Independence Public Media Foundation Announces 71 Grants Totaling $8.9 Million

PHILADELPHIA, August 2, 2022—The Independence Public Media Foundation (IPMF) announces grants totaling $8.9 million for community-centered, BIPOC-led media organizations and projects in the Philadelphia region.

In total, the foundation awarded 71 grants to organizations and projects working in the areas of community media-making ($3.2 million), narrative shift around violence and community safety ($3.14 million), filmmaking ($783,000), digital equity ($740,000), and journalism ($726,000).

“These grants represent the majority of IPMF’s grantmaking for the year, while the foundation takes some time to reflect on what we’ve learned in our first three years as an organization, and hone our vision for media making that fights for racial equity and justice,” said IPMF President Molly de Aguiar.

Highlights of the grants include:

**Narrative Shift: Policing, Violence, and Community Safety**

IPMF is committed to dismantling racist media that endorses state-sponsored violence against communities of color. In 2019 IPMF awarded Movement Alliance Project (MAP), Free Press, and the Media, Inequality & Change Center (MIC) each a three-year grant to organize journalists, researchers, newsrooms and community members in an effort to reshape narratives around policing, trauma, safety, and crime in Philadelphia.

This “Shift the Narrative Coalition” has produced original research, lifted up community voices, and pushed local journalism to “defund the crime beat,” as just a few examples of this pioneering collaboration. IPMF is providing continued support, with three-year, $1 million grants each to MAP, Free Press, and MIC Center.

Related grants include:

- **Freedom Constellations** was awarded $20,000 to hold community story-telling and media making workshops with 17-25 year-old youth leaders across Philadelphia. These workshops will culminate with a citywide series of interactive wheatpaste installations, poster campaigns, temporary murals, and a monumental interactive installation on government buildings that collectively imagine a future Philadelphia where all youth are safe, healthy, free, and thriving.

- **Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity** received a $10,000 grant to support a video series that involves the filming of individuals and families who have had (or are seeking to have) their records expunged.
Support for Community Storytelling

Community-led media-making is a critical way for communities to build power as they fight for justice and change.

As a key community media partner, Scribe Video Center was awarded a three-year, $1.4 million grant to support their operations, programming, and re-granting for Philadelphia media-makers, while another key partner, PhillyCAM, was awarded $300,000 for general operating support.

In addition, IPMF awarded a total of $1.8 million to community storytelling projects and organizations such as Al Bustan Seeds of Culture ($75,000), an Arab arts and language organization that is creating a multimedia room for community members to produce arts and culture reportage focused on Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) communities in the Philadelphia area.

IPMF awarded $570,000 in renewed grants to community radio and grassroots podcasting projects such as RadioCATA ($50,000), a New Jersey-based farmworker-run radio station by Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas (CATA), that is a source of information, entertainment, and education for the Latino immigrant community.

Highlights of grants for digital equity, film, and journalism include:

- **The Welcoming Center** received a $45,000 renewal grant to improve digital literacy and help narrow the digital divide among immigrants in Philadelphia who are English Language Learners, by combining English language instruction with digital literacy and workforce development.

- **BlackStar** was awarded a three-year, $600,000 grant for continued support of their Local Filmmaker Lab. The Lab supports artists (or collectives) through a production lab fellowship that makes equipment, space, crew, mentorship, funding and critical feedback available to emerging and mid-career filmmakers based in Philadelphia, in addition to expanding job opportunities for BIPOC film crews throughout Philadelphia.

- **The Delaware Local News Initiative** was awarded $80,000 for continued support with strengthening the news ecosystem in Delaware and increasing voices and coverage of underrepresented communities, particularly BIPOC and low-income communities, by creating a pipeline of BIPOC journalists, identifying geographic and demographic news deserts, and building infrastructure to address news and information needs.

Read IPMF President Molly de Aguiar’s mid-year update.

Click [HERE](#) to see a full listing of all 71 grants.
About Independence Public Media Foundation
The Independence Public Media Foundation funds and supports creative, community-centered media and media making across Greater Philadelphia. The Foundation’s goals reflect an expansive definition of media, including journalism, digital equity, and creative expression, as a pathway for building power with communities. Through grant-making and other programs, IPMF supports building and strengthening networks of people who are creating and sharing information, ideas, and stories for justice and change.

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