

JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER

Filmmaker and Emmy-award Winning Cinematographer Christi Cooper Selected as First *Focus on Nature* Resident



Pleasantville, NY – April 18, 2019 – The [Jacob Burns Film Center](#) (JBFC), a nonprofit cultural arts center and one of the most successful suburban art houses in the country, is proud to announce—in anticipation of the 2019 *Focus on Nature* series—their inaugural *Focus on Nature* Artist-in-Residence, **Christi Cooper**, curated in partnership with EarthXFilm.

Kicking off Thursday, April 18, the JBFC's annual [Focus on Nature](#) series highlights thought-provoking and moving films about the beauty, power, and mystery of nature, and the people working to protect it. Cooper will join the JBFC in October to work on the post-production of her film [YOUTH v. GOV](#), which takes an intimate look at a group of youth plaintiffs, ages 10-21, as they embark on the groundbreaking and possibly most important

climate change litigation battle of the 21st century.

Born and raised in Boulder, Colorado, **Christi Cooper** is an Emmy-award-winning cinematographer with a MS in Microbiology and a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. Cooper creates compelling visual narratives to raise awareness and inspire action around socio-political issues. Her journey documenting the youth climate movement began in 2011, when she co-produced a 10-part series with WITNESS, a social justice and human rights organization focused on using film for social change. The series, *Stories of TRUST: Calling for Climate Recovery*, was used in a grassroots campaign to reach decision-makers and judges ruling on climate litigation brought to the courts by young people. Cooper's short films have screened at festivals around the world and won numerous awards, including a Wildscreen Panda Award for Best Campaign Film. In 2018, she was awarded the inaugural SFFILM/Vulcan Productions Environmental Film Fellowship for her work on *YOUTH v. GOV*.

"As an independent filmmaker working on my first feature film, it sometimes feels like an uphill battle...and then wonderful surprises like the Jacob Burns Film Center come along. I am incredibly honored to be chosen for the inaugural *Focus on Nature* Residency at the Jacob Burns Film Center for my feature film *YOUTH v. GOV*. This collaborative artistic community and the

provided support are welcome resources at a time when they are most needed. Thank you!" said Cooper.

The Focus on Nature Residency is supported by the JBFC's Creative Culture with curatorial partner EarthXFilm. "Creative Culture awards residencies to timely film projects that thoughtfully engage with prevailing challenges facing our world," said Sean Weiner, Director of Creative Culture. "We are proud to support Christi and her first feature film *YOUTH VS GOV*; having Christi join our community will not only guide her creative process, but also inform and enrich the lives of our patrons, students, staff, and filmmaking fellows here at the JBFC."

EarthXFilm "showcases films and emerging media that explore conservation, climate change, and the environment while honoring the heroes working to protect our planet." Thanks to EarthXFilm's support as a curatorial partner, the JBFC is better equipped not only to find filmmakers well suited for this specific residency, but also support these trailblazing artists as they hone their craft with an eye towards social justice.

The Focus on Nature Residency is made possible through generous support from the Hoch family and the van Hengel Family Fund and JBFC's partners, Groundwork Hudson Valley and Scenic Hudson.

For more information, visit <https://burnsfilmcenter.org/film>, FB: [@JacobBurnsFilmCenter](https://www.facebook.com/JacobBurnsFilmCenter), Twitter: [@JBFC_ny](https://twitter.com/JBFC_ny) and Instagram: [@JBFC_pville](https://www.instagram.com/JBFC_pville).

[Jacob Burns Film Center](https://burnsfilmcenter.org) is a nonprofit arts and education hub located on a three-building campus in the New York Metro area. The JBFC brings the transformative power of film to the surrounding community through unique programming and discussions, shared experiences, and educational initiatives. Since opening in 2001, over 3,000,000 people have enjoyed the best of current American and foreign cinema, unique film series, and special events at the five-screen theater complex. A pioneer in visual literacy education, the JBFC offers courses in filmmaking, screenwriting, animation, and more for students of all ages at our state-of-the-art Media Arts Lab, and develops media literacy curricula for schools throughout the region.