



DOC NYC'S EXPANSION INTO MORE YEAR-ROUND ACTIVITIES SPARKS SEARCH FOR A NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR; FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR THOM POWERS TO MOVE INTO NEW ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS

February 17, 2022 - DOC NYC, America's largest documentary festival, announced that it will open a search for a new Artistic Director, reshaping the role with an expanded scope to serve the organization's growing year-round activities as it enters its 13th year. The festival's founding Artistic Director Thom Powers, who works concurrently at other festivals and in podcasting, will shift into a new position as Director of Special Projects.

"The scope and reach of DOC NYC have dramatically expanded since our first festival in 2010, and it's time to bring in a new Artistic Director who can devote undivided, year-round attention to the organization," said Powers. "I'm excited to work alongside that person to carry on the festival's growth."

DOC NYC's core leadership team of Executive Director Raphaela Neihausen, Director of Industry and Education Malikkah Rollins, and Director of Filmmaker Development Caitlin Boyle remain in place. Following a successful 2021 festival that offered a program of more than 300 films and events, including an 8-day in-person PRO conference, to more than 31,000 festivalgoers in theaters and online, the organization has announced several upcoming online events. Among them are the Winter 2022 season of PRO panels and workshops in February and March and the second annual Spring Showcase in May and June. The 13th edition of the festival will be held in New York November 9-17, 2022.

"This is an exciting new chapter for DOC NYC," said Neihausen. "We're building on a strong foundation with a great team, continuing to benefit from Thom's experience and passion, while bringing on board a new Artistic Director to help expand our vision of what DOC NYC can become."

DOC NYC was launched in 2010 as a project of the IFC Center by Senior Vice President and General Manager John Vanco and Vice President of Programs and Promotions Harris Dew joined by Powers and Neihausen, building on the success of their long-running Stranger Than Fiction screening series at IFC Center.

“Thom has been a dynamo whose commitment, smarts and energy have turned DOC NYC into a powerhouse in the documentary world,” said Vanco. “We’re delighted he’ll continue to play a key role in the festival and are thrilled to be expanding DOC NYC’s team.”

Since its founding, DOC NYC has showcased thousands of films and spawned initiatives such as its DOC NYC PRO Conference for filmmakers, Short Lists spotlighting the year’s awards frontrunners, the 40 Under 40 honors for rising creative talent in the field, the Documentary New Leaders program to promote diversity and inclusion in the industry, Storytelling Incubator, the newsletters Monday Memo and Weekend Watch, and the newly renamed Industry Roundtables (formerly “Only In New York”) for works-in-progress.

As part of Powers’ new portfolio at DOC NYC, he will oversee the annual Visionaries Tribute gala that has honored such legendary figures in the documentary field as Barbara Kopple, D.A. Pennebaker, Chris Hegedus, Sheila Nevins, Wim Wenders, Stanley Nelson, Martin Scorsese, Sam Pollard, Jean Tsien, and others. The most recent edition, held in person last November, paid homage to Joan Churchill and Raoul Peck with Lifetime Achievement awards; Peter Nicks with the Robert and Anne Drew Award; and Chi-hui Yang with the Leading Light Award. Powers will also continue to collaborate on the 40 Under 40 and Documentary New Leaders initiatives, along with other projects.

In addition to his role at DOC NYC, Powers also serves as the documentary programmer for the Toronto International Film Festival and Miami Film Festival. He hosts the podcast Pure Nonfiction and co-hosts with Neihausen the WNYC radio segment “Documentary of the Week.”

DOC NYC hopes to hire a new Artistic Director by spring of 2022. More information about the position can be found [here](#).

Image of Thom Powers and Raphaela Neihausen at DOC NYC Visionaries Tribute 2021: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/docnyc/51671118728/in/album-72157720125332371/> (photo: Lou Aguilar, courtesy of DOC NYC)

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About DOC NYC:

DOC NYC, New York’s documentary festival, takes place annually in November; the 13th edition will be held November 9-17, 2022. The 2021 festival showcased over 250 films and events with more than 1,000 filmmakers and special guests 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 that also take place throughout the year—and the

Visionaries Tribute awards ceremony that honors major figures in the field of nonfiction film. DOC NYC's filmmaker and industry programs include the Storytelling Incubator, Documentary New Leaders, 40 Under 40 and Industry Roundtables for works-in-progress. DOC NYC is produced and presented by IFC Center, a division of AMC Networks.