

## **Sundance Institute – Labs, Fellowships, Grants, and Programs**

The following programs and opportunities are organized by the Sundance Institute – many year round – provide support and opportunities for independent storytellers from diverse and underrepresented communities. This information was organized from the Sundance Institute's website.

- **Support for Independent Storytellers**

- The Sundance Institute's artist programs provide dynamic support at every step of the creative journey for individuals with distinct voices in film and episodic storytelling. Each program consists of labs, grants, intensives, sessions, and ongoing resources for artists to nurture their projects and sustain their careers. Through year-round activities, we provide the space for artists to create and share their stories with the world. Since our inception, the Institute's programs have supported more than 11,000 artists and fostered a community for independent storytellers to learn, grow, connect, and give back.

- **Labs, Grants, and Fellowships**

- At the Institute's core is a commitment to champion the creation of unique work by individual storytellers. Through open applications and by invitation, we offer labs, grants, intensives, mentorships with accomplished professionals, and ongoing support to advance the development, production, and completion of independent work. Artists from around the world are encouraged to apply for these programs.

- **Artist Accelerator Program**

- The Artist Accelerator Program offers opportunities for artists to access funding to advance their projects, build their networks, and grow professionally.
- Through yearlong fellowships and scholarship track opportunities, which bring together underrepresented artists working across fiction and nonfiction film and television, the program aims to cultivate creative and professional growth, provide unrestricted artist grants, and bespoke project consultancies.
- The Artist Accelerator Program also engages in industry innovation and field leadership through partnerships and collaborations with artist support organizations, government agencies, and artist collectives.

- **Indigenous Program**

- The Sundance Institute Indigenous Program champions and provides deep support of Indigenous-created stories on a global scale. From labs and fellowships to screenings and gatherings around the world, the program's offerings are designed in response to the specific needs of Native and Indigenous storytellers. Through this work, the Sundance Institute emulates its core values of decolonizing the screen and uplifting the voices of Indigenous artists, recognizing that telling their stories comes with great responsibility and obligation towards Indigenous peoples, communities and their sovereignty.
- The Indigenous Program focuses on the specific development of storytellers from Native and Indigenous backgrounds, encompassing feature film and episodic work. Fellows will receive hands-on support from the Institute and advisors, including one-on-one feedback sessions and roundtable discussions.

- **Equity, Impact, and Belonging**

- Inclusion is one of the core values driving Sundance Institute's work. The Outreach & Inclusion Program encompasses our initiatives across all programs within our organization to deepen engagement with and support of storytellers and audiences across ethnicities, genders, abilities, sexual orientations, and geographic regions.
- In doing so, the Sundance Institute works to increase the diversity of projects submitted for consideration to all Institute programs—including labs, intensives, grants, and the Sundance Film Festival—and to inspire emerging artists to tell their stories.

- **Women At Sundance**

- At a time when women make up 50.8 percent of the U.S. population, just 4.2 percent of the 100 top-grossing American films are made by female directors; and that statistic hasn't changed over the last decade. Sundance Institute has offered unprecedented support to women artists, including groundbreaking women like Euzhan Palcy, Barbara Kopple, Allison Anders, and many more at our earliest labs and Festival.
- The Sundance Institute's dedicated Women at Sundance program began as a partnership with WIF Los Angeles in 2012. Together, the Sundance Institute commissioned groundbreaking research with Dr. Stacy Smith and her team at USC's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative to better understand the key barriers and opportunities for women filmmakers.

- Guided by these findings, Women at Sundance supports filmmakers from historically underrepresented communities — through yearlong Fellowships and shorter intensives — to cultivate career sustainability, build community, and strengthen the artist pipeline.
- The program has catalyzed the growth of women-dominated networks and established a firm awareness among decision-makers and gatekeepers in the industry about the deficit of women behind the camera in independent film and beyond.
- **Catalyst Program**
  - Catalyst introduces prospective financiers to a slate of top-notch, Sundance Institute–supported documentary and fiction projects seeking financing. We aim to build a culture of partnership between independent investors and filmmakers.
  - Catalyst’s filmmaker track offers tailored guidance on how to develop financing plans, build successful investor relationships, and effectively present projects for independent financing. We work with selected filmmakers through a rigorous, custom lab program as they prepare for Catalyst events, and we provide them with continued support throughout the lives of their projects.
- **Ignite Program**
  - Sundance Ignite identifies and supports new voices and talent from the next generation of filmmakers ages 18 to 24 and fosters fresh audiences for independent storytelling.
  - Sundance Ignite hosts several events throughout the year, including the Sundance Ignite x Adobe Fellowship. Hosted on Sundance Collab, the year-long fellowship is aimed at helping emerging filmmakers ages 18–25 hone the projects that they are working on.
- **Utah Community Programming**
  - As a mission-driven nonprofit arts organization that’s rooted in Utah, the Sundance Institute hosts local events and programs year-round that aim to:
    - Connect local audiences to the Sundance Film Festival
    - Introduce local audiences to independent film and immersive media.
    - Explore social issues and stories from around the globe.
    - Unite audiences and cultures through the power of storytelling.

- Share the filmmaker's journey with audiences and emerging filmmakers, including students.
- **Sundance Film Festival: Local Lens**
  - Festival favorites. Free for Locals.
    - Hosted in July for free indoor and outdoor screenings of favorites from previous Sundance Film Festivals.
    - Sundance Institute hosts this exciting 5-day event for local community, including an event for local artists, film intros and Q&As from artists in attendance, and more.
- **Community Access to the Sundance Film Festival**
  - Local Community Organizations Access
    - As a nonprofit the Sundance Institute is committed to increasing the equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility of our programs in our local community. In support of that commitment, we are proud to offer opportunities for local nonprofits and community organizations to access complimentary Festival tickets.
- **Screenings for Students**
  - Festival High School Screenings: Inspire the Next Generation of Storytellers
    - The Sundance Institute | George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation Student Screening Program offers Utah secondary school students the opportunity to participate in one of the world's top film festivals. Free screenings are offered online and in person at Festival venues in Salt Lake City. Films are feature length (1.5–2 hours) and specially curated for students to include content advisories, and Q&As with artists.
    - "Every year, the film we are invited to somehow has many connections to my curriculum. This is so validating to my instruction, showing students that I'm not the only one who cares about this material. It's important to show students that classroom material actually matters to the outside world, and I'm always so grateful for opportunities to make those connections!" Teacher