



Nurturing the Documentary

Doc_Commune

2024-25



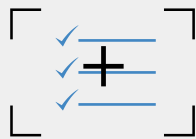
A
space for
non-fiction
filmmakers

After two exciting years, Doc_Commune is now back with more opportunities for young filmmakers!

Doc_Commune is a space for documentary filmmakers. It fosters a process of engagement with selected filmmakers, that helps them to grow not just their ideas into projects, but also themselves. 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 3rd 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



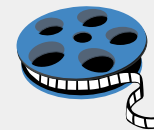
2. Peer Learning

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



We invite applications from filmmakers under the age of 35. 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. The process will 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.

THE CALL

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a clapperboard. The hand has red nail polish and is wearing a dark grey sweater. The clapperboard has a black top bar with white diagonal stripes. The main body of the clapperboard is white and contains the text "WHAT YOU'LL BE SIGNING UP FOR" in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. The background is a blurred, warm-toned wall.

**WHAT YOU'LL
BE SIGNING
UP FOR**



1. Mentoring Period

Between April and June 2024, selected mentees will be expected to attend at least 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.



3. Production Period

Filmmakers will be expected to complete their productions between September 2023 - December 2024.



2. Application and Selection of Project Period

By July 2024, all selected mentees will have the opportunity to apply for 8 filmmaking grants of Rs 2 lakhs each.

The grants will be given to make non-fiction shorts that are at least 10 minutes long.

By the end of August 2024, decisions on the projects will be taken and the selected filmmakers will be informed.



4. Submission Period

Filmmakers will submit their shorts to PSBT, along with the censor certificate between January - February 2025.



- ▶ Applicants need to be less than 35 years of age as of March 31st, 2024.

- ▶ 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.

GUIDELINES

A hand is holding a strip of film that has been unspooled. The film is dark with white sprocket holes. Overlaid on the film is white text. The background is a blurred image of a person's face.

Last date for applying: January 10th, 2024

Intimation to selected mentees: February 28th, 2024

Doc_Commune begins in April 2024

To apply, please [click here](#)

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 & 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 stakeholder 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 stakeholders (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.