

February 4, 2019

Dear Supporters, Collaborators, and Friends:

In 2017, I co-founded Re-Present Media with Jennifer Crystal Chien to advocate for personal stories of underrepresented communities in media. Re-Present Media was created through our conversations around our experiences in working on documentary films based on personal stories. We realized that these kinds of documentaries are powerful tools to create holistic representations of ourselves, our communities, and other underrepresented communities in media.

As Co-Founder and Co-Director of Re-Present Media, I helped develop and present a new approach to documentary filmmaking that is deeply rooted in social justice and focuses on our common humanity, history, values, and goals. In our public events, Re-Present Media began combining cross-cultural community dialogues with film screenings as a tool towards reaching common ground.

Today, I am stepping down from my role as Co-Director of Re-Present Media to focus on completing my personal film, *Home Yet Far Away*, and working on other projects. I will no longer be involved in daily work, responsibilities, and decision-making of Re-Present Media. I will continue to provide ideas and input, design projects, and participate in grant-writing for the organization as an outside consultant. In my new role as Program Consultant, I will also serve as a presenter and mentor in the projects that I am involved with.

I am very proud of our achievements during my two-year role as Co-Founder and Co-Director of Re-Present Media and my work in helping to create, execute, and present the following activities:

- **Telling Our Personal Stories: Changing How We're Seen to Who We Are.** This new program, launching in mid-2019, will consist of a two-year mentoring program for emerging people of color who will be making personal films for public television in collaboration with community members.
- **November 2018: Co-sponsoring the Bad Feminist Making Films Live event** during which four filmmakers described how their work addressed feminist intersectional analyses, including race, class, sexuality, nationality, gender, and/or religion at all stages of the filmmaking process.
- **November 2018: Presenting at San Francisco State University's Pluralities Conference** where we reviewed preliminary findings from our survey of 50 emerging documentary filmmakers of color regarding their experiences of the industry, and strategies for support.
- **March 2018: Presenting at the Association for Asian American Studies' annual conference**, where three filmmakers spoke on the cultural and historic relationship between West Asia (Middle East) and East and South Asian people.
- **February 2018: Presenting Tales from the Middle East**, during which three filmmakers of diverse faiths and backgrounds from the Middle East engaged audience members in short film screenings and community dialogues.
- **December 2017: Co-promoting Family and War: Women Filmmakers Asserting the Personal** during which two filmmakers presented their films-in-progress, and shared personal and family stories on global conflict in Iran, Vietnam, and the U.S.
- **September/October 2017: Hosting two convenings** with about 25 emerging documentary filmmakers of color to discuss challenges, trends, and solutions in the distribution and funding of personal story films.

- May 2017: Presenting Personal Perspectives in Asian American Documentary Film, where we showcased four filmmakers in a panel workshop focused on personal stories in Asian American filmmaking at the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center's annual festival.

I am grateful for the grants that we have received from Neda Nobari Foundation, California Humanities, and the City of Oakland Cultural Affairs Division. I would also like to express my gratitude to our collaborators Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center, IC3, Docfilm Institute, and Ethnocine, and our outreach supporters Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Jewish Film Institute, ONiT, SFFILM, as well as community partners Oakstop, Islamic Cultural Center of Northern California, and Kehilla Community Synagogue.

I look forward to seeing the success of Re-Present Media in its purpose to humanize media representations of underrepresented communities through a focus on personal stories from those communities in documentary film and nonfiction media.

Warm regards,



Sabereh Kashi