

2024 NEXT DOC

A COLLECTIVE VOICE OF THE NEXT GENERATION OF
NON-FICTION STORYTELLERS

MAY 22 - MAY 29, 2024



www.nextdoc.org
@nextdocfilm

OVERVIEW

NeXt Doc is a year-long fellowship that brings together emerging documentary storytellers from diverse backgrounds across the world with award-winning documentary filmmakers to learn, share, and build their skills. Throughout the year, we provide each cohort of fellows the opportunity to build their networks and amplify their voices, while forming deep relationships and fostering community.

NeXt Doc includes film screenings, masterclasses, and workshops that cover project development, story structure, treatment writing, budgeting, doc history, and critical explorations of power, narrative agency and representation in non-fiction storytelling. NeXt Doc has become an incubator for incredible talent, supporting the continued growth of emerging voices in the documentary field.



YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMMING

Throughout the year, fellows will be presented with numerous opportunities to expand their networks and amplify their voices, while forming deep relationships and fostering community amongst their cohort. Year-round programming will include virtual masterclasses, skill-sharing workshops, focused mentorship, opportunities to build networks within the documentary film ecosystem, and at least one in-person convening.



We will dive into critical explorations of values and practices for ethical and accountable non-fiction filmmaking, weaving together frameworks brought forth by the Documentary Accountability Working Group, and the numerous years of experience implementing grassroots, community-centered youth media education by NeXt Doc Co-Directors.

As a program of Youth FX, NeXt Doc fellows gain access to the wider Youth FX network with countless opportunities to engage in inclusive, intergenerational space. Access also includes the Youth FX Gear Lending program—offering shippable high quality camera equipment at zero cost—and the FleX Fund, a micro-granting opportunity where all NeXt Doc fellows can apply for funding between \$500 and \$5,000.

NEXT DOC CORE PRINCIPLES



CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS & GROWTH

Through masterclasses led by dynamic artists, filmmakers and Youth FX educators, along with deep peer-to-peer connections, NeXt Doc fellows are immersed in a wide range of topics from personal narrative agency, project development, liberatory story structures, production workflows, trauma informed storytelling practices, documentary history and in-depth conversations about ethical and accountable non-fiction filmmaking.



CREATIVE SPACE, EXPLORATION & CARE

The NeXt Doc opening retreat includes delicious meals made on site by our chef, outdoor exploration, walks and time for self-reflection in an inspiring environment. This process centers care, enhances creativity and encourages fellows to slow down and be fully present. NeXt Doc creates space for everyone to engage in authentic, energizing conversations while forming deep connections and building community with one another.



MENTORSHIP, RESOURCES & KNOWLEDGE

Equitable access to knowledge and resources can be an entry barrier to documentary filmmaking. Networking, learning from experienced filmmakers, and connecting with community-centered support systems is essential to growth as an artist. NeXt Doc introduces fellows to established mentors and filmmakers, and these connections form foundational networks for them to build upon. We also offer material support in the form of our FleX Fund micro-grants and access to equipment through our gear-lending program.



BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Through scheduled screening sessions of their work and space for informal exchanges, NeXt Doc challenges fellows to talk about their work, give and receive honest, constructive feedback. We offer space at this critical stage of development to learn from each other's perspectives in order to inspire and generate new ideas. Forming this community of practice not only helps to build and strengthen storytelling skills, but also fosters relationship building, and provides a foundation for future collaborations.

2024 NEXT DOC PRESENTING ARTISTS



DR. KAMEELAH MU'MIN OSEGUERA (she/her) is a leading expert in trauma informed considerations and practices in documentary filmmaking and has served as a consultant to documentary filmmakers, directors and writers on matters related to race, religion, participant care, ethics, consent and healing centered filmmaking. Dr. Kam is the Head of Care at Multitude Films, an Executive Producer and Coordinator of Care and Wellness for the film *Subject*. Dr. Kam is a member of the Documentary Accountability Working Group (DAWG) and Color Congress, a national collective of majority people of color (POC) and POC-led organizations aimed at centering and strengthening nonfiction storytelling. Dr. Kam is the Founding Executive Director of Muslim Wellness Foundation and Assistant Professor of Psychology & Muslim Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary.



DAMON DAVIS (he/him) is a post-disciplinary artist who works and resides in St. Louis, Missouri. His work spans a spectrum of creative mediums to tell stories exploring how identity is informed by power and mythology. Davis' work is featured in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and he has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Saint Louis Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, and the San Diego Contemporary Museum of Art. He has been a fellow of Firelight Media, Sundance Labs, TED, and the Kennedy Center. He is the Co-Director of critically acclaimed documentary *Whose Streets?*, chronicling the Ferguson rebellion of 2014.



MILISUTHANDO BONGELA-DAVIS (b.1985, South Africa) is an award-winning writer, editor, cultural worker and artist. Her career began in the fashion industry but the last 16 years have seen her traverse the worlds of music, art, media and film – continually turning towards indigenous knowledge systems. Her first feature film, a personal essay documentary titled *MILISUTHANDO* had its world premier at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, was the opening film to Encounters International Film Festival in South Africa and was selected for MoMA's New Directors/ New Films programme 2023. She is an inaugural fellow of the 2020 Adobe Women at Sundance Fellowship and is currently working as a producer on a short fiction film directed by her long term collaborator Hankyeol Lee.

2024 NEXT DOC FELLOWS

The cohort of ten **2024 NeXt Doc Fellows** represent a wide range of ethnic, racial, gender and regional diversity, and their work envisions a multiplicity of storytelling approaches. We're excited to welcome our first truly international cohort with filmmakers from Congo, India, Mexico, Haiti and across the United States. NeXt Doc has become an incubator for incredible talent and we look forward to welcoming the 2024 cohort and supporting their growth as artists, filmmakers, storytellers, and important emerging voices in the documentary world.



AHMAD
GHANIM



ANDRÉS
LIRA



DANIELLE
COSMES
AGUILAR



HANNA
WONDMAEGN



JESSICA
SENG



LAÏSSA
ALEXIS



LOGAN
LYNETTE
BURROUGHS



MAISHA
MAENE



MARIAH
BARRERA



SHRUTI
PARTHASARATHY

2024 NEXT DOC FELLOWS



AHMAD GHANIM | CLEVELAND, OH

Ahmad Ghanim (he/him) is a Palestinian film director and photographer whose experiences as a first-generation Arab American have created a strong desire to preserve stories of marginalized voices. They have deepened his interest in exploring his Palestinian identity and ancestral history through visual and narrative media. As an artist, Ahmad sees it as his responsibility to craft representations that foster empathy and understanding. His most recent works deal with intergenerational family dynamics, identity, and displacement. Ahmad is getting ready to direct his first feature length documentary centered on Palestinian voices in the diaspora.



ANDRÉS LIRA | LINDSAY, CA

Andrés Lira (he/him) is a Mexican-American filmmaker and artist of Indigenous Purépecha descent. He was born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley and takes pride in coming from a community of farmworkers. His work focuses on amplifying the underrepresented stories of Latino and Indigenous voices through the exploration of identity, culture, and social justice. In 2023, he was selected as one of ten worldwide emerging filmmakers for the Sundance Ignite Fellowship with his film *Primero, Sueño*.





DANIELLE COSMES AGUILAR | OAXACA, MEXICO



Danielle Cosmes Aguilar (They/She) is a Zapotec experimental filmmaker and visual artist rooted in Ixtlán de Juárez, Oaxaca, Mx. Their art practice is guided by audiovisual self-representation, world-building beyond nation-state borders, and intimate, collective storytelling. They obtained their Bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Berkeley in 2022, are an alumni of the Film and Freedom Academy facilitated by QWOCMAP, the Diverse School of Indigenous Filmmaking hosted by the PreColumbian Art Museum of Santiago, Chile and the Seminar on Communal Film and Media facilitated by the Cine Too Film Theater and Laboratory in Guelatao, Oaxaca. Currently, Danielle is independently producing and directing their first feature-length documentary, *Me Espera un Pueblo*, which explores their experience of returning to their ancestral homeland as a child.

HANNA WONDMAEGRN | CHARLOTTE, NC



Hanna Wondmagegn (she/her) is an Ethiopian - U.S. American visual storyteller from Charlotte, North Carolina, currently based in New York City. Hanna believes in intentional and empathetic storytelling, putting people first and allowing them to express their stories in the way they see fit. Through visual forms, she seeks to complicate single story narratives while uplifting story partners and viewers to both witness and imagine a life outside of the boundaries that society has outlined for them. Hanna has traveled to 17 countries and across the U.S, working with story partners to share their stories. Her work has been featured in NPR, The Financial Times, The Daily Tar Heel, Courier Media, The Assembly, The Huffington Post, The Intercept, The Charlotte Observer, Civil Eats, The News and Record, and Semester at Sea.

2024 NEXT DOC FELLOWS

JESSICA SENG | TUCSON, AZ

Jessica Seng (she/her), the proud daughter of former refugees, is a Cambodian American director, writer, and producer hailing from Tucson, AZ, and currently based in New York City. She is interested in stories often relegated to the margins. Jessica's work typically features the intersections of media, migration, labor, grief, and abundant hope. She has credits on NBC, HBO Max, PBS, Masterclass, and MTV Documentaries.



LAÏSSA ALEXIS | PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI / NEW JERSEY

Laïssa Alexis (she/her) is a Haitian-born, New Jersey-based artist and filmmaker. Her film *To Build a Monument*, a documentary about ancestorhood and ways of honoring the dead, premiered at the 2024 Newark LGBTQ Film Festival. She was part of 2022-2023 cohort of Vanguard Docmakers at the Maysles Documentary Center. She is also a proud member of the Community Media Center at Express Newark. Laïssa enjoys daydreaming about the future and hopes to use cinema to articulate these dreams.





LOGAN LYNETTE BURROUGHS | ATLANTA, GA

Logan Lynette Burroughs (they/them) Bred in the South, Logan's visual poems focus on Black existence in the South. Through filmmaking and photography, they tenderly document the intricate intimacies of the Black community through a queer lens. In 2020, Logan made their first video composition, *Spirit never dies, only transitions*, which has been in a number of film festivals as well as notified as Oscars qualifying. Currently, Logan is showing two film works, *to heaven* and *Deep Waters*, at the North Carolina Museum of Art and South Eastern Center of Contemporary Art.



MAISHA MAENE | GOMA, CONGO

Maisha Maene (he/him) is a Congolese screenwriter and director based in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo. As an artist, he works on issues of human rights and the environment. Maisha has written and directed five short films, his most recent short film, *Mulika* (2022), won a jury prize Pardi di domani at Locarno Film Festival 2022, Best sound design at Dresden Short Film Festival 2023, Best Film and Best Cinematography at FICKIN' Film Festival Kinshasa. *Mulika* also screened at Sundance Film Festival, Clermont Ferrand and FESPACO. Maisha Maene was selected to participate in the 2024 Berlinale Talents Doc Station lab with his documentary feature project *Spaceman in Kongo* which is currently in development.

2024 NEXT DOC FELLOWS

MARIAH BARRERA | SAGINAW, MI

Mariah Barrera (she/her) is a Mexican-American filmmaker and writer born and raised in Michigan. She is based in New York City as a first-generation student at Columbia University. Her films have screened at Urbanworld, Cleveland International Film Festival, and DOC NYC and highlighted by NowThis, Stylecaster, The Washington Post, Women Make Movies, and Adobe Gen Create. Mariah's films aim to amplify themes of social justice and equity, drawing from her family's & communities' experiences in the urban Midwest. She is passionate about bridging the gap between narrative and documentary through poetry. Currently, she is exhibiting her film *Still Here* (2023), which follows three brothers affected by violence, poverty, and prison. The film was supported by Still I Rise Films.

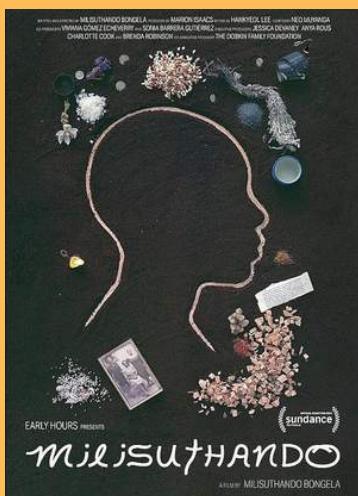


SHRUTI PARTHASARATHY | BENGALURU, INDIA

Shruti Parthasarathy (she/her) is a writer, photographer, filmmaker and low waste practitioner, from Bangalore, India. Her passion for stories rooted in reality compels her to create powerful narratives. As a writer she has helmed projects like *Liquid State of Matters*, *Apaar*, *Hello Guyzzz*, *Yellow*, and *Chori Waali Kahaani*, that amplify narratives of women, children, the LGBTQIA+ community, environment and elderly persons in films. She is currently directing a personal documentary *Appa & Anmol*, commissioned by Public Service Broadcasting Trust, on her father and brother that observes and raises questions about masculinity in modern day India. Her documentary *Samayada Harivu (Flow of Time)* on the reclamation of the Begur Lake, in Bangalore was awarded at the Mumbai Festivals' Earth Film Contest.



2024 NEXT DOC FILM SCREENINGS



Milisuthando (2023); 128 minutes
directed by Milisuthando Bongela-Davis
produced by Marion Isaacs, Viviana Gómez Echeverry & Sonia Barrera Gutiérrez

Set in past and present South Africa, *Milisuthando* is a poetic coming-of-age personal essay documentary on love and what it means to become human in the context of race, explored through the memories of Milisuthando – who grew up during apartheid but didn't know it was happening until it was over.

Spanning 30 years in a non-linear manner, the film is a meditation on difficult questions about power, fear, intimacy and love as it relates to race. Through a roving feminine lens, we find ourselves in happened-upon environments that take the viewer into the interiors of the new South Africa and its relationship with its past.



Outta The Muck (2023); 82 minutes
directed by Bhawin Suchak & Ira McKinley
Produced by Darian Henry, Tracy Rector & Sam Pollard

Family, football and history come to life in an intimate portrait of the Dean family, longtime residents of the historic town of Pahokee, Florida. As we take a journey back home, with filmmaker Ira McKinley, to the land of sugarcane, he reconnects with his niece Bridget and nephew Alvin and explores their shared family history that spans seven generations.

Told through stories that transcend space and time, *Outta The Muck* presents an intimate portrait of a community that resists despair with love, remaining fiercely self-determined, while forging its own unique narrative of Black achievement.

Please note that additional screenings will include peer-to-peer screenings and selected short work by Damon Davis.

NEXT DOC PROGRAM DIRECTORS



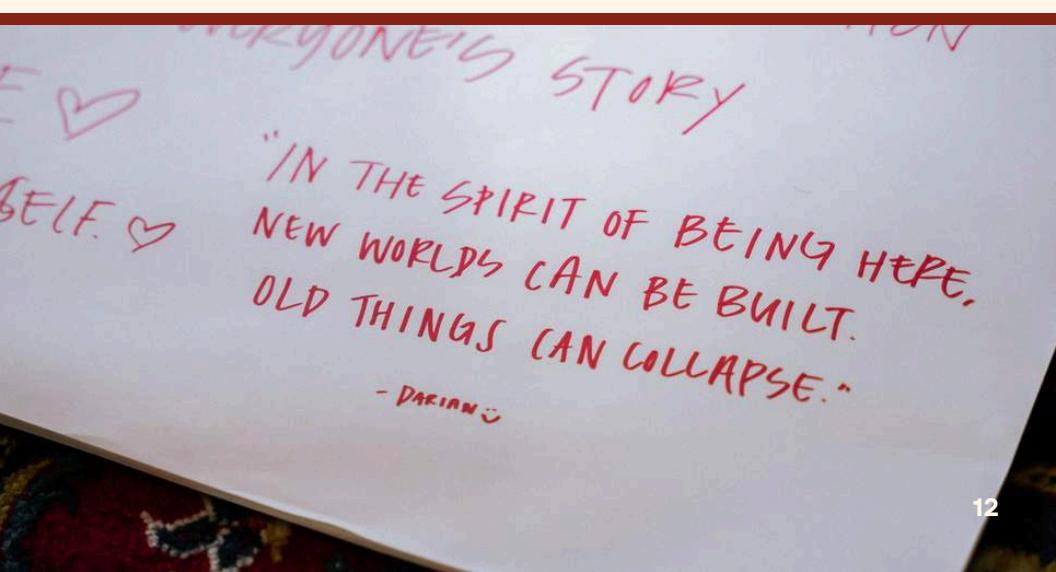
NEXT DOC CO-DIRECTOR

DARIAN HENRY (no pronouns) is a filmmaker, digital-media educator, founding member, and co-executive director of the nationally known film and digital media organization Youth FX. She has shot, directed, and produced over 50 short documentary, narrative, and experimental films. As an educator, Darian uses film and digital media as a means to empower and inspire black and brown youth in a wide range of Youth FX programs that arm them with the skills, techniques and access needed to create films based on their own realities and imagination. Darian was born in Hanover, Jamaica. She currently lives in New York.



NEXT DOC CO-DIRECTOR

BHAWIN SUCHAK (he/him) is an educator, filmmaker, and founding member/co-executive director of Youth FX and NeXt Doc. He is the co-director, cinematographer and editor of *Outta The Muck* (2022), a feature length documentary supported by ITVS, JustFilms, Sundance, Black Public Media and Southern Documentary Fund, which aired on PBS' Independent Lens in 2023. He previously co-directed, *The Throwaways* (2014), and *Free To Learn* (2004). Bhawin is a Just Films Rockwood Fellow, Sundance Documentary Fellow, and a mentor at CAAM Fellowship, Sundance Edit & Story Lab, A-Doc Impact Lab, BAVC Medimakers, and NBCU Original Voices Accelerator Fellowship. He is also member of A-Doc and the Documentary Accountability Working Group (DAWG).



NEXT DOC SUPPORT TEAM

NEXT DOC PHOTOGRAPHER

JAYANA ESPINOZA (she/her) is a portrait photographer and documentarian based in Troy, NY. Her passion for photography comes out of her understanding of the importance of legacy preservation and storytelling. It brings Jayana a great deal of joy to capture families and friends of marginalized communities because those memories are forever even if we're not. She is a teaching artist with Youth FX, and is also a Birth and Postpartum Doula. Jayana thrives off of meaningful connections with people no matter how long or short they might be.



NEXT DOC VIDEO TEAM

MICHAEL MEJIA (he/him) is an educator and film maker with a concentration in documentary, music videos, and narrative films. He has been an educator in several organizations throughout Albany NY including; The New York State museum in 2009, The Liberty Partnerships Program in 2011, and has been apart of Youth FX since 2010, currently serving as a the creative director of Rogue FX films, teaching and directing. Michael has also been the director of photography on several short films. He received a Bachelors in Fine Arts from Pratt Institute and plans to continue to learn, educate, and create for years to come.



NEXT DOC VIDEO TEAM

DAYSIA LENEÉ (she/her) is an educator and filmmaker from Albany, NY, who works as a digital media educator and creative producer at Youth FX. Her documentaries and narrative films express the vastness of beauty and expansiveness of life within the Black experience. Daysia's short documentary *Redi Love* (2022) premiered on season 14 of PBS's *TvFilm* and screened at the 2022 Big Eddy Film Festival and the 2023 Black Renaissance Film Festival. She is a 2022 Youth FX Upstate Arts2Work fellow, was on the art department for *The Good Mother* (2023), and has worked on productions for HBO, NBC Universal and Rogue FX.



NEXT DOC SUPPORT TEAM

NEXT DOC CHEF

MAYA SUCHAK (she/her) is a New York-based director, editor, and cinematographer. She has been teaching artist with Youth FX for 8 years, working as an educator, cinematographer and editor. Maya has directed, shot, edited over 20 short narrative and documentary films, and her work has screened at festivals including Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Tribeca, and LA Film Festival. Currently, she works as a freelance editor and cinematographer in Upstate New York. Maya is also a personal chef whose cuisine brings together influences from her Indian and Sicilian heritage and infuses them with a creative flair.

NEXT DOC SOUS CHEF & SUPPORT STAFF

CAMILLE DOBBS (she/her) Camille Dobbs is a Youth FX educator, actress, director, and screenwriter based in Albany, New York. Through her concentration in acting she fell in love with not only the art of storytelling but also teaching. Camille uses film as a medium to shed light and bring awareness to issues like racial injustice and sexual assault. Her film *Silence* (2018) at festivals across the country, including BlackStar Film Festival. Her greatest passion is being able to mentor young women like herself, and Camille is currently teaching and finding ways to help more youth tell their stories.



SCHEDULE

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

TUESDAY (5/21)

- ⦿ ALL DAY: **NeXt Doc Staff Arrival**
 - Prep & Setup

WEDNESDAY (5/22)

- ⦿ ALL DAY: **NeXt Doc Fellows Arrival Day**
 - Room Assignments
- ⦿ 1 PM – 2 PM: **LUNCH** (self serve)
- ⦿ 6 PM – 7:30 PM: **DINNER**
- ⦿ 7:30 PM – 9PM: **WELCOME TO NEXT DOC**
 - Brief Introductions
 - Overview of the week
 - Housekeeping
- ⦿ 9 PM: *Kickback*

THURSDAY (5/23)

- ⦿ 9 AM – 10 AM: **BREAKFAST** (self serve)
- ⦿ 10 AM – 1 PM: **INTRODUCTIONS**
 - Live Documentary
 - Community Agreements
 - Intro to Youth FX Ecosystem
 - Intro to Frameworks of NeXt Doc Fellowship
- ⦿ 1 PM – 2 PM: **LUNCH**
- ⦿ 2 PM – 2:15 PM: Awaken Senses, Resist-the-itis Activity
- ⦿ 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM: **MASTERCLASS: Dr. Kameelah Mu'Min Oseguera**
- ⦿ 4:30 PM – 6 PM: *Chill*
- ⦿ 6 PM – 7 PM: **DINNER**
- ⦿ 7:15 PM – 9:15 PM: **PEER-TO-PEER SCREENING: Block #1**
- ⦿ 9:15 PM: *Kickback*

SCHEDULE

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

FRIDAY (5/24)

- ⌚ 9 AM – 10 AM: BREAKFAST (self-serve)
- ⌚ 10:15 AM – 12:30 PM: **MASTERCLASS: Bhawin – Trying To Remember Things I Forgot**
- ⌚ 12:30 PM – 1 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 1 PM – 2 PM: **LUNCH**
- ⌚ 2 PM – 3 PM: **DESIRED FUTURE DISCUSSION #1: Community Of Practice**
- ⌚ 3 PM – 3:30 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM: **MASTERCLASS: Damon Davis**
- ⌚ 5:30 PM – 6 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 6 PM – 7 PM: **DINNER**
- ⌚ 7:15 PM – 9:15 PM: **PEER-TO-PEER SCREENING: Block #2**
- ⌚ 9:15 PM: *Kickback*

SATURDAY (5/25)

- ⌚ 9 AM – 10 AM: BREAKFAST (self-serve)
- ⌚ 10 AM – 1 PM: *Morning walk to the lake*
- ⌚ 1 PM – 2 PM: **LUNCH**
- ⌚ 2:30 PM – 5 PM: **SCREENING: Outta The Muck + Q&A w/ Bhawin & Darian**
- ⌚ 5 PM – 6 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 6 PM – 7:30 PM: **DINNER**
- ⌚ 7:30 PM – 10 PM: *Open Mic/Karaoke*

SUNDAY (5/26)

- ⌚ 9 AM – 10 AM: BREAKFAST (self-serve)
- ⌚ 11 AM – 12:30 PM: **DESIRED FUTURE DISCUSSION #2: Ecosystem over Industry**
- ⌚ 12:30 PM – 1 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 1 PM – 2 PM: **LUNCH**
- ⌚ 2 PM – 2:30 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM: **MASTERCLASS: Darian – Moving at the Speed of Trust**
- ⌚ 4:30 PM – 6 PM: *Chill*
- ⌚ 6 PM – 7 PM: **DINNER**
- ⌚ 7:15PM – 10 PM: **SCREENING: Milisuthando + Q&A w/ Milisuthando**

SCHEDULE

*SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY (5/27)

- ⌚ 9 AM - 10:30AM: **FULL BREAKFAST**
- ⌚ 11 AM - 12 PM: **MASTERCLASS: Milisuthando Bongela-Davis**
- ⌚ 12 PM - 1 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 1 PM - 2 PM: **LUNCH**
- ⌚ 2 PM - 4 PM: **THE JUMP OFF: Production Skill Share**
- ⌚ 4 PM - 4:30 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM: **THE JUMP OFF: The Collective**
- ⌚ 4 PM - 4:30 PM: *Break*
- ⌚ 6 PM - 7 PM: **DINNER**
- ⌚ 8 PM - 10 PM: *Night starwalk to lake*
- ⌚ 10 PM: *Kickback*

TUESDAY (5/28)

This will be a mostly free day, but please expect to commit a total of 90 minutes to our NeXt Steps Sessions and our NeXt Doc Fellows interviews which will be scheduled in advance.

- ⌚ 9 AM - 10AM: **BREAKFAST (self serve)**
- ⌚ 10 AM - 1 PM: **NeXt Steps Sessions w/ Bhawin & Darian**
- ⌚ 10 AM - 1 PM: **NeXt Doc Fellows Interviews**
- ⌚ 10 AM - 1 PM: *Chill*
- ⌚ 1 PM - 2 PM: **LUNCH**
- ⌚ 2 PM - 6 PM: **NeXt Steps Sessions w/ Bhawin & Darian**
- ⌚ 2 PM - 6 PM: **NeXt Doc Fellows Interviews**
- ⌚ 2 PM - 6 PM: *Chill*
- ⌚ 6 PM - 7 PM: **DINNER**
- ⌚ 7 PM - 8:30 PM: **Closing Reciprocity Circle**
- ⌚ 9 PM: *Bonfire & Kickback*

WEDNESDAY (5/29)

- ⌚ 9 AM - 10AM: **BREAKFAST (self serve)**
- ⌚ ALL DAY - **Fellows Departure**





Photos by Jayana Espinoza

NeXt Doc is a fellowship program of Youth FX and is supported by our generous community of filmmakers along with the following funders & partners:

JustFilms
FORD FOUNDATION



PERSPECTIVE
FUND

MacArthur
Foundation

COLOR
CONGRESS

DAWG

NoVo Foundation
create. change.

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