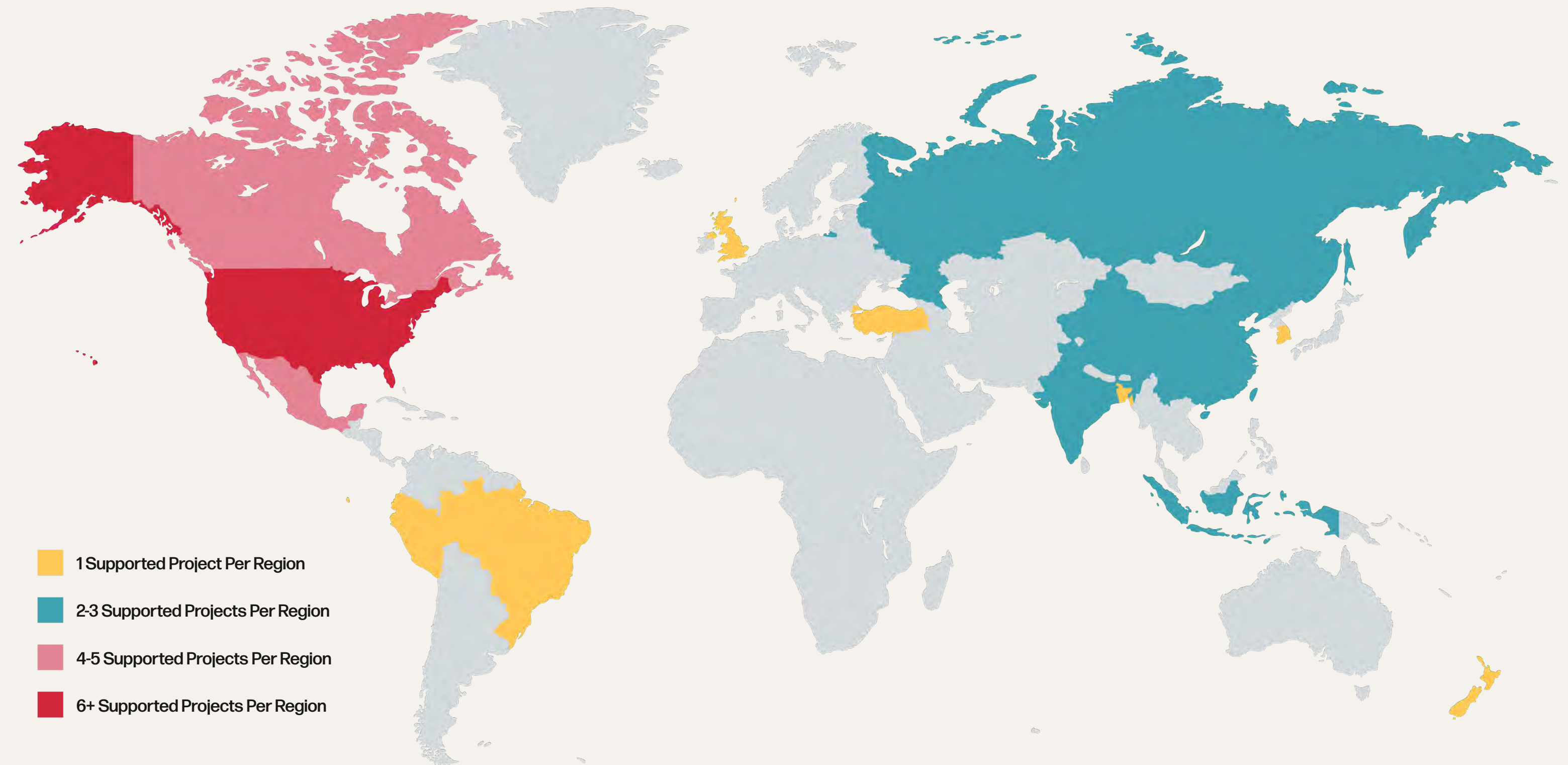
Representation and Inclusion Solutions Subthemes



Geographic Reach

50% of the supported projects in the 2022-23 cohort were international in nature, primarily in languages other than English. For the 2024 Grants open call, we received applications from 67 countries—the most ever.

A total of 17 countries have been represented across the storylines of our supported projects: United States, Mexico, Canada, India, China, Indonesia, Russia, Puerto Rico, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Bangladesh, South Korea, New Zealand, and Vanuatu.





Filmmaker Development

Empowering environmental filmmakers to develop and distribute urgently needed stories that create impact takes more than just financial support, it takes community. As part of the Redford Center Grants program, we host a multi-day retreat—the Filmmaker Summit—for our active cohort of grantees to provide professional development, expertise, and network expansion specifically tailored to their environmental projects. This kind of support is a unique and rare offering in the field: 93% of the filmmakers attending our 2023 Summit indicated they had never participated in an environmental filmmaker development program before.

The Filmmaker Summit comes at a key inflection point for many of our supported projects, typically at a time when bespoke mentorship, connecting with peers and industry experts, and an opportunity to dive deep into best practices around production, distribution, and impact increase the project's likelihood of not only completion, but of enacting meaningful, durable, positive change. Learning and networking opportunities available during the Filmmaker Summit are responsive to the interests of the grantee cohort and typically include: trainings on impact, distribution, and fundraising and finance; one-on-one mentorship meetings with our esteemed group of **Grants Advisors** and special guests from peer organizations such as Working Films, Doc Society, and Exposure Labs; opportunities to present work during the festival programming; festival passes; and unique experiences for community building as a cohort.



2023 Filmmaker Summit

The 2023 Filmmaker Summit, hosted in collaboration with Mountainfilm Festival in Telluride, Colorado, brought 22 filmmakers from the 2022-23 cohort of Redford Center Grantees together with seven Grants Advisors, three special guests, and seven Redford Center staff members for five days of professional development, experiential learning, and community building.

As part of our 2023 Summit, The Redford Center hosted three educational panels tailored to the interests and specific questions submitted by grantees. The panels featured Grants Advisors, special guests, and Redford Center staff and covered impact strategies, film festivals and distribution, and fundraising and film financing.

What our 2022-23 Grantees shared about the 2023 Filmmaker Summit

“ I learned new ways of thinking about how films can work in organizing campaigns.

“ I enjoyed this [experience] so much! I think it's not only about helping make the project happen, it is also about giving the director and I strength to pursue a complicated goal. I felt encouraged. I met many friends. It was absolutely amazing!

“ We found all the advisors to be very open to sharing their knowledge and giving specific advice on each project. In the case of our project, Lisa, Tracy, and Megha gave us very useful advice on distribution, financing, workshops, social impact and credits.



Expanding Support & Community

For each filmmaking team, The Redford Center facilitated three one-on-one meetings with mentors for filmmakers to discuss their specific projects. Filmmakers overwhelmingly agreed that their experiences at 2023 Summit expanded their professional networks and was valuable to the development of their projects.

Before the Summit, filmmakers reported that their average sense of connection to The Redford Center's community was 3.5 (out of 10); after the Summit, it was 9.7 (out of 10). 100% of filmmakers said they plan to stay in touch with at least one person from the cohort. 100% reported having a tremendously positive experience at the Summit and that they would recommend the program to a friend.



Our Grants Advisors



Brenda Robinson
HiddenLight Productions



Brian Newman
Sub-Genre



Cheryl Hirasa
Pacific Islanders in
Communications



Gita Saedi Kiely
FilmAid



Justin "Hoost" Wilkenfeld
Kindhumans



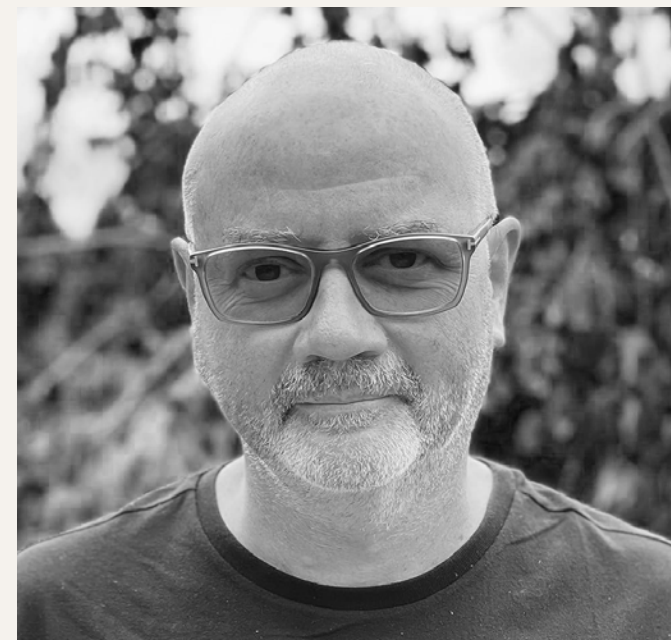
Lisa Kleiner Chanoff
Catapult Film Fund



Megha Agrawal Sood
Doc Society



Samantha Wright
Waverly Street Foundation



Simon Kilmurry
Independent Film Producer



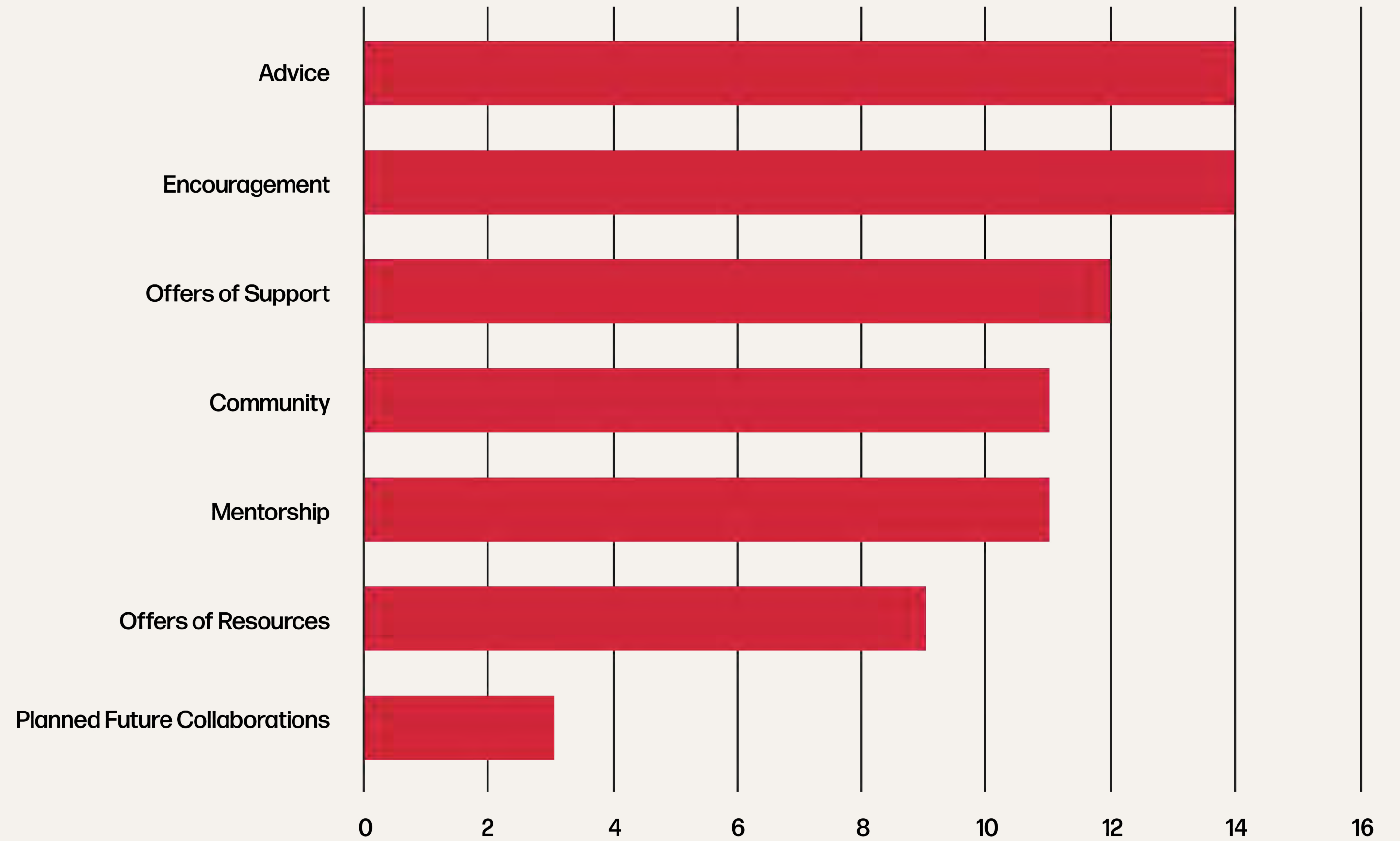
Tracy Rector
4th World Media



Filmmaker Summit

Types of Support Gained from Spending Time with Grants Advisors*

*Data collected from a post-Summit filmmaker survey.





Our Impact Approach

We encourage filmmakers to think about impact goals as early on as possible, so that part of their vision can inform story development, production decisions, and distribution negotiations. While our grantees are vetted for impact potential before they're selected for the program, it is at the Filmmaker Summit that the artists get to know The Redford Center's unique impact approach and explore how it can help them maximize their projects as tools for the movement.

We understand many filmmakers and organizations focus primarily on audience reach and engagement as indicators of impact, however we believe there is a meaningful difference between the reach of a film and the impact of a film. Our impact framework is based on multi-stage impact assessments that begin early in the storytelling process and continue long after the film's release to comprehensively map the ways that the film projects we invest in are moving environmental solutions forward.

Assessing Impact

We assess impact beyond the reach or commercial success of a film and champion film projects that:

1. Connect Movements

Are communities brought together as a result of the film or filmmaking process? Is mobilization occurring as a result of the filmmaking process?

2. Ignite Discourse

Does the project feature communities with diverse or opposing perspectives in dialogue? Are there plans to facilitate conversations after distribution?

3. Mobilize Communities

Is there evidence that the communities featured in the film are embracing and utilizing the film as a tool for local activations? Is the solution replicable?

Assessing Impact

4. Amplify Frontline Voices

Are there goals for the people featured in the story to be elevated or experience upward mobility as a result of the film?

5. Promote Cultural Self-Determination

Are the perspectives and stories in the film deeply invested in the inclusion of Black, Indigenous and People of Color, LGBTQIA+, Women, People with Disabilities or Learning Differences, and other groups that experience equity gaps?

6. Shift the Narrative

Does this project and its impact goals have the potential to reframe or balance out dominant, defeatist narratives of environmentalism? Does it aim to expand the audience?

7. Drive Innovation

Are there goals for this project to be used as an industrial or academic vehicle to encourage investments in technology or innovation that can contribute to solving environmental issues?

Assessing Impact

A man with grey hair, wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a wooden stool in an outdoor film set. He is looking towards the camera. The set includes a professional camera on a tripod in the foreground, a boom microphone hanging over him, and a monitor displaying the scene. The background shows a wooden building and lush green trees.

8. Engage Government

Are there goals for this project to be used as a tool to educate and/or aid government officials and/or agencies in decision-making, community engagement, or policy decisions?

9. Expand Environmental & Media Literacy

Does this project have goals of being used as an educational tool and/or to develop a supplemental curriculum?

10. Improve Health & Well-Being

Do the featured communities experience healing, improved well-being and resilience either physically, mentally, or environmentally as a result of the film?

Impact Case Studies





Impossible Town



Impossible Town (2020–21 Cohort)

Status (as of Fall 2024)

- Complete (2023)
- On festival circuit
- Active impact campaign

Redford Center Financial Investment
\$60,000

Redford Center Media Investment
“Impossible Town” by Jill Tidman. Orion Magazine (Spring 2022)

[Read More](#)

When her father passes, Dr. Ayne Amjad is thrust to the helm of a decades-long struggle to aid a West Virginia town beset by cancer-causing chemicals. Haunted by her father’s mandate to “help others,” Ayne hatches an audacious plan to relocate the town and bring closure to her father’s work. When deeply entrenched community narratives collide with emerging scientific findings about the town’s pollutants, Ayne must decide how much she’s willing to sacrifice to help the people of Minden achieve their goals.



Impossible Town

Amplify Frontline Voices

Goal

Use the film as a bridge builder and advocacy tool for the community of Minden, West Virginia. Work with the EPA team assigned to the response, the local community, and the greater Appalachian region to improve relations, reach closure, and improve the EPA's interventions to include trauma-informed care and community building.

Impact Outcome

Impossible Town was screened for 40 government officials from the U.S. EPA Mid-Atlantic Region's team, followed by a discussion led by the filmmakers. The film and discussion opened up a constructive dialogue about improving communications strategies and solutions for communities like Minden, whose voices and environmental trauma have been previously ignored. Ongoing discussions with the EPA aim to broaden this conversation beyond the Mid-Atlantic team.

Impossible Town



Mobilize Communities; Promote Cultural Self-Determination

Goal

Learn from and amplify the voices of people experiencing environmental trauma in real time to understand what they need and what can be done differently in the future to support communities facing environmental displacement. Invite discussion that examines the burden placed on individuals active in community organizing and how this leads to burnout.

Impact Outcome

The filmmakers, in partnership with RealWV and the New York Foundation for the Arts, presented a 10-day regional screening tour of the film in Appalachia, which led to constructive dialogue including participants from the film and audiences discussing how to heal communities with environmental trauma, the importance of supporting grassroots activists, and encouraging a more depolarized and empathetic community and society. Nearly 1,000 audience members were engaged through these community screenings.

Impossible Town



Engage Government

Goal

Help emergency responders and agencies see into the perspectives of communities to inform their comprehensive response plans and offer trauma-informed practices and resources to those who have experienced environmental trauma and displacement.

Impact Outcome

Impossible Town is lessening the long-term impact of environmental pollution on small communities by screening the film for government agencies like FEMA and the EPA, and then connecting these agencies with impact partners like UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters and Washington School of Public Health, in order to help them create stronger resilience plans, a resource kit for communication, and process refinements that encourage harm reduction and healing.

R

Undamming Klamath



Undamming Klamath (2022–23 Cohort)

Status (as of Fall 2024)

- Late production/early postproduction
- Several short companion films, such as *Undammed*, are complete and currently on the film festival circuit

Redford Center Financial Investment
\$100,000

Undamming Klamath follows the story of the largest dam removal and river restoration project in history. This feature-length documentary highlights an indigenous-led movement to recover imperiled wild salmon and restore balance to a basin in crisis amidst an ongoing water war.





Undamming Klamath



Ignite Discourse

Goal

Generate media and communication about the Klamath dam removal.

Impact Outcome

The film team secured exclusive access to film the dam removal process and as such are providing media content to over 50 press outlets across the globe, including the BBC, as well as local Indigenous tribes and conservation groups who are involved with the Undamming the Klamath campaign.

Undamming Klamath



Mobilize Communities; Connect Movements

Goal

Increase community engagement in understanding the importance of undamming rivers and the positive impact it has on the environment, Indigenous communities' livelihoods, and fish.

Impact Outcome

By producing short documentaries while the feature documentary is in production and working with organizations such as Patagonia and Ridges to Riffles, the film team has embarked on an effective community screening tour for Klamath River communities and other communities who can use the success of Klamath River undamming as a model for future undamming projects.

Undamming Klamath



Promote Cultural Self-Determination; Amplify Frontline Voices

Goal

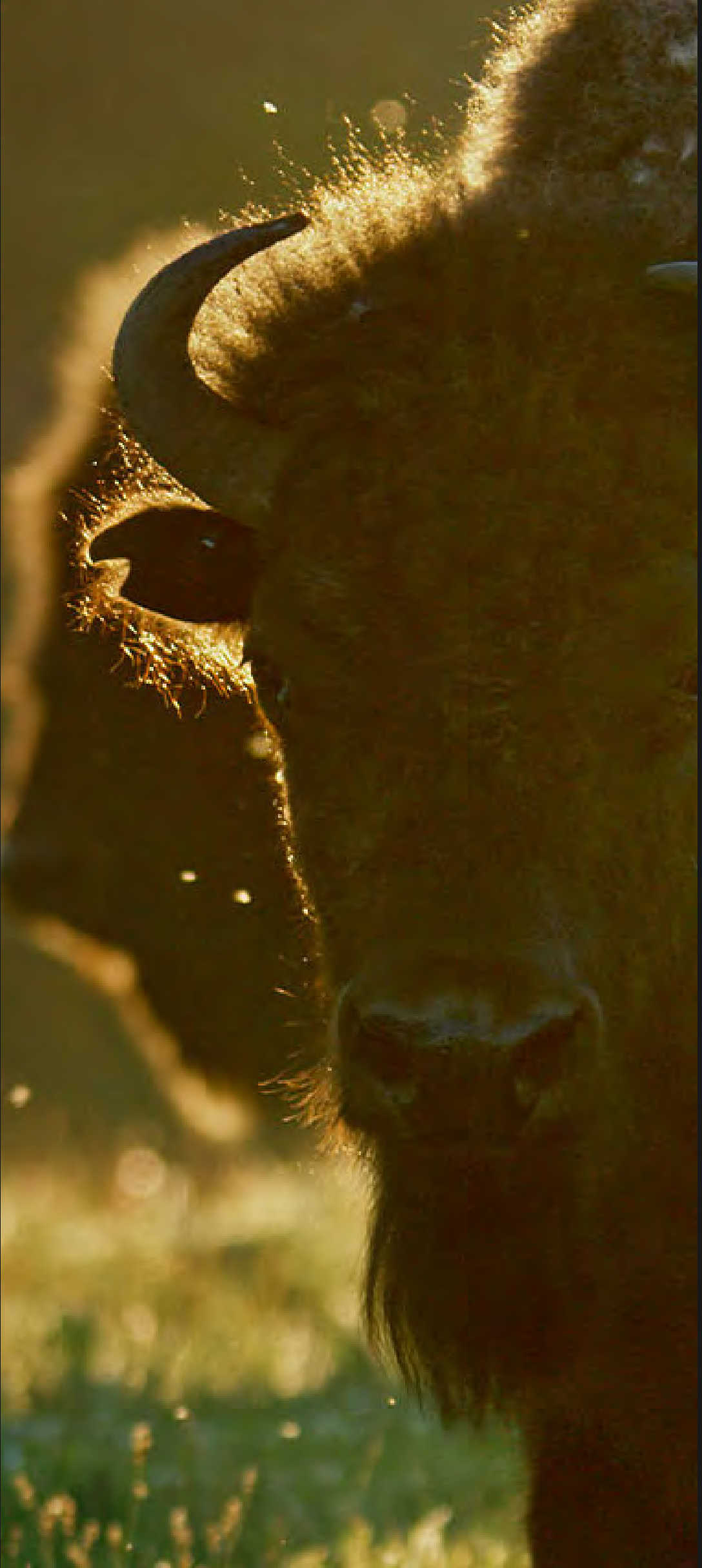
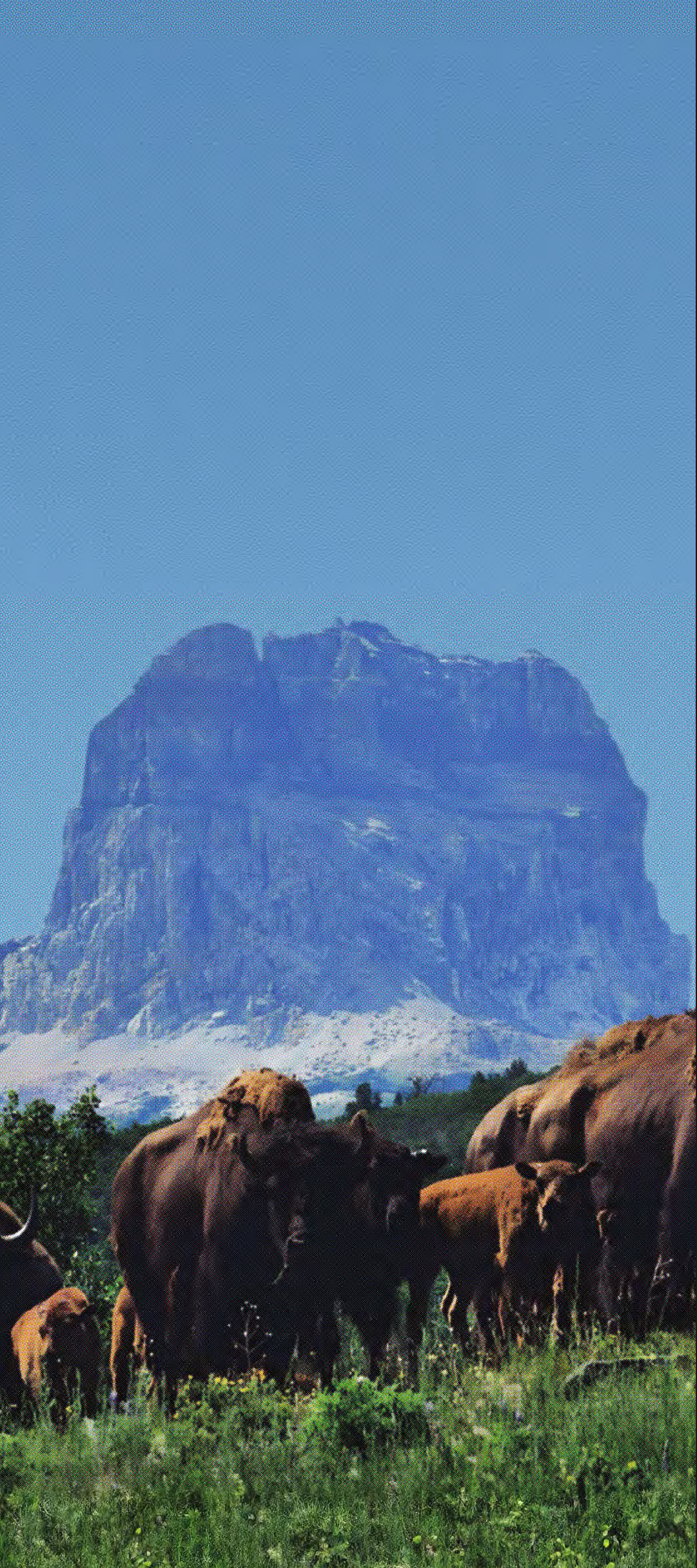
Ensure representation of the perspectives of the indigenous people who depend on the Klamath River undamming.

Impact Outcome

Yurok and Karuk Tribes hand-selected this film team to tell this story, and in turn, the film team has collaborated directly with indigenous consultants to shape the film's narrative, receive feedback on film cuts, and have hired Tribe members interested in film and media to train and work as local crew.

R

*Bring Them Home
Aiskótáhkapiyaaya*



Bring Them Home *Aiskótáhkapiyaaya* (2022–23 Cohort)

Status (as of Fall 2024)

- Complete (2024)
- On festival circuit
- Active impact campaign

Redford Center Financial Investment
\$120,000

Bring Them Home / Aiskótáhkapiyaaya tells the story of a small group of Blackfoot people and their mission to establish the first wild buffalo herd on their ancestral territory since the species' near-extinction a century ago, an act that would restore the land, re-enliven traditional culture and bring much needed healing to their community.





R

Bring Them Home *Aiskótáhkapiyaaya*

Mobilize Communities

Goal

Support the release of the Elk Island bison herd into the wild throughout 2023 by using the film on the Blackfeet Reservation.

Impact Outcome

In April and May 2023, the film team hosted a series of five private, preview screenings of an early version of the film for key leaders on the Blackfeet Reservation. These screenings were designed to inspire tribal leaders to release the Elk Island herd into the wild, which helped encourage the release of 25 bison in the Chief Mountain Wilderness on Blackfeet Tribal lands with support from Glacier National Park.



R

Bring Them Home *Aiskótáhkapiyaaya*

Shift the Narrative

Goal

Foster appreciation for bison and understanding of their critical role in the ecosystem and for Indigenous Peoples.

Impact Outcome

The campaign is underway with a series of 24 film screenings around the state of Montana, spanning 2024-2025, for audiences that include five groups of ranchers on the reservation and five in non-reservation ranching communities. The screenings are followed by discussion and community dialogues about the film, including how it altered their perspectives on bison and their importance and impact on the environment. Several reservation screenings have been held to date, and the team has collected more than 100 surveys, which indicate the positive impact the film is having on viewers' perspectives on bison.

R

Bring Them Home *Aiskótáhkapiyaaya*



Amplify Frontline Voices; Expand Environmental & Media Literacy

Goal

Highlight Indigenous-led conservation through a series of five short films designed for online use and an educational curriculum.

Impact Outcome

These short films will be available online and used for educational content in middle and high school classrooms around Montana, including on the Blackfeet Reservation. The accompanying curriculum will provide discussion guides for educators to use in classrooms to increase environmental literacy about bison and land regeneration.

R

Razing Liberty Square



Razing Liberty Square (2020–21 Cohort)

Status (as of Fall 2024)

- Complete (2023), with distribution on PBS’s Independent Lens
- Active impact campaign

Redford Center Financial Investment
\$95,000

Redford Center Media Investment

“Stealing Higher Ground: A Portrait of Rising Climate Gentrification”
by Jill Tidman. Orion Magazine (Autumn 2023).

[Read More](#)

Miami is ground-zero for sea-level-rise. When residents of the Liberty Square public-housing community learn about a \$300 million revitalization project, they know that this sudden interest comes from the fact that their neighborhood is located on the highest-and-driest ground in the city. Now they must prepare to fight a new form of racial injustice—Climate Gentrification.



A woman in a pink long-sleeved shirt is standing in a classroom, pointing towards a chalkboard. The chalkboard is filled with handwritten mathematical problems, including long division and multiplication. Several young students in school uniforms are visible in the foreground, looking towards the teacher. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a daytime classroom setting.

R

Razing Liberty Square

Engage Government

Goal

Hold Liberty Square Rising developers and Miami-Dade County officials accountable to the promises they have made to provide well-constructed and secure housing for longtime Liberty Square residents.

Impact Outcome

The film has increased public awareness and scrutiny for the remainder of the *Liberty Square Rising* project's construction and implementation process. Screenings have provided a platform for current and former residents of Liberty Square to share their experiences, build organizing support, and create a letter of demands shared with the Mayor of Miami Dade.

Following a private screening of the film for Mayor Danielle Levine Cava, she publicly committed to a five-point plan to fix the issues as presented in *Razing Liberty Square* and instructed the Director of Housing to hire an additional ten staff to monitor the implementation, resulting in the developers beginning to fix issues in the new apartments.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a dark blue shirt, is sitting at a wooden table. She is holding a baby wrapped in a white blanket. She is looking towards a man who is sitting across from her. The man is wearing a blue patterned shirt and is gesturing with his hand. They are both looking at a map or document on the table. The background shows a green metal fence and a concrete pillar.

R

Razing Liberty Square

Ignite Discourse

Goal

Engage developers from the affordable housing sector and elected officials in difficult conversations to reform their practices.

Impact Outcome

The film team is screening the film with current and emerging affordable housing developers and are planning a screening in Washington, DC with HUD and elected officials who have oversight authority on affordable housing projects. These screenings are paired with discussions with grassroots affordable housing developers who have created successful models that support communities rather than displacing them.



R

Razing Liberty Square

Connect Movements; Expand Environmental & Media Literacy

Goal

Use the film and film events to support campaigns across Miami to connect climate and housing movements and advance housing justice, renters rights, and other anti-displacement measures, current and future.

Impact Outcome

The film team is using a virtual reality piece as a companion to the film to ground and educate audiences in the historic significance of Liberty Square and the connection between preservation, housing justice, climate gentrification, and Miami.

The film's impact campaign resulted in a new election of resident's council being held. After their team discovered fraud (again), the elections were declared void and there will be another election held soon, to be closely monitored by the film's impact team.

Path of the Panther



Path of the Panther (2020-21 Cohort)

Status (as of Fall 2024)

- Complete (2022)
- Distributed on Disney+ and Hulu
- Active impact campaign

Redford Center Financial Investment
\$20,000

Path of the Panther is an epic tale of nature and humanity at a crossroads. Through the eyes of the Florida panther, we discover the beating heart of a lost wilderness. Yet the guardians of this species are in a desperate struggle. The abyss of extinction beckons - and time is running out. Walking this path reveals both hope and heartbreak - a timeless battle waged between forces of renewal and destruction. Lines drawn. Territory marked. But whose dominion is this? The future of the Panther, and of our planet, may rest on the answer.





R

Path of the Panther

Mobilize Communities; Engage Government

Goal

Use the film as a tool to connect national and local partners and government officials to create more safe habitats for the Florida Panther.

Impact Outcome

Path of the Panther successfully collaborated with the National Geographic Society and other grassroots partners to screen the film for government officials in Florida, resulting in the unanimous passage of the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act – the first legislation of its kind to create a blueprint for addressing habitat fragmentation and species extinction across the globe. Since 2021, the state has committed over \$2 Billion in funding for conservation of the land within the corridor, including an additional \$1B in May 2023, shortly after the film’s distribution to Disney+ and Hulu.

A close-up photograph of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a black top, holding two small, fluffy lion cubs. The cubs are brown and black, and one is yawning. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

R

Path of the Panther

Expand Environmental & Media Literacy

Goal

Educate Florida youth and adults about the role large mammals play in sustaining the Florida environment and the importance of maintaining biodiversity for the health of the environment.

Impact Outcome

In September 2023, the team helped convene educators from across Florida to plan the interdisciplinary activities found in their curriculum. The team then worked with a curriculum expert to create a series of Florida State and National Science standards-aligned activities, discussion guides, and short films that elementary through college educators can use in the classroom, made free on their website.

An aerial photograph of a residential neighborhood. The top half shows a grid of houses with swimming pools, separated by a road. The bottom half shows a dense forest. A red square with a white letter 'R' is in the top left corner.

R

Path of the Panther

Drive Innovation; Connect Movements

Goal

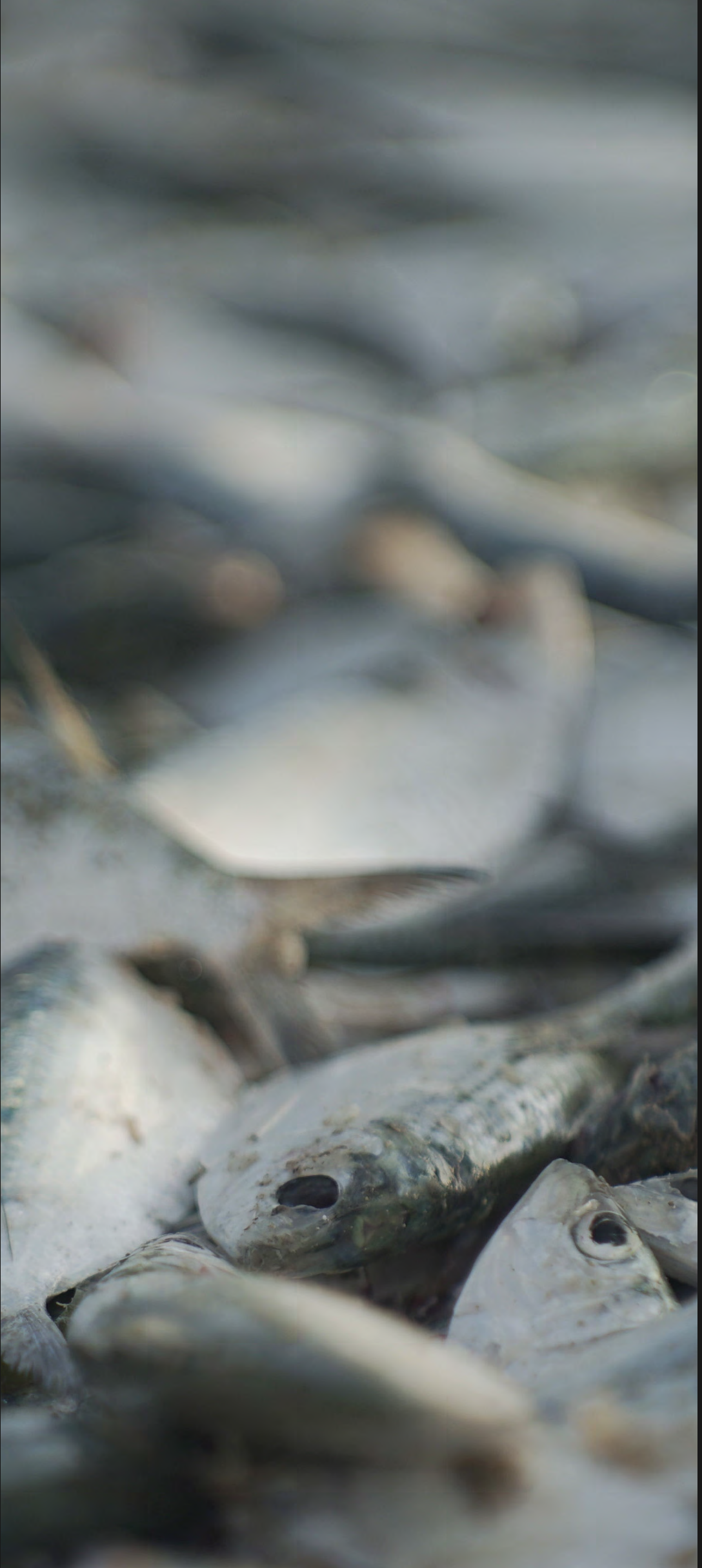
Use the film and its resulting impacts as a success story to progress corridor movements across the United States.

Impact Outcome

The team is expanding their efforts by using the film as a tool to inspire similar efforts to create wildlife corridors nationally. Their strategies are informed by the bipartisan success they had in Florida, connecting scientists, landowners, and lawmakers, and they are currently planning a screening and roundtable with key lawmakers and conservationists in DC in Winter 2025.



Kay





Kay (2022-23 Cohort)

Status (as of Fall 2024)

- Pre-production
- Active impact campaign

Redford Center Financial Investment
\$70,000

A group of anglers from the complex port of Celestun, Mexico, join forces to tackle overexploitation and illegal fishing by creating a Fishing Refuge Zone. For their project to succeed and rescue some of the extinct marine species, they must unite a fractured community divided due to years of misunderstandings.





R

Kay

Amplify Frontline Voices; Mobilize Communities

Goal

Give the community working toward the Fishing Refuge Zone (FRZ) the skills to take an active role in the film development and filmmaking process and tell their story.

Impact Outcome

In 2023, the film team continued strengthening their communication with the Fishing Refuge Zone (FRZ) committee and its President, holding conversations about the goals of the documentary, and reestablishing links with the National Fishing Institute of Yucatán. They also conducted two research trips, conducting interviews with committee leaders and accompanying them on their daily work to learn more about the dynamics of committee work, and concluded the development stage of the project.

With the second-year funds provided by Redford Center Grants, the film team donated underwater filming equipment to the fishing sanctuary community and conducted trainings for community members to learn to use the equipment. During production, this will enable the sanctuary advocates to film key scenes from their perspective.

A man wearing a grey baseball cap and a grey tank top with a colorful graphic design is looking thoughtfully to the side. He is on a boat, with another person visible in the background. The scene is outdoors, likely on a fishing vessel.

R

Kay

Expand Environmental & Media Literacy

Goal

Educate the fishing community about the Fishing Refuge Zone and its importance in ensuring long term survival of both the fishing community and ocean health.

Impact Outcome

The film team ran a social media and digital content creation training workshop with the fishing sanctuary community. This training has given sanctuary advocates the tools to improve communication about the sanctuary project within the greater fishing community, increasing awareness of the importance of the project in promoting species diversity and long-term fishing sustainability.



Kay



Engage Government

Goal

Help sanctuary advocates connect with local leaders in favor of the Fishing Refuge Zone.

Impact Outcome

The film team has helped initiate contact between a local congressman, the Secretary of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of Yucatán, and sanctuary committee members, and together they are interested in promoting legislative changes in fishing laws that will benefit sustainability projects. They are in the process of setting up meetings with the congressman to talk strategic implementation.



Redford Center Grants Supported Films

R 2024-25 Cohort



Acid Rain Movie

Director:
Victoria Lean



Derek's Ark

Director:
James Dawson



Good Fire

Directors:
Roni Jo Draper,
Marissa Lila



Green Gold

Directors:
Sélim Benzeghia,
Ivonne Serna



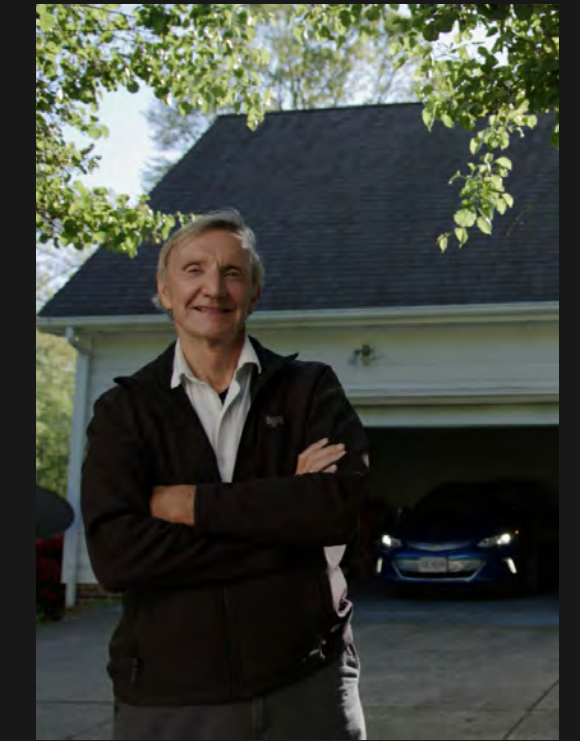
**Green is the
Fire's Tint**

Directors:
Arya Rothe, Isabella
Rinaldi, Cristina Hanes



**In Between
Worlds**

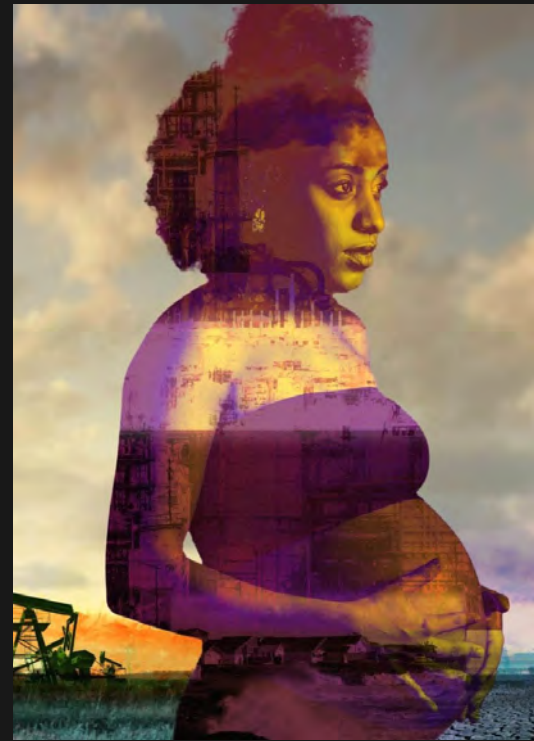
Directors:
Masha Karpoukhina,
Michael Preston



**In Earth We
Trust**

Director:
Sophie Morgan

R 2024-25 Cohort



Infertile Ground

Director:
Reniqua Allen-Lamphere



**One Point Five
(Working Title)**

Directors:
Jeff Reichert,
Alex Kerry



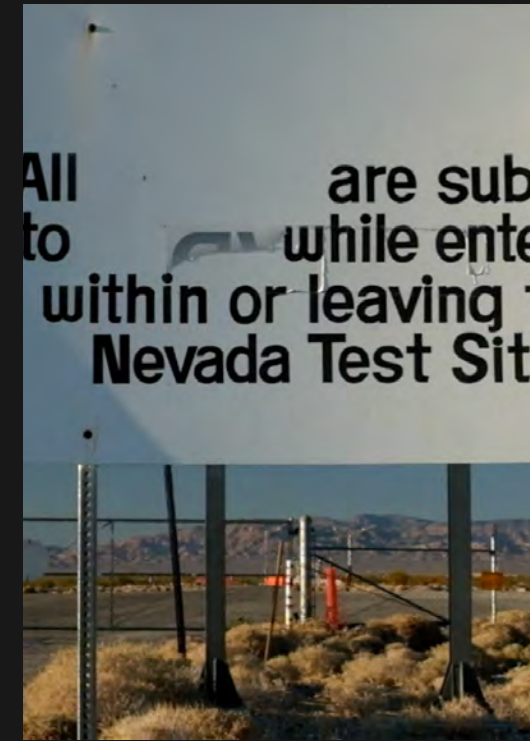
**The Invisible
Valley**

Director:
Elivia Shaw



**This Was The
Place**

Director:
Erika Cohn



**To Use a
Mountain**

Director:
Casey Carter



**Untitled Panda
Project**

Director:
Devon Blackwell

R 2022-23 Cohort



Black Snow

Director:
Alina Simone

Completed 2024



Bring Them Home

Directors:
Daniel Glick,
Ivan MacDonald,
Ivy MacDonald

Completed 2024

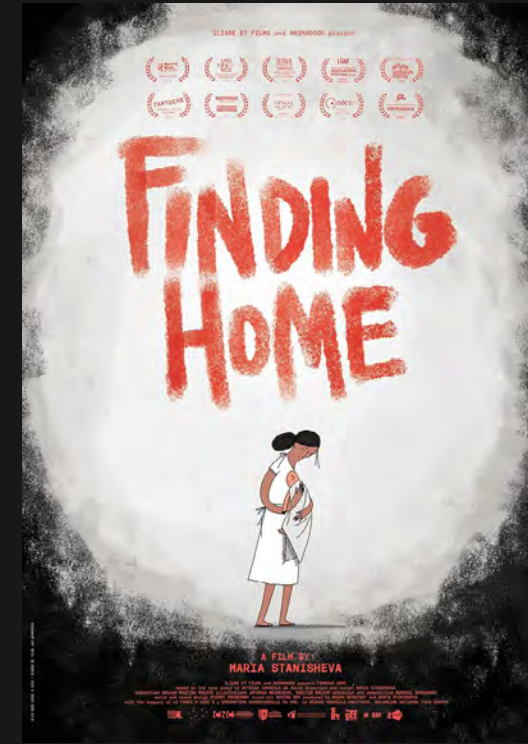


Emergent City

Directors:
Jay Arthur Sterrenburg,
Kelly Anderson

Completed 2024

Watch on PBS in 2025



Finding Home

Director:
Maria Stanisheva



Fruit of Soil

Director:
Faith Briggs Rose



Kay

Directors:
Jimena Mancilla,
Ángel Ricardo Linares
Colmenares



Our Seeds

Director:
Erhan Arık,
Meryem Yavuz

R 2022-23 Cohort



**Sacrifice Zones:
The 48217**

Director:
Ben Corona



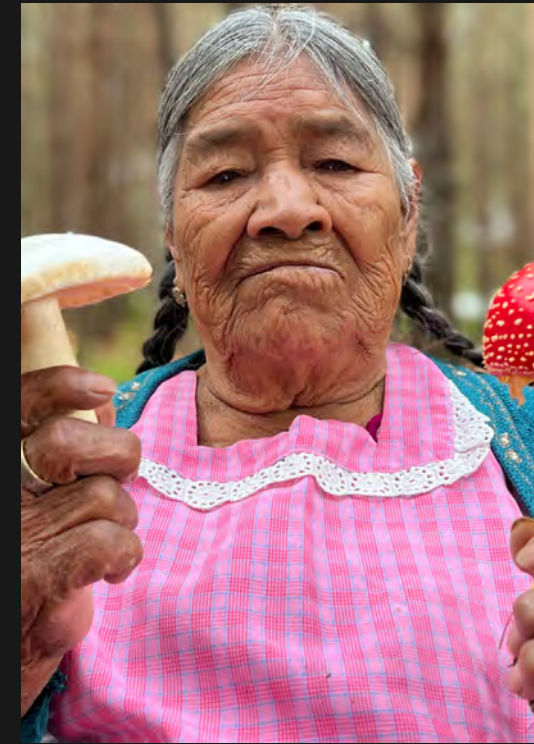
Seeing Green

Director:
Su Rynard



**The Last
Chinamperos**

Director:
Megan Alldis



The Queendom

Director:
Otilia Portillo



**Undamming
Klamath**

Director:
Shane Anderson

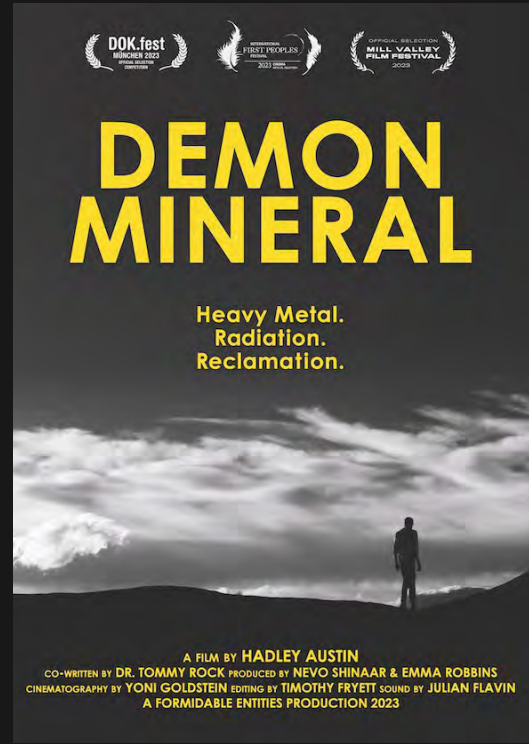
R 2020-21 Cohort



Aina Momona—Land of Plenty

Directors:
Sergio and Elena Rapu

Completed 2022



Demon Mineral

Director:
Hadley Austin

Completed 2023

Film Site



Food For the Rest of Us

Director:
Caroline Cox

Completed 2021

Film Site



Hollow Tree

Director:
Kira Akerman

Completed 2022

Film Site

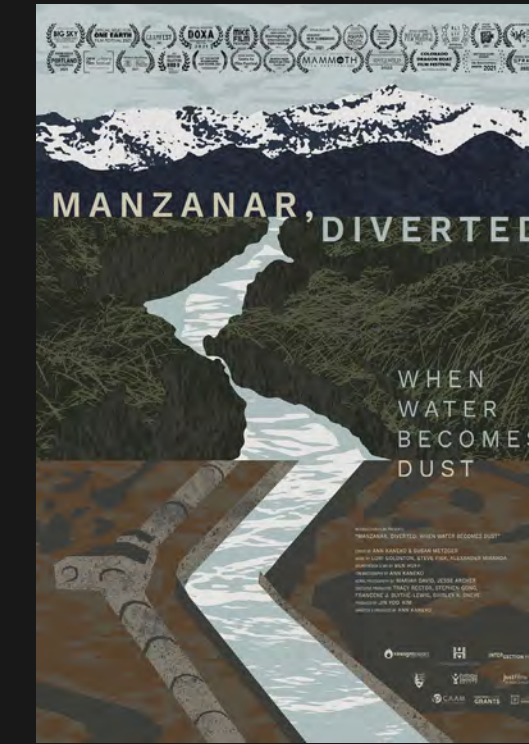


Impossible Town

Directors:
Meg Griffiths,
Scott Faris

Completed 2023

Film Site



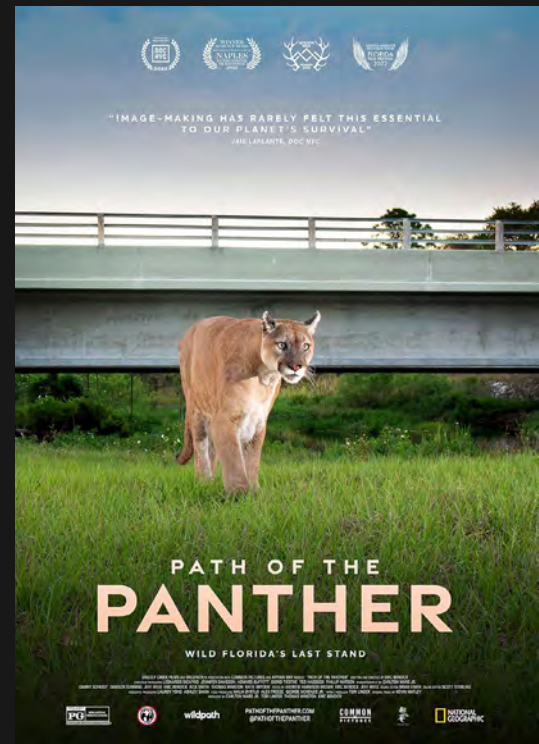
Manzanar, Diverted; When Water Becomes Dust

Directors:
Erhan Arık,
Meryem Yavuz

Completed 2022

Film Site

R 2020-21 Cohort

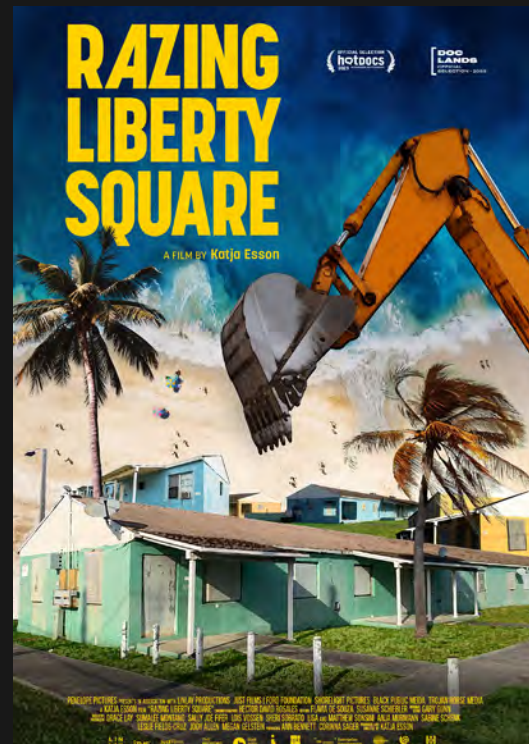


Path of the Panther

Director:
Eric Bendick

Completed 2022

Watch on Disney+



Razing Liberty Square

Director:
Katja Esson

Completed 2023

Watch on PBS



Saturday in the Park

Directors:
Tara Kutz,
Irene Kim Chin Vincent,
Kurt Vincent

Completed 2023

Watch on REI

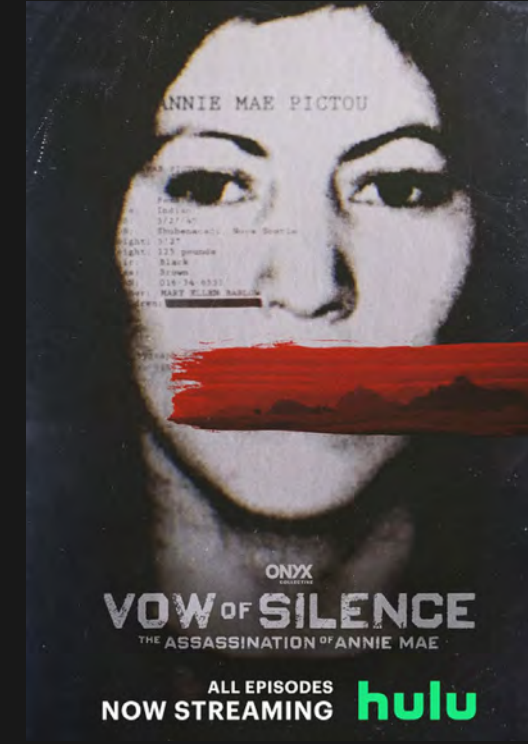


To the End

Director:
Rachel Lears

Completed 2022

Watch on Hulu



Vow of Silence: The Assassination of Annie Mae

Director:
Yvonne Russo

Completed 2024

Watch on Hulu



We Still Here/ Aqui Estamos

Director:
Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi

Completed 2022

R 2020-21 Cohort



Appalachian Spring

Director:
Evan Mascagni



Biruté

Director:
Toby Gad



Fork in the Road

Directors:
Vivian Sorenson,
Jonathan Nastasi



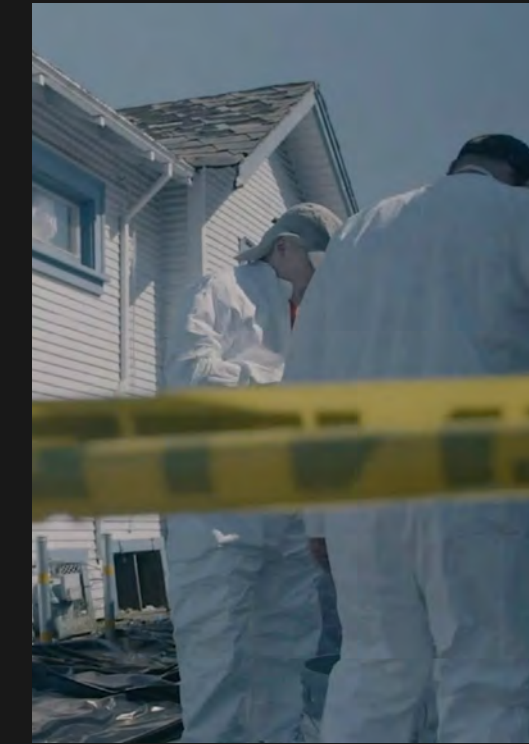
Harvest

Directors:
Natalie Baszile,
Hyacinth Parker



IZ

Director/Producer:
Jennifer Akana Sturla



Oaklead

Director:
Alex Bledsoe

R 2020-21 Cohort



Police in Our Climate

Directors:
Khari Slaughter,
Al Brady



RICO: A Modern Gangster Tale

Director:
Lindsey Ofrias



Salt Sisters

Director:
Heidi Burkey



Untitled Cultural Fire Film

Director:
Benjamin Huguet

R 2018-19 Cohort



Adaptation

Directors:
Alizé Carrère

Completed 2021

Watch on PBS



Exposure

Director:
Holly Morris

Completed 2022

Film Site



Meat the Future

Director:
Liz Marshall

Completed 2020

Watch on Amazon



Raising Aniya

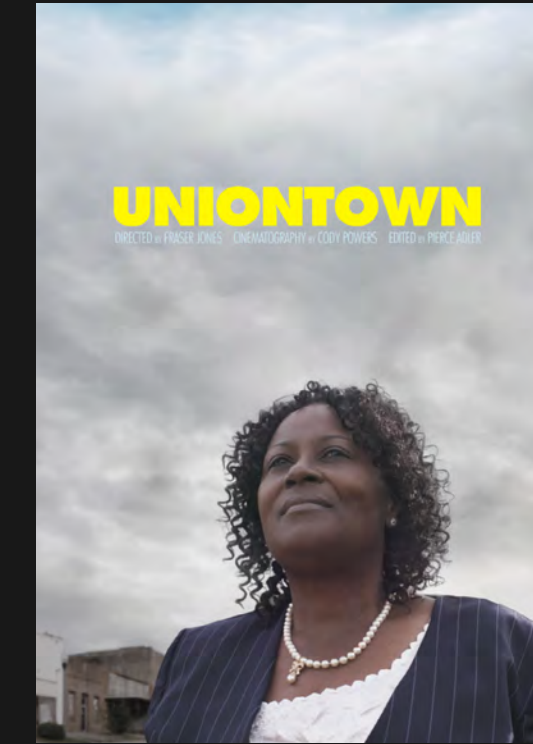
Director:
John Fiege

Completed 2024



The Bering Gate

Director:
Gabrielle Tenenbaum



Uniontown

Director:
Fraser Jones

Completed 2018

Watch on Vimeo



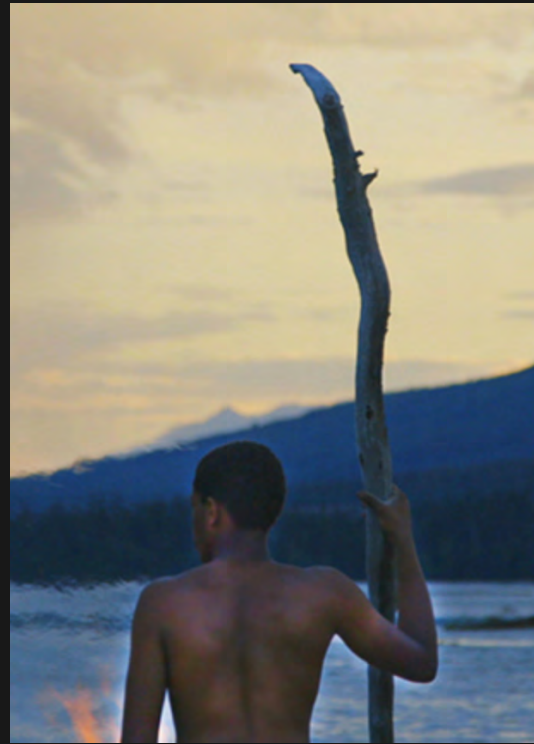
Youth v. Gov

Director:
Christi Cooper

Completed 2020

Watch on Netflix

R 2016-17 Cohort



Brooklyn Alaska

Director:
Erica Sterne



How We Grow

Directors:
Haley Thompson,
Tomas Zuccareno

Completed 2017

Watch on Collective
Eye Films



**Inventing
Tomorrow**

Director:
Laura Nix

Completed 2018

Watch on YouTube



**Nobody Loves Me
(Short)**

Directors:
Fariyah Zaman,
Jeff Reichert

Completed 2017

Watch on MUBI



Reefs at Risk

Directors:
Malina Fagan,
Lynn Pelletier

Completed 2017

Watch on YouTube



Twig

Director:
Claire Sanford

Completed 2024

Watch on Vimeo

Thank You

The Redford Center is a non-endowed nonprofit organization; every dollar we award to filmmakers is possible because of our generous community of storytelling advocates.

We extend our deepest thanks to the New York Community Trust for helping us launch Redford Center Grants in 2016 – and for providing steadfast support ever since. We also extend our continued gratitude to the ever-growing group of funders who have invested in this program over the last decade and who have helped make the impact stories contained herein, and many more, an important and inspiring reality. Thank you for believing in this work.

Alnoba Lewis Family Foundation

Janice & Matthew Barger

Code Blue Foundation

Earthsense Foundation

Farvue Foundation

GoPro for a Cause

Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation

Horne Family Foundation

KindHumans

New York Community Trust

Manitou Fund

Skoll Foundation

Laurie & Jeff Ubben

Walton Family Foundation

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