December 1st, 2023  
   
The Andy and Beth Burgess Family Foundation  
69 DAWLISH AVENUE  
TORONTO, ON. M4N 1H2  
   
To Beth Burgess, Director

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a request for funding to The Andy and Beth Burgess Family Foundation. DOC is a registered Canadian Charitable Organization, and we are looking for your partnership in our mission to champion documentary creators from across every region of Canada.

In the past year only, DOC has created new programs to support artists, organized panels, and discussions about key issues for Canada’s documentary community, launched a report on mental health in the Canadian documentary sector - the first of its kind - and released an in-depth analysis of the last five years of documentary production in Canada.

DOC’s programs and services create opportunities for the documentary community to develop and thrive. Business Concierge provides under-represented documentary creators with access to veteran producer consultants in order to build capacity. Many DOC members experience income fragility and their only source of health benefits is DOC’s National Health Plan. DOC delivers regular webinars to support knowledge mobilization and to connect documentary artists around the country. DOC’s important research into mental health and documentary production provide the tools for system-wide change. And DOC’s First Canadian Pitch program connects newly arrived Canadians from Ukraine with access to the resources they need to enter into the film production sector.

DOC respectfully requests your consideration in financially supporting our organization with a contribution of $ 5 000. This will enable us to continue to focus on our core mandate to empower Canada’s documentary storytellers in creating the inspiring, informative and award-winning work that is so important to making sense of the world around us.

Since its founding in 1983, DOC has grown to a National organization of over 1,200 members spread across six chapters from coast to coast. Fifty percent of DOC’s members are Indigenous, Black or racialized, and many of DOC’s members live in rural and remote regions of the country. DOC informs and connects with our membership via robust communications outreach as well as our active membership online discussion group. DOC’s six regional Chapters Boards are composed of celebrated filmmakers who create a bridge with DOC’s emerging members.

DOC mission is to ensure an equitable, sustainable ecosystem for documentary creation in Canada. Your contribution will be used to enhance our work to support this important community who have dedicated their careers to what many consider to be Canada’s national art form. DOC has a specific mandate to advocate for documentarians from communities whose stories have historically been under-represented or misrepresented and to support them in telling their own stories. DOC’s fastest growing membership demographic is among artists who have faced systemic barriers to access, who are looking to DOC to connect with others and to push for system-wide change. With your support, we can continue to advocate for our members and to provide them with the tools they need to succeed.

DOC’s Board of Directors works closely with the Executive Director to ensure good governance, financial health, well-being, and performance. One of DOC’s strategic objectives is to expand our historic partnerships to contribute to DOC’s long term stability. We would be proud to begin a new collaboration with The Andy and Beth Burgess Family Foundation.

Your generous support of $ 5 000 will be invaluable in enabling DOC to conduct key research, deliver sector transforming programs, and champion documentary filmmakers. If you have any questions, or would like to receive a full proposal, I invite you to contact me anytime. It would be my pleasure to explain our many programs and services in more detail.

Thank you very much for your consideration. Your partnership would have an enormous impact and make a world of difference for our organization and the many communities of creatives we serve.

Sincerely,

Esmé Tierney   
   
 She/ Her  
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