

Doc_Commune 2023-24

A space for non-fiction filmmakers



After the successful completion of the first year of Doc_Commune, we are now back with an exciting new year of the program, with more opportunities for young filmmakers!

Doc_Commune is a space for documentary filmmakers. It fosters a process of engagement that helps filmmakers to grow not just their ideas into projects, but also their own understanding of the larger world of documentaries.

It encourages an enriching flow of feedback, discussions and conversations about projects with seasoned mentors and between peers.

The documentary eco-system has changed drastically over the years. As a non-profit with a mandate to empower independent filmmaking,

Doc_Commune is our endeavour at creating a supportive environment for younger filmmakers.

In the 2nd year of the program, we will focus on four things:

1

Focussed Mentoring

on specific topics that come across as challenges for most young filmmakers

2

Peer Learning

by creating opportunities for filmmakers to interact with each other

3

Building a Community

by facilitating friendships and creative partnerships between filmmakers from different backgrounds

4


Commissioning

at least 8 non-fiction shorts

A stack of papers is the central focus, with the top sheet featuring the title 'The Call' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The stack is surrounded by several strips of film, some of which are coiled into loops. The background is a light, neutral color, and the overall composition is a close-up shot with soft lighting.

The Call

Wondrich & Co. Inc.
1000 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10003
Tel. (212) 691-1234



We invite filmmakers who are under the age of 35 to apply. We look forward to reading about your ideas that you'd like to develop into projects.

Doc_Commune will help you understand better how to develop your ideas into proposals and pitches that are successful. It'll take you through the process of thinking through an idea, and understanding grant requirements. It'll challenge you to think of the best way to tell your story, and to find newer ways to reach your audience.

We seek applicants who represent a diversity of experiences, perspectives and creative processes, and who are open to having their ideas challenged and to incorporating new creative feedback.

PSBT has always been keenly supportive of new filmmakers, and that interest continues.

What you'll be signing up for:

1. Mentoring Period:

Between April and June 2023, selected mentees will be expected to attend 12 sessions on various aspects of nonfiction filmmaking.

They will also participate in presentations to each other in groups - a peer-learning exercise to think their ideas through.

2. Application and Project Selection Period:

By the end of June 2023, all selected mentees will have the opportunity to apply for at least 8 filmmaking grants of Rs 2 lakhs each.

The grants are meant for nonfiction shorts between 3 to 10 minutes.

The projects commissioned could be shorts in themselves, or pitch trailers for longer projects that filmmakers want to develop.

By August 2023, decisions on the 8 projects will be taken and the selected filmmakers will be informed.

3. Production Period:

Filmmakers will be expected to complete their productions between September 2023 - December 2023.

4. Submission Period:

Selected Filmmakers will submit their shorts to PSBT, along with the censor certificate between January - February 2024.

Guidelines:

Applicants need to be less than 35 years of age as of March 31st, 2023.

Applicants have to be open to the idea of discussions with other mentees about each other's projects.

Applicants will be expected to attend mentoring sessions, which will be taken by senior filmmakers and other experts from the documentary world.

If selected for the filmmaking grant, filmmakers will be expected to adhere to the film making and submission timelines.

Those selected for the filmmaking grant must be residents of India, with an Indian PAN card and bank account.

We are looking for filmmakers from diverse backgrounds and encourage filmmakers from marginalised communities to apply.

Last date for applying: February 10th, 2023.

Intimation to selected mentees: March 15th, 2023.

Doc_Commune begins in April 2023.

To apply, please click the link below:
<https://forms.gle/9hqdjTHbPd2djk6Z7>

For any clarifications or questions, please write to: doc_commune@psbt.org.
No calls to the PSBT office will be entertained.



PSBT is a unique success story in **mentoring, funding** and **empowering** the production of **independent documentaries**, to **critical acclaim** around the world.

Established through a tripartite partnership between PSBT, the Ford Foundation and Prasar Bharati in 2000, it has been a significant stake-holder in the independent documentary movement in India.

The Public Service Broadcasting Trust has been creating and sustaining a credible space for story telling through the moving image, which is independent, participatory, pluralistic and democratic, distanced from commercial imperatives and state / political pressures.

Given the already challenging circumstances of non-fiction filmmaking in India, made worse by the pandemic, PSBT felt the necessity to talk to documentary filmmakers and understand the gaps that exist in the non-fiction space. While interacting with multiple stake-holders (including young filmmakers) during a scoping exercise, we found the need for a space that acts as a community which young filmmakers can turn to for guidance and help in their journeys with their projects. Doc_Commune emerged to fill this need.