

Southern Documentary Fund

P.O. Box 3622

Durham

NC 27701-3622

Kristy Breneman

Artist Development Director

Mission:

Southern Documentary Fund (SDF) is a nonprofit arts organization that cultivates documentary projects made in or about the American South. Inspired by our core belief that documentaries have the power to change lives and communities, we serve as a leading advocate for powerful Southern storytelling, providing filmmakers with professional support, grants, and fiscal sponsorship. SDF has sponsored over 150 projects that have inspired audiences around the globe with authentic stories that matter.

Project Name: AFI Docs Film Festival

City: Washington D.C.

State: DC

ZIP: 20408

Website: <https://docs.afi.com/>

Project Summary:

SDF's Artist Development Director, Kristy Breneman will attend the AFI Docs Film Festival in Washington, DC and participate in industry panels, networking sessions, and partnership discussions.

Start Date – End Date: 6/22/2021 6/27/2021

Total Expenses: \$2371

Amount of Request: \$1000

Budget:

Transportation Mileage (Raleigh, NC to Washington, DC): \$310

In-town transportation : \$130

Per diem @ \$50 per day/6 days: \$300

Lodging: \$1356 (\$226 for 6 nights)

Industry Festival Pass: \$275

Total: \$2371

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Narrative:

Based in Durham, North Carolina, the Southern Documentary Fund (SDF) was founded in 2002 by two documentary filmmakers with a vision to create a home for Southern storytellers. SDF became the first arts nonprofit dedicated to support documentary makers in the American South, filling a substantial gap in services locally and within the region. Over the past decade, SDF has become an integral partner with veteran and emerging documentary filmmakers across our region, helping artists direct their lenses at powerful Southern stories and issues of significance. The work of SDF artists covers a diverse spectrum of topics - civil rights, the environment, history, and the arts - and, increasingly, is being recognized as effective tools for social change, education, and community impact & development. We are an inclusive organization whose focus has broadened to better support underserved and emerging makers that reside in the South. SDF is passionate about providing our artists with opportunities for professional growth, offering support and programming that connects them to the resources necessary to hone their skills, complete their projects, and exhibit them widely. As a leading advocate for documentary culture in the Southeast, SDF forges relationships between our regional makers and industry professionals around the country. Since our founding, SDF has sponsored over 150 independent documentaries. SDF's yearly convening has been an important touchstone for makers, mentors, impact partners, and distributors to exchange ideas and build partnerships nationwide and within our region. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have embraced technology that allows SDF to continue and even expand its role as a hub for the documentary and storytelling community that we serve.

SDF's primary goal is to support our makers in every aspect of filmmaking with the intent of lowering barriers to entry for Southern makers. As Kristy develops in her role as Artist Development Director, gaining additional exposure to the documentary industry will result in the formation of new connections and relationships that provide an integral network to all of SDF's makers, as well as an increased understanding of the documentary distribution landscape beyond finances. We chose to focus on the AFI Docs Film Festival as it is out of SDF's comfort zone within the Southern film circuit. By travelling to Washington, D.C., Kristy will find resources outside of our region that can be brought back to the South. Additionally, she will play an important role in helping to bring Southern stories to National awareness. America's story can't accurately be told without the American South being a central piece. The South is underrepresented in documentary film, and the media that does exist lacks diversity, accurate representation, and access to distribution, particularly among the makers of documentary film.

The Artist Development Director is responsible for advancing and upholding SDF's mission, values and goals. The AD is responsible for oversight of the organization's day-to-day operations and programming activities, in collaboration with its committed staff, board, filmmakers, and stakeholders. As the chief architect in an evolving organization, the AD leads the development and implementation of strategic plans to ensure SDF's capacity to thrive in accordance with its mission. A key component of fulfilling this role will be for Kristy to establish herself as a recognizable and effective leader of Southern documentary film within the larger documentary community.

Film Festivals are a vital part of the film community. They provide a space for independent work to be seen, community discussions to be had, and for industry professionals to discuss the current state of the industry. It's been a year since these gatherings have taken place, and June will be the first opportunity for documentary makers to gather in person. The AFI Docs Film Festival offers SDF a unique opportunity to connect audiences with inspiring documentarians, film subjects, national opinion leaders, public policy experts and change-makers. With insightful screenings, industry panels and creative workshops, the festival harnesses the power of this important art form and its potential to inspire social change. Through organic conversations and participation in all scheduled events, Kristy aims to build SDF's network of industry leaders, have SDF's brand be present and recognized, gain knowledge and insight on current landscape of documentary filmmaking, and secure outside resources for our Southern filmmaking community. She hopes to expand SDF's strategies for film distribution by comparing various film platforms; brainstorm new ideas for designing and implementing impact campaigns and community engagement for documentary makers and marketers; and meet makers outside of the South who will be potential mentors to our Southern makers.