



JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

2017 Annual Report

STORIES WE SHARED

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Our Year Together

Thank you for helping to make 2017 another special year in the life of the Jacob Burns Film Center. Throughout the annual report, you will find just a sample of memorable moments from a most memorable year. From welcoming JBFC Board member Steven Spielberg and his powerfully relevant film *The Post* to empowering and supporting 14 Creative Culture fellows and inspiring more than 100 teachers who are integrating viewing and creating media into their classroom culture through **Image, Sound, and Story**, we shared remarkable experiences.

On the following page, you will find a rundown of a random day in the life of the Jacob Burns Film Center from 2017. April 26 is a vibrant illustration of our commitment to enriching and engaging all members of our community. On this particular day, students, teachers, filmmakers, change makers, and audience members experienced the power, promise, and sheer delight of visual storytelling. The activities on April 26 represent what happens on our campus EVERY day, thanks to our donors, members, faculty, staff, and volunteers. We look forward to inviting you to upcoming “days in the life” so you have an opportunity to experience your support in action. Without you, we would not have a thriving campus filled with people of all ages eager to share stories from around the world and learn to tell their own.

We are creating meaningful (and very busy) days that grow into extraordinary years. Thank you for helping to make so much possible. We will continue to write the JBFC story—together.



Janet Benton
Chair



Lynn Sobel
Vice Chair



Edie Demas
Executive Director

A Day in the Life of the JBFC: April 26, 2017

This is one example of a typical day at the JBFC.

○ See Hear Feel Film

9:30–11:30 | JBFC Media Arts Lab

Third graders from Paideia 24 Yonkers actively viewed and discussed two short films and practiced thinking like filmmakers. **See Hear Feel Film's** creative collaboration and active viewing influenced the new media making components of **Image, Sound, and Story** for third grade teachers and their students.

○ Power of Story: Nurturing Your Imagination

9:30–12:30 | JBFC Media Arts Lab

In an encouraging learning environment, college students and adults are inspired to create stories through clips from classic films, photographs, and poetry.

○ Classroom to Screening Room

10:00–12:00 | JBFC Theater

Students from New Rochelle and Sleepy Hollow High Schools experienced *Looking @ Refugees & Immigration in Film & Media*, a program of short films that focus on the plight of vulnerable populations worldwide. Following the screenings, the students participated in a Q&A with 2017 Greenhouse Artists-in-Residence Ayse Toprak (Turkey), Ekin Çalışır (Turkey), Sara Nacer (Algeria), and Laura Bustillos (Mexico).

○ See Hear Feel Film

12:00–2:00 | JBFC Media Arts Lab

Third graders from Oakside Peekskill actively viewed and discussed two short films and practiced thinking like filmmakers. **See Hear Feel Film's** creative collaboration and active viewing influenced the new media making components of **Image, Sound, and Story** for third grade teachers and their students.

ALL THIS, ALONG WITH 14 SCREENINGS OF REGULARLY SCHEDULED FILMS—*Gifted, Colossal, The Lost City of Oz, The Zookeeper's Wife, Their Finest*—IN OUR FIVE-SCREEN THEATER!

○ Cinemania

3:30–5:00 | JBFC Media Arts Lab

In this after-school program, seventh and eighth graders explore the adolescent experience through films from around the world. Weekly meetings include a film screening, interactive discussion, and writing film reviews under the guidance of film studies faculty. The program nurtures an appreciation for the cinema arts, provides an introduction to film language, fosters self-expression, and expands students' worldview.

○ Experiments in Media

4:00–5:00 | JBFC Media Arts Lab

Third and fourth graders create many hands-on projects using the state-of-the-art tools at the Lab.

○ Creators' Co-op

4:30–6:30 | JBFC Media Arts Lab

High school students deepen their craft through a variety of workshops, create original projects in collaborative crews, receive support to bring individual projects to life, and take advantage of the Lab's facilities and equipment.

○ Sbitar

5:00 | JBFC Theater

This special screening was followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Othmane Balafrej via Skype. (*Part of Greenhouse 2017: Emerging Documentary Voices from the Middle East and North Africa.*)

○ Works-in-Progress Screening

7:30 | JBFC Theater

This special screening of *Mr. Gay Syria* (Ekin Çalışır and Ayse Toprak, Turkey) and *La Roqueuse du Desert* (Laura Bustillos, Mexico, and Sara Nacer, Algeria) was followed by Q&A with the filmmakers and 2017 Greenhouse Artists-in-Residence. (*Part of Greenhouse 2017: Emerging Documentary Voices from the Middle East and North Africa.*)



Lynda Shenkman



Lynda Shenkman



Some Memorable Moments from a Most Memorable Year

Introducing Creative Culture

We celebrated the launch of Creative Culture, which supports fellows and artists-in-residence, on March 9 with a premiere of short films by the eight emerging filmmakers who participated in the pilot class. The program was followed by a reception and an exhibition that featured costumes, puppets, and other behind-the-scenes artifacts from the films.

Delicious Food and Films

On June 19, we launched Film to Table, a new series for film lovers and foodies, which includes six programs and events throughout 2017–18. The opening night was a New Orleans celebration, featuring the film *Ella Brennan: Commanding the Table* followed by a Q&A and a reception with southern/Caribbean cuisine from the acclaimed New Rochelle restaurant Alvin & Friends.

Amplifying Image, Sound, and Story

For the third year in a row, on June 27–28, we participated in the Turnaround Arts Leadership Retreat. Under the stewardship of the Kennedy Center, Turnaround Arts is a national initiative to invigorate and revitalize the lowest-performing schools in the country through arts instruction and integration. JBFC's Emily Keating and Aaron Mace presented a workshop on "viewing and doing," which highlighted elements of our innovative **Image, Sound, and Story** media arts curriculum.



Lynda Shenkman



Lynda Shenkman

“

After the passing of our dear friend Jonathan, it took me some time to come back. When I did, I saw *Stop Making Sense* in his honor. The film was beyond words and the reception following the screening was great. There were tears and conversation. Jacob Burns is and always will be a beacon for the arts worldwide.

—Kenneth Dinkel, *JBFC member*

”

Celebrating Jonathan

Independent theaters across the country presented Jonathan Demme’s 1984 seminal concert documentary, *Stop Making Sense*, on July 19. The JBFC organized this nationwide screening in celebration of the Academy Award–winning filmmaker, who passed away on April 26, 2017. We also presented “Celebrating Jonathan Demme,” a multimedia exhibition held in the Jane Peck Gallery from June 29 through Sept. 12. Jonathan was a former Board member, a longtime curator, and a very dear friend.

A Triumphant Debut

Greta Gerwig, the writer and director of *Lady Bird*, discussed the making of her film about mother-daughter love (and angst) with JBFC Board President Janet Maslin on Nov. 20 following a special preview screening of this beloved coming-of-age tale.

[CLICK HERE](#) for some of their conversation.

An Evening with Steven Spielberg

Following a preview screening of *The Post* on Dec. 10, JBFC Board member and legendary Academy Award–winning director Steven Spielberg joined us for a conversation hosted by JBFC Board President Janet Maslin.



Lynda Shenkman



Lynda Shenkman

While we shared many memorable moments this past year, we also experienced significant loss.

Marty Gold, Jonathan Demme, and David Swope were involved in the JBFC from the very beginning. They shared a passion for our mission and contagious enthusiasm for our film and media education programs. And they loved coming to the Burns! It was their home away from home—Marty, Jonathan, and David were the ultimate “regulars.” It’s not the same without them. However, their wisdom, boundless energy, friendship, and unfailing support will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

Remembering Marty, Jonathan, and David



Marty Gold

JAN. 1936–FEB. 2017

JBFC Board Member,
Treasurer, and Chair of the
Finance Committee, 2014–17



Jonathan Demme

FEB. 1944–APRIL 2017

Curator and Host, Rarely
Seen Cinema, 2005–17

Curator and Host,
Saddle Up Saturdays,
2016–17

JBFC Board Member,
2006–15



David Swope

SEPT. 1941–JAN. 2018

JBFC Board Member,
2000–14

Chairman of the Board,
2009–14

Chairman Emeritus, 2014–18



Celebrating Cinema, Exploring Our World

“

We really love the Jacob Burns for the wide variety of films that are screened. We especially like the various film series, as they provide an opportunity to get an understanding of other cultures—and how universal certain life experiences are.

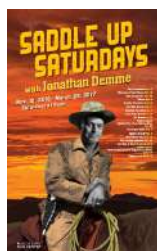
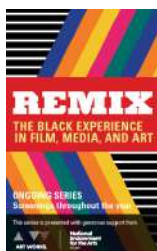
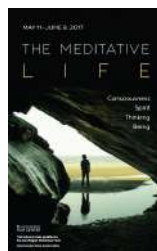
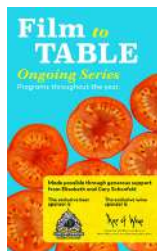
—Mara & Louis Winokur
JBFC members

Movies have the ability to show us what we can't see for ourselves and take us anywhere we're brave enough to go. We will continue to evolve and grow as an institution and a community as we explore the world through the incredible window of film.

—BRIAN ACKERMAN
Founding Director of Programming

”

Annual Series



In 2017, we launched three exciting new series:



Life on the Stage: Conversation and Film

Through this new series, our audience gets a peek behind the curtain at live performances. We kicked things off on May 1 with *Best Worst Thing That Ever Could Have Happened*, a documentary that chronicles the exciting rise and disastrous fall of the first production of Stephen Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*, which closed after just 16 performances in 1981. After the screening, Tony-nominated and Emmy-winning actress Liz Callaway, who made her Broadway debut in *Merrily*, and filmmaker Lonny Price, who also starred in the ill-fated production, spoke in a conversation moderated by Tony-winning Broadway producer and Emmy-winning director Dori Berinstein. Life on the Stage is presented in partnership with The Actors Fund.



Film to Table

This delicious series brings our community together to celebrate great cinema and cuisine. We kicked off Film to Table on June 19 with a New Orleans celebration, featuring the film *Ella Brennan: Commanding the Table*. The screening was followed by a Q&A with Alvin Clayton of the beloved New Rochelle restaurant Alvin & Friends and a reception with rousing live music at the Media Arts Lab. Subsequent programs matched such delectable films as *Big Night* and *Eat Drink Man Woman* with esteemed chefs and their creations. Film to Table is made possible thanks to the generous support of Elisabeth and Gary Schonfeld.

[CLICK HERE](#) for some of the conversation.



Senior Afternoon Cinema

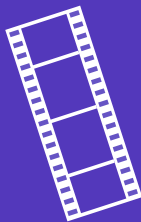
Due to popular demand, we launched a daytime series of classic films for senior citizens on Sept. 12 with *Mrs. Henderson Presents*. Starring Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins, the film is about Laura Henderson's London performance hall, which went down in history for, among other things, all-nude revues. Films are presented once a month on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. Westchester Library System is the community partner of Senior Afternoon Cinema. The series is sponsored by The Knolls, a Bethel community.

With 405 films from 48 countries, there was something for everyone at the JBFC in 2017.

For a complete list of films, [CLICK HERE](#).

8,721

Westchester Jewish
Film Festival attendees

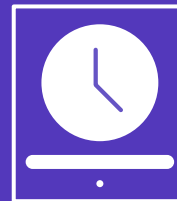


16 FILMS

shown in 35mm

=

158,600 FEET
of film



34,163

hours clocked
by theater staff



**Halloween Movie
Marathon attendees**

80 of whom made it
through all 12 hours.

— **2017** —
Fabulous Facts

**Shortest
film shown:**

Mr. Night Has A Day Off
(2 MINUTES)

**Longest
film shown:**

O.J.: Made in America
(467 MINUTES)

**30 black-and-
white films**

Sacred (The Meditative Life) was shot by
40 filmmaking teams around the world and
includes **17 different languages**, including:

Arabic	Hebrew	Polish
Burmese	Japanese	Punjabi
French	Marathi	Spanish
Haitian Creole	Nepalese	Tagalog

405 FILMS X 5 SCREENS
x 365 DAYS = 7,926
SCREENINGS



The **JBFC Curated Collection** at
the Mt. Pleasant Public Library
began in 2009 with 213 titles. It's
now at **696 titles, and counting!**



**43 languages
spoken**

on our five screens,
including Amharic, Creole,
Darija, Krio, Malagasy,
Pashtu, Swedish, and Urdu

Special Guests, Special Moments

Just some of the 170 filmmakers, artists, musicians, authors, and activists who entertained, educated, and moved us this year.

Steve Apkon
Alec Baldwin¹
Joe Berlinger
Dori Berinstein²
Christian Borle³
Bernardo Britto
Peter Buffett
Nancy Buirski
Bruni Burres
Liz Callaway⁴
Mitchell Cannold
Alvin Clayton²¹
Charles Cohen
Eleanor Coppola⁵
Marshall Crenshaw
Dave Davidson
Clive Davis⁶
Dave DiBari
Frederick Elmes
Stephen Frears⁷
Lauren Friedman
Scott Freiman

Ja'Tovia Gary¹¹
Greta Gerwig⁸
Karenna Gore⁹
Mark Harris
David Harris
Fred Hersch
Amy Hobby
Mike Holober
Alphonso Horne
Quartet
Amy Irving
James Ivory¹⁰
Kirsten Johnson
Mark Kaufman
Anna Kendrick¹⁸
Michael Koskoff
Peter Kunhardt
Diane Lane¹⁴
John W. Marshall
Martin McDonagh¹³
John Nonna
John Pizzarelli²²

Hugh B. Price¹²
Lonny Price
Peter Pucci
Kelly Reichardt¹⁶
Peter Reynolds
Sam Rockwell¹⁷
Steven Rogers²³
Laura Rossi
Esmeralda Santiago¹⁵
Stephen Schiff
Joan Micklin Silver²⁴
Lois Smith²⁰
Steven Spielberg¹⁹
Terell Stafford Quintet
David Stern
Fisher Stevens
Ned Sullivan
Wendy Whelan
Sigal Yehuda
...and many more!



[CLICK HERE](#) to see more of our special guests.



2017

Fabulous Facts

Our guests came from many walks of life:

- 58 filmmakers
- 18 local and national nonprofit leaders
- 16 producers
- 16 poets and writers
- 12 musicians and composers
- 10 actors
- 7 dancers and choreographers
- 5 scholars
- 5 film subjects
- 5 business leaders
- 2 chefs
- 2 curators
- 4 government officials and politicians
- 2 editors
- 1 diplomat
- 1 visual artist
- 1 podcast team

“

You continue to provide an affirming venue for LGBTQ voices to be heard and understood. The screening of *Real Boy* gave a platform to the very real issues and challenges trans people face and created a safe space to process important information and have meaningful conversations.

—The LOFT: *LGBT Community Center*

Being Jewish, we have a special place in our hearts for the Jewish Film Festival—though these stories are really universal. One of us is a third-generation American, but the other’s parents were immigrants and Holocaust survivors. In today’s crazy political world, we lose sight of what immigrants contribute to our country.

—Roberta & Joseph Rosenblum, *JBFC members and donors*

We always feel smarter after seeing films in the Contemporary Arab Cinema series. These thought-provoking films and discussions go way beyond the realm of our daily news diet. The series is an important contribution to a balanced understanding of what’s going on in the world.

—Patricia & Stephen Pickering, *JBFC members*

”



Inspiring Students, Sparkling Creativity

“

Just as a life-changing story stays with you forever, the gift of the JBFC's education programs will continue to shape the future, allowing children to become masters of visual literacy.

—Tara O'Gorman
*5th grade teacher, Casimir
Pulaski School, Yonkers*

We are committed to enabling a generation of students to be equipped and inspired to fully participate in—and contribute to—our digitally and visually connected world. Our programs span pre-K–adulthood, with each step providing opportunities to view, create, and connect.

—EMILY KEATING
Director of Education

”

Programs for Schools and Community Organizations

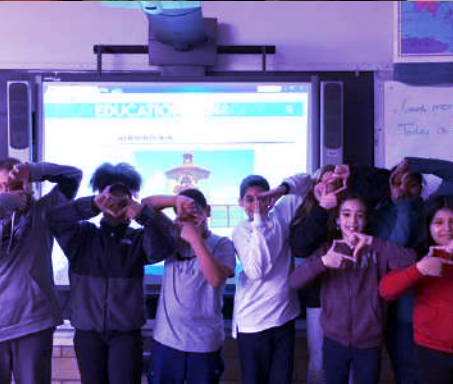
Image, Sound, and Story

Since 2001, the Jacob Burns Film Center has been dedicated to changing lives through visual storytelling. This mission has guided us as we've developed and implemented media education programs for more than 150,000 students throughout Westchester County and beyond. For years, teachers have asked us for help "meeting students where they are" by making learning more relevant. We have the content, the process, and the platform to help every classroom reflect the creativity, innovation, and critical thinking we celebrate at the Media Arts Lab.

You know the phrase "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." This is the guiding vision behind **Image, Sound, and Story**. We provide teachers with the resources, training, and support to connect their students to the visual culture.

Image, Sound, and Story is rooted in professional development. Teachers learn how to empower their students to view, discuss, interpret, and respond critically to short media pieces from around the world, create their own work inspired by what they've seen, and review and revise that work with feedback from peers. Three elements—viewing, creating, and connecting—are the pillars of **Image, Sound, and Story**.





The curriculum consists of a series of projects that are guided by the JBFC's Learning Framework, each one based upon a literacy concept:



After teachers complete the **Image, Sound, and Story** training, the JBFC supports them with ongoing mentorship, technical assistance, newsletters, and cohort meetings where they can share successes and challenges with fellow teachers. We also provide opportunities for students and teachers to experience our campus through hands-on workshops and special screenings followed by discussions with JBFC faculty, filmmakers, and nonprofit leaders. All campus experiences are enhanced by pre- and post-visit activities.

Currently, **Image, Sound, and Story** is available to teachers in grades 3–12. The curriculum will eventually expand to reach pre-K–12.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

“

The Image, Sound, and Story curriculum has brought depth and texture to my classes, giving students a more refined lens through which to experience all types of visual media, and giving them more techniques for their own storytelling.

—Johanna Mustacchi, *media & communications teacher,*
Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, Croton-on-Hudson

”



Lynda Shenkman



Paige Grand Pré

Classroom to Screening Room

Screenings of feature films and shorts followed by discussions with JBFC faculty, filmmakers, and other special guests offer a rewarding interdisciplinary experience. Students encounter film as an art form while exploring its connection to social, economic, and cultural forces.

Cinemanía

Through this after-school program, seventh and eighth graders explore the adolescent experience through films from around the world. Weekly meetings include a film screening, interactive discussion, and writing film reviews under the guidance of film studies faculty.

“

As we returned to New Rochelle and in the following days, the students spoke appreciatively of the chance to participate. Particularly important for these students was the forum that you created in which they could hear directly from four young female filmmakers about the art of making movies and breaking boundaries in their native countries. For our diverse students who hail from a wide variety of backgrounds, I believe it is this message which may shine most beyond the day's events.

—Eric Katz, global & US history teacher, New Rochelle High School

”



Courses at the Media Arts Lab for Kids, Teens, and Adults

In 2017, the Jacob Burns Film Center offered nearly 560 students of all ages innovative programs in new media, documentary and fiction film production, screenwriting, animation, and so much more.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see all that the Media Arts Lab has to offer

“

Working as we did to learn new skills and then put them to creative use was not only incredibly enjoyable and satisfying, but it has given me the confidence to know that I will be able to do this again and again and keep getting better.

—Crafting the Documentary student

”



Maia Buljeta



Paige Grand Pré



Lynda Stenckman



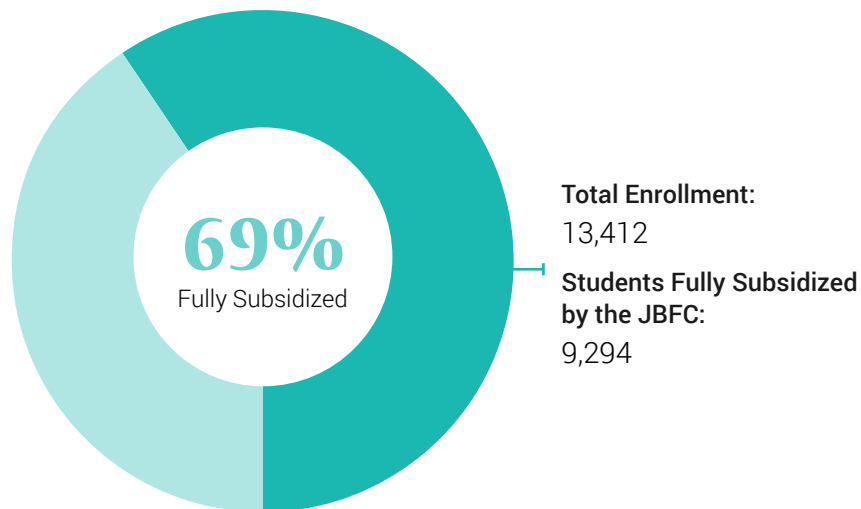
Melissa Mace



Maia Buljeta

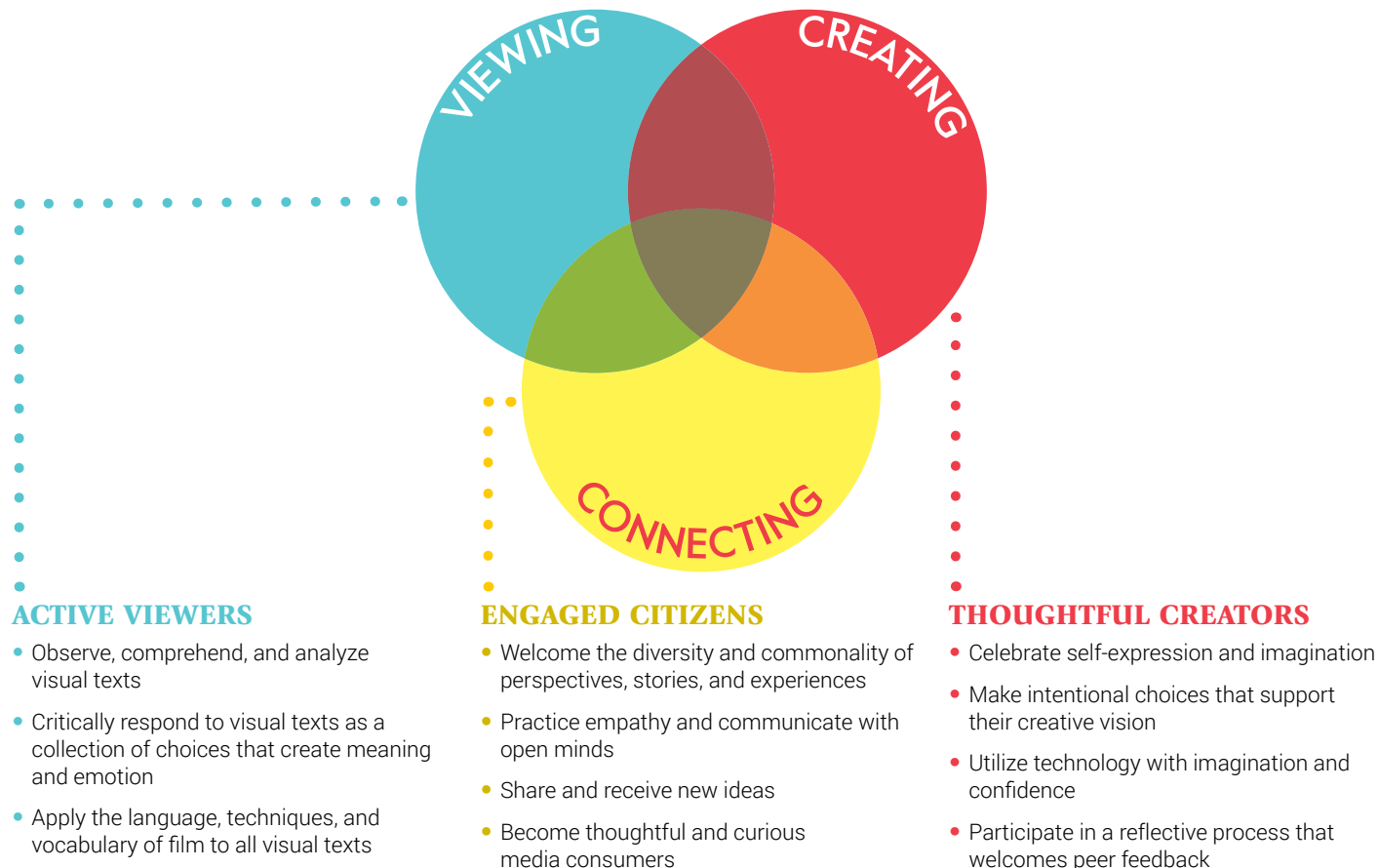
We Continue to Make a Lasting Impact on the Community

The JBFC waives the participation fee and reimburses transportation costs for schools where at least 35% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Scholarships are available for every course at the Media Arts lab.



Teaching and Learning Philosophy

JBFC media education programs connect teachers and students through unique viewing and creating experiences.



— 2017 — Fabulous Facts

3,310 middle
and high school
students viewed **18**
DIFFERENT FILMS
through Classroom
to Screening Room.

217 teachers
participated in
professional
development programs.



30 high school students
participated in the
24 Hour Film Challenge.



Through Cinemania
nearly 90 7th and 8th
graders viewed 27 films
from **14 countries**
including India, Germany,
China, Italy, Saudi Arabia,
Uganda, and France.

180 buses
full of students
rolled in and out
of our campus,
all paid for by the
JBFC community.

Students
were treated to
19,098
bags of popcorn.



186
projects were
produced in
classes at the Lab.



2017 Education Partners

Alexander Hamilton High School, Elmsford, NY

Alice E. Grady Elementary School, Elmsford, NY

Anne M. Dorner Middle School, Ossining, NY

Birch School, Rock Tavern, NY

Blue Mountain Middle School, Cortlandt, NY

Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester,
Mt. Kisco, NY

Bronxville Elementary School, Bronxville, NY

Brookside School, Ossining, NY

Casimir Pulaski School, Yonkers, NY

Cecil H. Parker Elementary School,
Mt. Vernon, NY

Charter School of Educational Excellence,
Yonkers, NY

Church Street Elementary School, White Plains, NY

Claremont Elementary School, Ossining, NY

Cross Hill Academy, Yonkers, NY

Daniel Webster Elementary School,
New Rochelle, NY

Dayspring Community Center, Yonkers, NY

Douglas G. Grafflin Elementary School,
Chappaqua, NY

East Flatbush Community Research School,
MS 581, Brooklyn, NY

Ebbets Field Middle School, Brooklyn, NY

Edgewood Elementary School, Scarsdale, NY

Edward Williams Elementary School, Mt. Vernon, NY

Enrico Fermi School, Yonkers, NY

Eugenio María de Hostos MicroSociety School,
Yonkers, NY

Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Fairfield, CT

Family School 32, Yonkers, NY

George M. Davis Jr. Elementary School,
White Plains, NY

Girls Prep Bronx Middle School, Bronx, NY

Greenburgh Eleven High School, Dobbs Ferry, NY

Greenwich Alternative High School, Greenwich, CT

Hackley School, Tarrytown, NY

Hall School, Bridgeport, CT

Hallen School, Bridgeport, CT

Heathcote School, Scarsdale, NY

Highview School, Hartsdale, NY

Iona Preparatory School, New Rochelle, NY

Jettie S. Tisdale School, Bridgeport, CT

John F. Kennedy Magnet School, Port Chester, NY

John Jay High School, Cross River, NY

Kahlil Gibran School, Yonkers, NY

King Street School, Port Chester, NY

Lincoln High School, Yonkers, NY

The Little School, Hawthorne, NY	PS 165 Ida Posner, Brooklyn, NY	School 16, Yonkers, NY
Mamaroneck Avenue School, Mamaroneck, NY	PS 284 Gregory Jocko Jackson School of Sports, Art, and Technology, Brooklyn, NY	School 17, Yonkers, NY
Mamaroneck Avenue School, White Plains, NY	ReNEW Cultural Arts Academy, New Orleans, LA	School 30, Yonkers, NY
Mt. Kisco Elementary School, Mt. Kisco, NY	ReNEW Dolores T. Aaron Academy, New Orleans, LA	Sleepy Hollow High School, Sleepy Hollow, NY
New Rochelle High School, New Rochelle, NY	ReNEW McDonogh City Park Academy, New Orleans, LA	Sleepy Hollow Middle School, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Oakside Elementary School, Peekskill, NY	ReNEW Schaumburg Elementary, New Orleans, LA	Somers High School, Lincolndale, NY
Ossining Children's Center, Ossining, NY	RSHM Life Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY	Theodore D. Young Community Center, White Plains, NY
Ossining High School, Ossining, NY	Ridgefield Academy, Ridgefield, CT	Thomas Cornell Academy, Yonkers, NY
Paideia School 15, Yonkers, NY	Rippowam Cisca School, Bedford, NY	Thomas A. Edison Community School, Port Chester, NY
Paideia School 24, Yonkers, NY	Roaring Brook School, Chappaqua, NY	Todd Elementary School, Briarcliff, NY
Palisade Preparatory School, Yonkers, NY	Rochambeau Alternative High School, White Plains, NY	Trinity Elementary School, New Rochelle, NY
Park School, Ossining, NY	Roosevelt Elementary School, Ossining, NY	Washington Irving Intermediate School, Tarrytown, NY
PEAK Center, Mt. Vernon, NY	Roosevelt High School, Yonkers, NY	Westlake High School, Thornwood, NY
PEARLS Hawthorne Elementary, Yonkers, NY	Roosevelt School, Bridgeport, CT	Westorcharde Elementary School, Chappaqua, NY
Peekskill High School Summit Academy, Peekskill, NY	Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School, Yonkers, NY	White Plains High School, White Plains, NY
Pelham Preparatory Academy, Bronx, NY	Rye Middle School, Rye, NY	William Holmes Elementary School, Mt. Vernon, NY
Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, Croton-on-Hudson, NY	Sacred Heart School, Greenwich, CT	Woodlands Middle School, Hartsdale, NY
Pleasantville High School, Pleasantville, NY	Scarsdale Middle School, Scarsdale, NY	Yonkers High School, Yonkers, NY
Pocantico Hills Central School, Sleepy Hollow, NY	Scarsdale Senior High School, Scarsdale, NY	Yonkers Middle School, Yonkers, NY
Port Chester Middle School, Rye Brook, NY	School 5, Yonkers, NY	Yonkers Montessori Academy, Yonkers, NY
Post Road School, White Plains, NY		



Cultivating Community, Championing Diverse Voices

“

This is a great place for local filmmakers to come and support each other and network. Even if I move across the country or spend a year abroad, I know I'm always going to come back.

—Leah Galant

*2016 Sally Burns Shenkman
Women Filmmaker Fellow*

Creative Culture gives the JBFC the opportunity to play an active role in championing unheard voices on screen by cultivating filmmakers from all backgrounds. In doing so, these storytellers are helping us to redefine what a film center can be.

—SEAN WEINER

Director of Creative Culture

”



Creative Culture

Creative Culture is a fellowship and residency program that fosters a diverse community for filmmakers in the region, across the country, and around the world. Donor-funded fellowships and residencies help to ensure that people from every economic background have access to this rich experience.

Fellowship Program

The fellowship program connects emerging filmmakers to industry jobs and opportunities. Fellows are given 10 months to produce two short film projects in a collaborative community that meets for weekly seminars and critiques. They receive access to production equipment, postproduction workspace, mentorship, and our industry network. Current donor funded-fellowships include: The Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellowship, The Silver Sun Diverse Voices Fellowship for filmmakers from underrepresented communities, and The Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist Fellowship for filmmakers in the Hudson Valley.

Residency Program

The Jacob Burns Film Center welcomes filmmakers, artists, and educators from across the country and around the world to live, work, and teach on the JBFC campus. Thanks to a generous grant from Kathryn W. Davis in 2007, the Jacob Burns Film Center purchased 5 Grant St., a home adjacent to the Media Arts Lab, for our visiting artists. Donor-funded and series-focused residencies include Social Justice, Remix, and Greenhouse.

2017 Donor-Funded Fellows



Ariel Noltimier Strauss

SPRING 2017

Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellow

Ariel Noltimier Strauss is a multimedia artist who specializes in stop-motion and traditional animation. She received her BFA at the Rhode Island School of Design, where she studied film, video, and animation with a concentration in open media. Her first short animation, *The Emily & Ariel Show*, played at a number of festivals and now lives online on platforms such as Fandor and on Vimeo as a staff pick. During her fellowship, she completed *Circadian Rhythm*, which juxtaposes dance and animation to recontextualize the mundane in her film, which takes us through the cycle of a day played out in three acts.



Photos: Russell Peborde

Crystal Kayiza

FALL 2017

Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellow

Crystal Kayiza is a Brooklyn-based documentary filmmaker and 2018 Sundance Ignite Fellow. Her work focuses on nuanced storytelling about black communities and the sociopolitical issues they face. After graduating from Ithaca College in 2015, she spent two years at the ACLU working on racial and criminal justice issues. As the recipient of the 2017 Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellowship, she directed and produced the short documentary *Edgecombe*, which examines trauma in a black community in rural North Carolina.

The Sally Burns Shenkman Woman Filmmaker Fellowship program is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Jacob Burns Foundation.



Kerry LeVielle

FALL 2017

Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist Fellow

Kerry LeVielle is a writer and director based in New York. She graduated from SUNY Purchase College in the spring of 2017 with a degree in cinema studies and a minor in screenwriting. During her fellowship, she completed her short docu-narrative film *Niskyland*, a coming-of-age story centering on a young woman experiencing emotional and environmental exclusion as a person of color living in a predominately white town.



Rahessa Vitório

FALL 2017

Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist Fellow

Rahessa Vitório is a director who was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. She graduated in 2016 from Anhembi Morumbi University of Film and Television. Two of her short films received awards at The Exhibition of Experimental Research in Communication. During her fellowship, she directed and produced the short poetic film, *I Am the Wind*, which tells the story of Nina, a young Brazilian woman feeling lost and disconnected from her identity after she immigrates to New York.



Photos: Russell Peborde

Reggie Altidor

SPRING 2017

Valentine & Clark Emerging Artist Fellow

Reggie Altidor is a filmmaker from New Rochelle, New York. He is a graduate of the Brooklyn College film program and a Westchester Community College alum. During his fellowship he directed *Do Not Disturb*, a coming-of-age story about a Haitian-American teenager that explores masculinity and the relationship between young men and their fathers. He is currently in postproduction on his three-part short film series, *The Jux*, the story of a young teen in Mt. Vernon who follows in his fallen brother's footsteps as a stickup kid, only to encounter a neighborhood vigilante.

The Valentine and Clark Emerging Artist Fellowship program is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Westchester Community Foundation.



Nick LeDonne

FALL 2017

Silver Sun Diverse Voices Fellow

LeDonne is an independent animator who makes films to make a difference. His debut film, *Hanging*, screened internationally, winning awards such as Best Animated Short at the Catalina Film Festival. The personal film, called a “remarkable transformation” by *Animation Magazine*, was distributed to the scientific community at the 26th European Congress of Psychiatry. During his fellowship, LeDonne directed the short film *Reaching OUT*, a supportive message to the LGBT community, which is currently in postproduction.

The Silver Sun Diverse Voices Fellowship program is made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Silver Sun Foundation.



Photos: Russell Peborde

“

Storytelling is central to human existence. What excites me most about Creative Culture is how the JBFC is cultivating the storytellers of tomorrow—filmmakers, animators, and VR artists—through collaborative and innovative professional learning experiences.

—Ron Howard
filmmaker and JBFC Board member

”

[CLICK HERE](#) for a complete list of 2017 fellows

2017 Artists-in-Residence



Sara Nacer

GREENHOUSE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Sara Nacer, from Algeria, is founder and president of the arts and film production company SN Productions, and a public relations specialist. She is codirector of the Greenhouse work-in-progress feature documentary *La Rockeuse du Désert*, and currently lives and works in Montreal, Canada. During her residency she hosted screenings at the JBFC Theater, worked with Creative Culture fellows, and participated in student screenings.



Laura Bustillos

GREENHOUSE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Laura Bustillos is a Mexican documentary filmmaker and photographer from Ciudad Juarez, the sister city of El Paso, Texas, where she currently developing a film series called *Undocumented Freedom*. She is codirector of the Greenhouse work-in-progress feature documentary *La Rockeuse du Désert*. During her residency she hosted screenings at the JBFC Theater, worked with Creative Culture fellows, and participated in student screenings.



Photos: Russell Peborde

Ekin Çalışır

GREENHOUSE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Turkish filmmaker Ekin Çalışır has worked at Al Jazeera Turk as a journalist and producer of short documentaries, and has produced international news and current affairs for the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation. Çalışır is codirector of the Greenhouse feature documentary *Mr. Gay Syria* and is director of the Greenhouse documentary *Babylond*. During her residency she hosted screenings at the JBFC Theater, worked with Creative Culture fellows, and participated in student screenings.



Ayse Toprak

GREENHOUSE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Turkish filmmaker Ayse Toprak is based in Istanbul, working on social and political documentaries about her country. She has produced films for THIRTEEN/PBS and Al Jazeera in London and Doha. Toprak is codirector of the Greenhouse feature documentary *Mr. Gay Syria*. During her residency she hosted screenings at the JBFC Theater, worked with Creative Culture fellows, and participated in student screenings.

The JBFC welcomes Greenhouse Artists-in-Residence as part of our ongoing collaboration with the Greenhouse Documentary Development Program.

2017 Fabulous Facts

- Since 2007 we've hosted **28 artists-in-residence** (filmmakers, composers, producers, distributors, curators, and visual journalists) **from 19 countries** (including Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Iran, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia, and Turkey).
- We have supported **19 fellows**, including **13 women** and **10 people of color**.
- **29 short films** made by fellows.
- Films made by fellows have been screened at **37 film festivals** including Sundance, SXSW, DOC NYC, Slamdance, Hot Docs, and Hamptons International Film Festival.
- 5 fellows selected for the prestigious **Sundance Ignite Fellowship**.



Photos: Russell Peborde

Ja'Tovia Gary

REMIX ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Ja'Tovia Gary is an artist and filmmaker living and working in Brooklyn, New York. Her work confronts traditional notions of representation, race, gender, sexuality, and power. She is concerned with charting the various ways raced and gendered bodies navigate popular media. Gary earned her MFA in social documentary filmmaking from a private for-profit art school in New York City. While in residence at the JBFC, she worked on the first cut of her documentary, *The Evidence of Things Not Seen*.



“

The Burns has changed the cultural landscape in Westchester and it's wonderful.

—Ann Harper, *JBFC member*

”

Changing Lives through Visual Storytelling TOGETHER



The strength of our community rests on the generosity and vision of our donors, members, and volunteers.

We are able to realize dreams, expand programs, and open hearts and minds through our collective desire to fully achieve our mission. While we have built a thriving campus where stories are shared and created, our learning community transcends physical space through the power of visual storytelling.

Each year, we depend on our community to help raise nearly \$3 million over and above membership support to fulfill our commitment to our audience, students, teachers, and partners.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch your support in action

“

The films, guest speakers, and special events the JBFC offers stimulate, support, and enrich lifelong learners by opening their minds and hearts to new experiences that bring people together in a positive way.”

—Marilyn Ortmann, *JBFC member*

”

— 2017 — Fabulous Facts



7,056
memberships



1,079
continuous members
(with no interruptions!)
since 2001.

25 PEOPLE
who were among our
TOP 100 FILMGOERS
in 2005 are still in those ranks.

Our top filmgoer saw



Our most distant member
lives in **ANCHORAGE,**
ALASKA—4,462 miles away.
Others are in **TEXAS, NEW**
MEXICO, and **CALIFORNIA.**

**We like to eat
and watch!**

In 2017 we consumed:
2,565 *cookies*
652 *brownies*
3,541 *cups of coffee*
8,107 *boxes of candy*



“

**Thank you for
being such a
vibrant asset to
our community.**

—Nicole Riche
JBFC member

”

A Salute to Our Donors

Annual Giving

The Jacob Burns Film Center thanks the thousands of individuals, foundations, and corporations who support our film, media education, and scholarship programs through their annual gifts. While we deeply appreciate all gifts at every level, we are pleased to recognize our major supporters.

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Photos: Lynda Shekman

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Your gift to the Jacob Burns Film Center can go even further in supporting our film, media education, and scholarship programs, as many companies will double or even triple employee donations. Check with your company to see if your gift to the Jacob Burns Film Center qualifies for matching funds. If you have any questions about securing a matching gift, please email Allie Garner at agarner@burnsfilmcenter.org.

A Salute to the Silver Screen Circle

A Special Evening with Steven Spielberg

On Sunday, Dec. 10, JBFC Board member and legendary Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg joined us for a preview screening of *The Post*, a thrilling drama about the unlikely partnership of Katharine Graham (Meryl Streep), the first female publisher of *The Washington Post*, and its volatile, driven editor Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks), as they come together with *The New York Times* to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spanned four decades and four U.S. presidents. The screening was followed by a Q&A with Steven Spielberg and JBFC President Janet Maslin. At the end of this most remarkable program, Silver Screen Circle members were invited to a private dinner in the Jane Peck Gallery.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about the Silver Screen Circle



Photos: Lynda Shenkman





Russell Peabody

Celebrating Forces of Nature

On Sept. 18, we hosted **Celebrating Forces of Nature**. This very special evening began with a program in Theater One, where we presented the Vision Award to Gary Knell, former JBFC Board member and CEO of National Geographic Partners. We also presented the Leadership Award to the Hoch and van Hengel families, founding supporters of our annual Focus on Nature series.

The festivities continued upstairs in the Jane Peck Gallery, where guests were treated to a seated dinner catered by Abigail Kirsch. Through a new partnership with Alucia Productions, we presented "Southern Exposure," stunning images from Antarctica by acclaimed photographer Paul Nicklen. This exhibition premiered in the Jane Peck Gallery on Sept. 18 and ran through Oct. 31.

We deeply appreciate the many ways the JBFC community came together to make **Celebrating Forces of Nature** a financial success and a most memorable evening. All proceeds from Celebrating Forces of Nature benefitted our film, media education, and scholarship programs.



Lynda Shekman



Lynda Shekman



Russell Peabode



Gary Knell

JBFC Vision Award

We were extremely honored to present the Vision Award to former JBFC Board member, Gary Knell. As CEO of National Geographic Partners, Gary oversees all of National Geographic's global storytelling assets, including the television, magazine, print and digital operations, licensing, and travel expeditions. In his previous role as CEO of the National Geographic Society, he was responsible for the society's nonprofit and educational activities globally. Before this, Gary served as President and CEO of National Public Radio. He also spent 22 years at Sesame Workshop, where he served as President and CEO for 12 years. With a career in media that spans more than three decades, Gary Knell is an influential leader in visual storytelling.



All Unmarked Photos: Lynda Shenkman

Hoch & Van Hengel Families

JBFC Leadership Award

The JBFC was profoundly grateful for this opportunity to present the Leadership Award to the Hoch and van Hengel families. As founding supporters of our annual Focus on Nature series, the families help encourage vital discussions about environmental issues around the world and in our own backyard. Dru van Hengel and Lisina Hoch share their unwavering commitment to community engagement and dialogue with their children and grandchildren. While education, nature, and cross-cultural awareness remain a major interest to the families, they support a variety of causes throughout Westchester and beyond.



Celebrating Forces of Nature

\$20,000+

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21st Century Fox
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Dalio Ocean Initiative
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Rebecca & Arthur Samberg
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\$10,000+

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Lynn & Eric Sobel
David Swope*
The van Hengel Family

*deceased

\$5,000+

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CHANGING LIVES THROUGH VISUAL STORYTELLING

YEAR-END GIVING CAMPAIGN

During the month of December, we asked the JBFC community to make a gift over and above membership support. Thanks to the generosity of our amazing community, we raised \$99,480 through our 2017 year-end campaign, Changing Lives Through Visual Storytelling. We are profoundly grateful to the following donors for their thoughtful and generous contributions.



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Mark & Maryellen Phelan	Sylvia & Herb Saltzstein	Willann Stone	Rudy Winter
Irving & Sharon Picard	Robert Sammon & Christopher Wynne	Irma Strumpf	Marion B. Wolk
Susan Pickman & Lucienne Serrano	Paula Santacroce	Bryna & Michael Sweedler	Hal Wolkin
Abby Popper	Joseph Schepis	Jane & Michael Swirsky	Roger & Martha Yergeau
Susan Porcino	Nancy & Martin Scherer	Alfred & Michelle Sylvain	Jeannie Zusy & John Cote
		Andrew Teach	

Volunteers

So much of what we do is made possible by our wonderful volunteers!

Naomi Allen
Nick Aquilino
Lisa Archigian
Patrick Barry
Carol Bauman
Rosalyn Beck
Gretchen Beckhorn
Sherry Beckman
Robert Bellone, Jr.
Beth Besen
Elliot Bisgier
Irene Bisgier
Michael Bolner
Marsha Brooks
Linda Carlson
Pearl Cohen
Tanya Cooper
Betty Cowan
Catherine Daly
Brian Davis
Deena Davis
Rebecca Echevarria

Patricia Esposito
Michael Esposito
Linda Fabel
Lisa Feldman
Jaqueline Ferro
Deborah Frishman
Barbara Gangemi
Ellen Gold
Eliyahu Greenwald
Theresa Greto
Penny Hamlet
Cherie Heinz
Irene Herz
Cathy Hildenbrand
Norma Hill
Bernice Hoffman
Bernard Jacobson
Ellen Jamison
Andrea Jayson
Betsey Jones
Phil Just
Marsha Kanarick

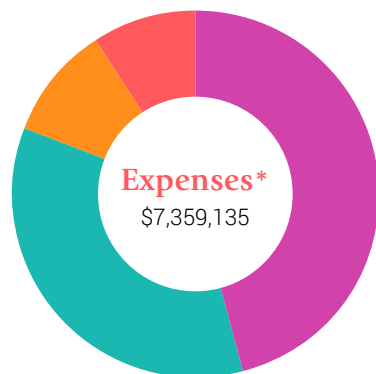
Mary-Ann Karpel
Sandy Kellogg
Estelle Kersch
Herby King
Joyce Kleiman
Paul Kleiman
Nicole Klein
Irv Kofsky
Nancy Kofsky
Susan Kosberg
David Kriveloff
Joan Lang
Larry Lebow
Dayeon Lee
Mark Leiman
Chip Lewis
Barbara Mailaender
Paulette Mann
Marie Marte
Adina McCray
Mike McKiernan
Marty Meth

Anne Molloy
Jamie Montesinos
Perry Morse
Tyler Nass
Anita Nelson
Gisela O'Brien
James O'Hare
Maureen Shannon
O'Leary
John O'Loughlin
Susan Orand
Anthony Passaro
Susan Pate
Eileen Quinlan
Susan Ravick
Kristen Romney
Clare Rosen
Estelle Rosen-Kersh
Beth Rubenstein
Nancy Ruffner
Lenore Safian
Barbara Saravay

Suzanne Schatzle
Ann Schilero
Patrice Schwartz
Pat Seldin
Jeannie Wheaton Shaw
Susie Slosberg
Anna Smith
Denise Sommer
Nicole Swerdloff
Marian Swerdlow
Diane Trilling
Thuy Trinh
Elisa Tustian
Yoshikazu Ueki
Dawn Weinstein
Richard Wiley
Ruth Wolff
Marion Wolk
Nancy Woolf
Carolanne Zilliox

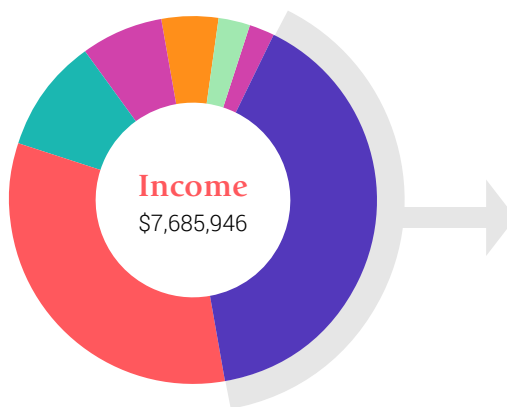
Financials

FY 17: Oct. 1, 2016–Sept. 30, 2017



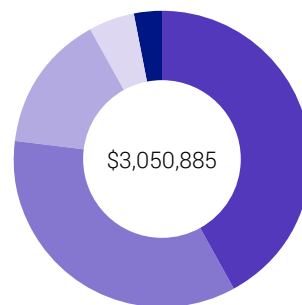
- Film Programming—46%
- Education—35%
- Management—10%
- Fundraising—9%

*Does not include depreciation or amortization



- Contributions—40%
- Ticket/Concession Sales—33%
- Membership—10%
- Interest—7%
- Education—5%
- Other—3%
- Targeted Initiatives—2%

Contributions



- Individuals—42%
- Foundations—35%
- Special Events—15%
- Government—5%
- Corporations—3%

For a copy of the 2017 audited financial statements, please contact Judy Exton at jexton@burnsfilmlcenter.org or 914.773.7663, ext. 414.

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Frank Williams, Jr.

**Jonathan Demme Changemaker
Board Member*

Board Emeriti

Lisa Hertz Apkon
JBFC CO-FOUNDER

Sabrina Coughlin
JBFC CO-FOUNDER

Nancy S. Kohlberg

Hugh Price

Art Samberg
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

David Swope*
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

*deceased



[CLICK HERE](#) *to meet the staff*

**Media Arts Lab/
Executive Offices**

405 Manville Road
Pleasantville, NY 10570
914.773.7663

Theater

364 Manville Road
Pleasantville, NY 10570
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**Residence for
Visiting Artists**

5 Grant Street
Pleasantville, NY 10570

burnsfilmcenter.org

 JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

Thank you for your support!