

REDFORDCENTER GRANTS

IMPACT
REPORT
2019



THE REDFORDCENTER

THE NEW YORK
COMMUNITY TRUST

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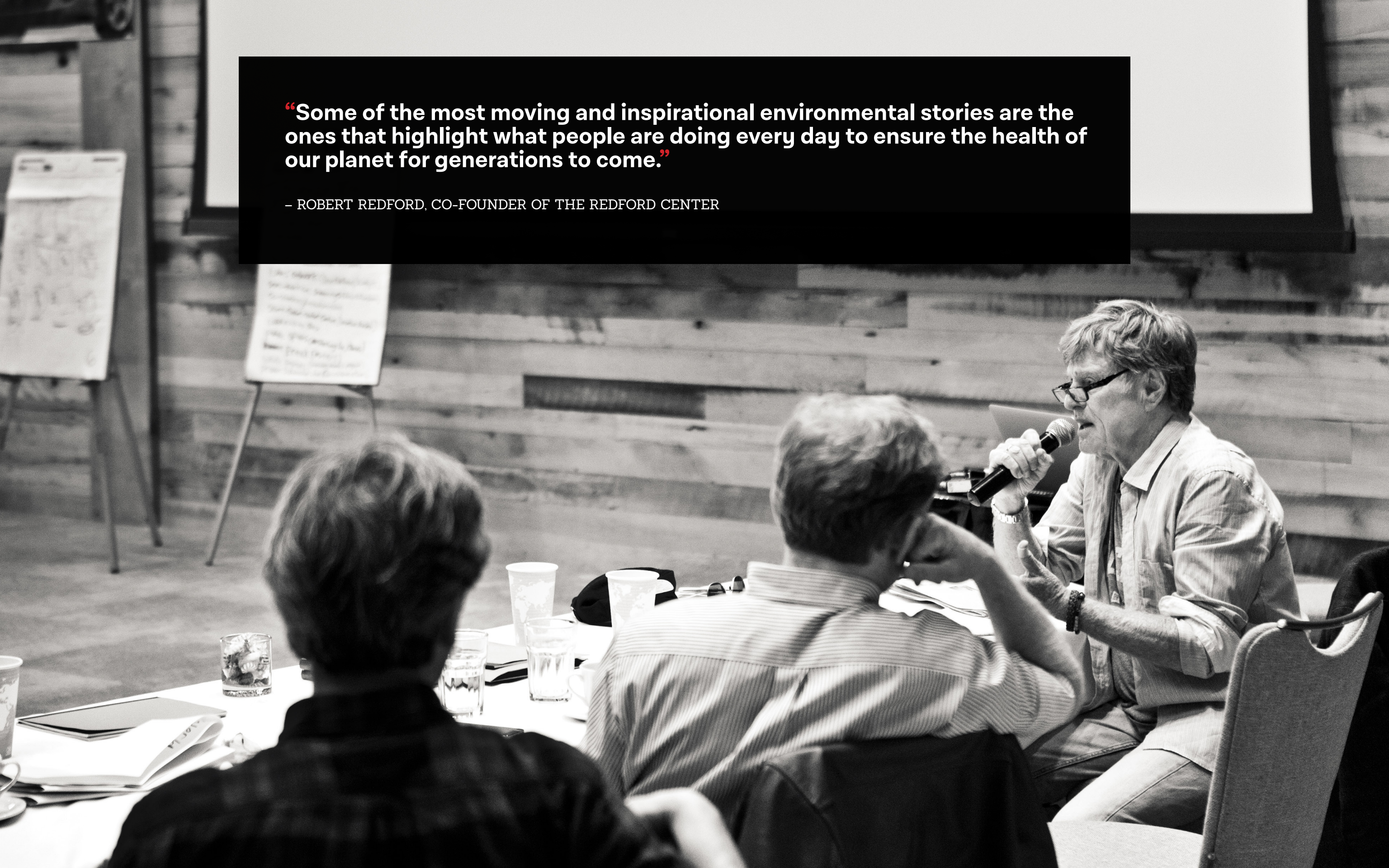
4 Years, 14 Field-Defining Film Projects

Since its launch in 2016, *Redford Center Grants* has focused its support on documentary projects in early stages of development. For filmmakers, initial funding is some of the hardest to get, and given the time-sensitive needs of environmental impact stories, it is also the most critical.



“Some of the most moving and inspirational environmental stories are the ones that highlight what people are doing every day to ensure the health of our planet for generations to come.”

– ROBERT REDFORD, CO-FOUNDER OF THE REDFORD CENTER





Modern environmental movements are embracing storytelling as a critical element for mobilizing constituents, building political power and achieving progress. Through *Redford Center Grants*, filmmakers learn The Redford Center's distinctive, solutions-forward story approach, and we connect movements with creative partners and stories that can catalyze environmental action.



**“The environmental challenges we face today go deep and wide,
and our storytelling arsenal needs to reflect that immense task.”**

– JAMES REDFORD, CO-FOUNDER AND CHAIR OF THE REDFORD CENTER



2016 Film Cohort



INDIGENOUS LAND & WATER RIGHTS

Akicita: The Battle of Standing Rock

Director: Cody Lucich

Tribes and allies descend on Standing Rock, North Dakota to defend sacred Sioux land and water from the threats of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.



BIODIVERSITY & SPECIES PROTECTION

Nobody Loves Me

Directors: Fariyah Zaman and Jeff Reichert

A showcase of species at little-known risk of extinction for the simple fact that they defy our definitions of cuteness.



YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

Inventing Tomorrow

Director: Laura Nix

Teen scientists from Indonesia, Hawaii, India and Mexico invent environmental solutions to compete in the Olympics of science fairs.



WILDERNESS ACCESS & EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

Brooklyn Alaska

Director: Erica Sterne

Twelve boys from Brooklyn experience the transformative power of nature on their first trip away from home, deep into the Alaskan wilderness.



TOXICITY & PRODUCT REGULATION

The Coverup/Reefs at Risk

Directors: Malina Fagan and Lynn Pelletier

Experts uncover and examine the harmful effects of toxic chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products on human and environmental health.



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & LOCAL ECONOMIES

How We Grow

Directors: Haley Thompson and Tomas Zuccareno

A new generation of farmers, ranchers and chefs build community and a movement around locally-grown food in Colorado's Roaring Fork Valley.



DESERTIFICATION & GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES

Colour of the Wind

Director: Claire Sanford

A filmmaker traces a curious dust found on Canada's western shores to its origins in China's Gobi Desert, where yellow dust swallows everything in sight.

2018 Film Cohort



DEMOCRACY & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Youth v. Gov

Director: Christi Cooper

Twenty-one youth take on the U.S. government in an unprecedented lawsuit over their constitutional right to a stable climate.



ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM & COMMUNITY POWER

Uniontown

Director: Fraser Jones

A mother and community activist mobilizes her family and neighbors to bring an end to toxic environmental racism in Uniontown, Alabama.



SUSTAINABLE FOOD INNOVATION

Meat The Future

Director: Liz Marshall

A physician-turned-entrepreneur sets out to transform animal agriculture as we know it with pioneering cell-based meat technology.



ARCTIC MELT & IDENTITY POLITICS

Exposure

Director: Holly Morris

Eleven ordinary women from the Arab and Western worlds embark on a trek to climate change ground zero, The North Pole, in an unlikely story of strength and perseverance.



LOCALIZED CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Adaptation

Director: Alizé Carrère

A National Geographic explorer travels the world to see how communities on the frontline are adapting to climate change.

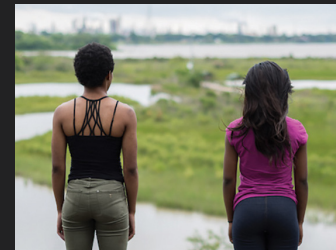


CLIMATE CHANGE & GEOPOLITICS

The Bering Gate

Director: Gabrielle Tenenbaum

Economists and political thinkers weigh the implications of climate change in the Bering Strait, where melting sea ice is unlocking trade routes through the once impassable Arctic.



NATURAL DISASTERS & CREATIVE ACTIVISM

Raising Aniya

Director: John Fiege

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, a young artist finds healing for herself and her community through dance.

A Broad Cultural Approach to Environmental Storytelling

Redford Center Grants funds teams and projects that reflect the historically rich diversity of environmental leaders and movements.

Our grantees tell the stories of indigenous land and water protectors, youth climate strikers, environmental innovators, creative activists, and hard-working everyday people doing extraordinary things to safeguard their families, communities and the Earth's future.

“The entertainment value of documentary films is on the rise, which presents tremendous opportunities to address key inequities within the entertainment industry itself.”

– MELISSA FONDAKOWSKI, DIRECTOR OF REDFORD CENTER GRANTS



Full-Scope Support: Filmmaking for Impact

Funding is just one ingredient for bringing a film project to life. *Redford Center Grants* offers the full scope of support filmmakers need to maximize their impact.

Our grantees gain access to The Redford Center brand, networks, filmmaking expertise, impact model and storytelling approach, with opportunities for tailored advice and feedback well beyond their grant cycle.

Each project receives fast-track consideration for our fiscal sponsorship program, which makes it easier to attract and accept philanthropic support.

Grantees receive travel and accommodations for The Redford Center's Story Summit at Sundance Mountain Resort, our signature kick-off event for each film cohort. Through workshops, presentations, and networking with experts, industry leaders, and other artists, each team builds a community around their project.

Our camera partner, GoPro for a Cause, gifts each team a GoPro camera kit, hosts creative filmmaking workshops and provides ongoing story development support.



“We bring people together at Sundance because of its history as an incubator for game-changing ideas. The canyon’s vibrant energy inspires creativity and grounds us in the beauty and power of everything we’re working to protect.”

– JILL TIDMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE REDFORD CENTER



Program and Grantee Accomplishments



11

women
directors

2

official Sundance
Film Festival
premieres

14

completed
short films

Hundreds of local and regional screenings, including:

Sydney Film Festival
Telluride Mountain Film
Bozeman Film Festival
5Points Film Festival
Media Impact Forum
Climate Education Summit
HotDocs
Hawaiian Airlines
NOAA Science Seminar
DOC NYC
AmDocs

Taos Environmental Film Festival
Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capitol
Coal Ash Stories Series

5

completed
feature
documentaries

2

PBS
broadcasts

2

features slated
for completion
in 2020

Impact Story

Reefs at Risk (short)

2016 Grantee project

Directed by Malina Fagan and Lynn Pelletier



Driven by a deep personal connection to the ocean, Malina Fagan wanted to use her skills as a filmmaker to help preserve marine biodiversity. She created *Reefs At Risk*, a short film that educates audiences about two chemicals commonly found in sunscreens that are known to cause the bleaching and death of coral reefs, which provide critical habitats for ocean life. Her simple solution? Promote the use of zinc sunscreens instead. The directors partnered with Hawaiian Airlines to make the short film available to thousands of beach goers on flights to and from Hawaii as part of a sunscreen awareness campaign. The multi-award-winning film screened before global and influential audiences, including five prime ministers and presidents.

Impact Goal

Enact bans on sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate.

Impact Highlights

May 2018: Hawaii legislature passes ban, becoming a model for policies in other coastal regions.

Feb 2019: City officials in Key West, Florida pass the ban, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Palau, Bonaire, Tahiti and several Mexican cities follow suit.

The New York Times

Hawaii Passes Bill Banning Sunscreen That Can Harm Coral Reefs

The legislation prohibits the distribution of sunscreens containing chemicals that scientists have found contribute to coral bleaching when washed off in the ocean.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Climate and Environment

'We have one reef': Key West bans popular sunscreens to help keep coral alive

Impact Story

Inventing Tomorrow (feature)

2016 Grantee project
Directed by Laura Nix



Laura Nix wasn't sure she wanted to take on a film about the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), arguably the most competitive event in the world for young scientists and one that corporate leaders see as an incubator for world-changing inventions. Beneath the surface, however, another narrative was unfolding — one about youth around the world confronting everyday environmental challenges with grassroots innovations. *Inventing Tomorrow* won the Seattle International Film Festival Grand Jury Prize, aired on POV | PBS in July 2019, was selected as in-flight entertainment on Alaska Airlines and is now available on Amazon Prime.

Impact Goal

Drive increased engagement in STEM fields among young women.

Impact Highlights

Cast member Sahithi Pingali's ISEF prize-winning water testing kit is now receiving support from Citizen Science to expand as a global platform for data sharing to improve access to clean water, a story of youth innovation that is now reaching young mainstream audiences.

THE 18-YEAR-OLD SCIENTIST HELPING BANGALORE'S RESIDENTS SAVE ITS

WATER

SAHITHI PINGALI, STAR OF 'INVENTING TOMORROW,' ON HOW SHE PUT THE FUTURE OF
HER CITY IN HER NEIGHBORS'S HANDS

MTV NEWS STAFF
07/31/2019

Impact Story

Akicita (feature)

2016 Grantee project
Directed by Cody Lucich



The Native American film team behind *Akicita* originally came to Standing Rock to join the indigenous resistance of the Dakota Access Pipeline. But with each passing mainstream report that misrepresented what they were seeing on the ground, they realized they had to do more than bear witness to the truth — they had to capture and share it with the world.

Impact Goal

Expanded resources and capacity-building for indigenous community organizing.

Impact Highlights

An early cut was officially selected for the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, creating focused attention and support for

the only indigenous film team covering Standing Rock. A sustained, multi-faceted impact initiative will launch with the film's official premiere.



Impact Story

Uniontown (short)

2018 Grantee project
Directed by Fraser Jones



Pollution isn't the only toxic element grassroots environmental activists face every day. In places like Alabama's Black Belt region, government inaction can be just as harmful. Although initially planned as a feature-length documentary, the activists featured in *Uniontown* had a more urgent need to get their story out as a tool for community organizing. Today, this short film is not only bringing attention to environmental racism and industrial pollution in communities of color, it is also reenergizing local movements.

Impact Goal

Bolster efforts to remove coal ash from Uniontown landfills and construct a new water treatment plant.

Impact Highlights

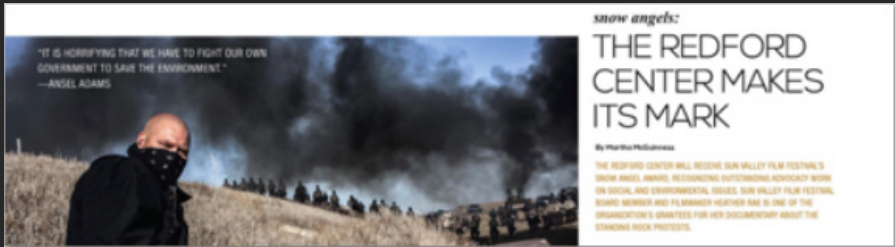
The film is now available on PBS Reel South and Coal Ash Stories, a series curated by Working Films. Community screenings are taking place across the Alabama Black Belt to build grassroots power for environmental justice.

Press and Awards

2017 Sun Valley Film Festival Snow Angel Award

“Our goal is to go beyond just telling a story. We also want to encourage and catalyze action.”

—Jill Tidman, executive director, The Redford Center



“Beyond Environmental Gloom and Doom in the ‘Golden Age’ of Documentary Film”

By Melissa Fondakowski for the **GIA Reader**

Excerpt:

“It’s Friday night. A Netflix subscriber is sitting on their couch, scrolling through an endless feed of entertainment options. They pass by the next episode of Stranger Things, skip over the Marvel movies, shrug at Friday Night Lights. Finally, they land on the latest environmental documentary film release. They grab their blanket and popcorn and eagerly press play. Admittedly, this might be a tough scene to picture. But that doesn’t mean it isn’t a vision that funders and filmmakers should aspire to.”

“Redford Center offers grants, guidance for environmental movies”

SFGATE

“Do You Know More About The ‘Real Housewives’ Than The Environment?”

THE HUFFPOST

“Redford Center Unveils New Grant Program for Aspiring Environmental Filmmakers”

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

“A broader definition of intersectionality took shape for me. And I believe even more that kindness, mission, and project work can all proceed together, interwoven. Back in the office hammering away on the project now. I’m taking solace in the memory of the clear air and raw beauty of Sundance — and the profound reminder that I’m not alone in all this. A community of environmental filmmakers does exist!”

– 2018 SUMMIT PARTICIPANT



Our Advisors

2016-2017

Jannat Gargi, *Vulcan Productions*

Joey Hodges, *Demonstrate PR*

Tina Imahara, *Oscar-nominated Editor*

Simon Kilmurray, *IDA*

Lisa Kleiner-Chanoff, *Catapult Film Fund*

Loira Limbal, *Firelight Media*

Charlie Phillips, *Guardian Docs*

Yoruba Richen, *Promised Land Films, CUNY*

Tom Sebastian, *SWIRL*

Wil Tidman, *GoPro*

Emily Verellen, *Fledgling Fund*

Donald Young, *Center for Asian American Media*

2018-2019

Cheryl Hirasa, *Pacific Islanders in Communications*

Joey Hodges, *Demonstrate PR*

Q'orianka Kilcher, *Actor and Activist*

Simon Kilmurray, *IDA*

Lisa Kleiner-Chanoff, *Catapult Film Fund*

Christopher Neil, *Director*

Charlie Phillips, *Guardian Docs*

Yoruba Richen, *Promised Land Films, CUNY*

Brenda Robinson, *Entertainment Attorney and Co-Founder of
Gamechanger Films*

Brinda Sarathy, *Professor of Environmental Analysis, Pitzer College*

Wil Tidman, *Apple*

Justin Wilkenfeld, *Co-Founder KindHumans*

Donald Young, *Center for Asian American Media*

Our Partners

THE NEW YORK
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Meeting the Urgency of the Moment

The scale of the climate crisis calls for a dramatic increase in the number and diversity of people engaged in environmental action at every level of politics and civil society.

The Redford Center has developed powerful strategic insights over 15 years of producing and supporting films for environmental impact. Today we are bringing all of those learnings to bear to exponentially grow the *Redford Center Grants* program. Our investments over the next decade will support diverse storytellers as they create useful and innovative narrative tools that are engineered for impact. Because where facts alone fall short, a story can move hearts, minds and societies toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

Join us.

Redfordcenter.org