



**DOC NYC ANNOUNCES "DOCUMENTARY INDUSTRY NEW LEADERS"
A NEW INITIATIVE TO HIGHLIGHT RISING TALENT
WITH AN OPEN CALL FOR NOMINEES**

A&E NETWORK IS CO-PRESENTING THE INITIATIVE

NEW YORK, October 7, 2020 – DOC NYC, America’s largest documentary festival, announced a new initiative, “Documentary Industry New Leaders,” that will honor 10 individuals whose efforts and fresh thinking on distribution, sales, festivals, and marketing bring greater inclusion and equity to the field. The festival launched an open call for nominees from the United States and Canada with a deadline of Wednesday, October 28, 2020. The initiative is co-presented by A&E Network.

“These unsung heroes make a huge impact on film culture and film audience development, yet do not usually get the spotlight,” said DOC NYC Director of Filmmaker Development Opal H. Bennett.

“Now more than ever, we need passionate and boundary-pushing industry advocates to champion and provide vital support to nonfiction films,” added DOC NYC Director of Industry and Education Caitlin Boyle.

“A&E has a long-standing partnership with DOC NYC both through the network and our acclaimed A&E IndieFilms strand. We are pleased to continue our support for the festival as a presenter of the new Documentary Industry New Leaders initiative. We are always looking for new voices with new stories to be told, and during the pandemic, new ways of telling these stories. I can’t wait to see the ideas that come from these new leaders,” said Elaine Frontain Bryant, Executive Vice President & Head of Programming at A&E.

DOC NYC’s senior programming team will review applications and nominations to recognize the accomplishments of rising talents who have created positive change in the documentary industry, as well as their potential for future impact.

DOC NYC will announce the 10 New Leaders during the 2020 festival. Over the coming year, the festival will hold intermittent private online gatherings of the New Leaders where they can discuss their challenges, opportunities and hopes for change. During these meetings, DOC NYC will bring in industry mentors to share leadership insights and create sessions for the New Leaders to hold frank conversations. DOC NYC will also create connections between the New Leaders and other sectors of the festival including “40 Under 40” honorees, “Only In New York”

works-in-progress and filmmakers in official selection to foster networking. Further perks for the honorees include a complimentary All-Access pass to DOC NYC PRO events happening throughout the year online. When the festival returns to an in person event, the New Leaders class of 2020 will be invited to participate for in-person activities and meetings.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Candidates can apply directly or be nominated by colleagues at docnyc.net/newleaders. There is no cost to apply. To be eligible, the candidate must have at least three years of work experience in documentary. It's expected that some candidates may aspire to transition from one area (e.g. production) to another (e.g. distribution).

Their work may take place in large companies, small businesses, non-profits, independent production or grassroots organizing. Much of this work is invisible to the public, so we rely on testimonials from those who have witnessed behind-the-scenes championing of underrepresented voices.

Candidates from the U.S. and Canada will be considered regardless of age, race, gender or other demographic factors. We're looking for people who inject fresh perspectives into the field, including from geographic areas outside of the coastal media capitals.

All applications and nominations will be reviewed by the selection committee.

The application/nomination form contains these questions:

- 1) Describe the candidate's work experience in documentary and ways they have shown leadership, especially at supporting new voices in the field. (150-250 words)
- 2) Describe the candidate's potential to bring fresh insights as they advance into a higher position in the documentary industry. (150-250 words)
- 3) List three references for the candidate that DOC NYC's jury can contact.

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DOC NYC is produced and presented by IFC Center, a division of AMC Networks.

Complete DOC NYC program information can be found at: www.docnyc.net

This year's edition of DOC NYC will take place online November 11-19, 2020.

To inquire about sponsor or partnership opportunities for DOC NYC, please contact Raphaela Neihausen, Executive Director, at raphaela@docnyc.net.

ABOUT A&E NETWORK

A&E leads the cultural conversation through high-quality, thought provoking original programming with a unique point of view. Whether it's the network's distinctive brand of award-winning disruptive reality or groundbreaking documentary, A&E always makes entertainment an art. The A&E website is located at aetv.com. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/aetv and Facebook at facebook.com/AETV.

ABOUT DOC NYC

DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, takes place annually in November; the 11th edition will be held online November 11-19, 2020. The 2019 festival showcased over 300 films and events with more than 500 filmmakers and special guests appearing in person. In addition to premiering feature-length and short documentaries, the festival's highlights also include DOC NYC PRO—a series of in-depth panels and case studies—and the Visionaries Tribute awards ceremony that honors major figures in the field of nonfiction film. DOC NYC is produced and presented by IFC Center, a division of AMC Networks.

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