



Funding Exchange 2008 Grants List

Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media



666 Broadway, Suite 500
New York, NY 10012
www.fex.org

RADIO GRANTS

Beyond the Pale

New York, NY

www.jfrej.org

www.beyondthepale.org

Helena Tubis

\$5,000

Beyond the Pale is a weekly radio show that explores local, national, and international political debate and analysis from a Jewish perspective. The program also brings listeners the voices and sounds of contemporary Jewish culture, from film critics to filmmakers, novelists, poets, and musicians. *Beyond the Pale* is the only Jewish program on radio or television devoted to bringing a left perspective to political and cultural debates.

Escucha! (Listen Up!)

New York, NY

www.peoplesproductionhouse.org

Deepa Fernandes and Abdulai Bah

\$15,000

Day laborers, mostly immigrants, are under attack in America, facing repression from politicians, mistreatment from contractors, and harassment from law enforcement. Denied basic labor rights, workers and their families often face precarious financial and personal situations. The Community News Production Institute (CNPI), a project of People's Production House, is working with two community organizing groups on a radio-audio project to inform these highly exploited workers of their basic rights. The "Escucha!" (Listen Up!) Project will collect stories from day laborers, covering the issues that affect them on the job, and compile a multi-pronged organizing tool that community partners can use to teach workers about their rights and recruit new members to their critical organizing campaigns. Escucha will be a professionally produced "Know-Your-Rights" CD and documentary, in Spanish and English, that community partners will distribute on the street corners directly to day laborers.

La Voz de Nuestra Experiencia (The Voice of Our Experience)

Vieques, Puerto Rico

www.prorescatevieques.org

Nilda Medina and Luís Alfonso Meléndez

\$10,000

La Voz de Nuestra Experiencia (The Voice of Our Experience), is an intergenerational oral histories project focused on preserving the experiences and lessons of the Peace Movement and the goals of the current struggle for social justice and sustainable development. The project focuses on four East Puerto Rico communities most affected by the presence of the U.S. Navy of war. *La Voz* is a regional collaboration of community activists, youth groups and the Committee for the Development of Vieques (CPRDV). It will be facilitated by three community media instructors with

ample experience producing youth radio, public affairs and public radio broadcasting. *La Voz* will air on local commercial radio WALO and on RadioWeb of the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao for 12 consecutive weeks during the summer of 2009.

Looking Down the Barrel

Oakland, CA

www.blockreportradio.com

JR Valrey and Fred Hampton, Jr.

\$5,000

The *Looking Down the Barrel* radio series will record, edit, broadcast, and distribute breaking news from people of African descent within the Western Hemisphere. The series will look at the struggles and resistance that encompass their everyday lives in the Americas. *Looking Down the Barrel* will include 20, 12-30 minute broadcasts that will be aired on Pacifica and archived online. Hundreds of CDs will also be distributed hand-to-hand internationally. Some of the topics covered will include police terrorism, discriminatory hiring practices, access to education, the hyper-incarceration of Black people, life after Aristide in Haiti, food co-ops, effects of the 50 year embargo against Cuba, and life after Fidel Castro.

Our Americas Special Report: Voices of Resistance

Jackson Heights, NY

Mario Murillo

\$5,000

Our Americas Special Report is a weekly radio series that will focus on the many social and political struggles currently evolving in the Andes, with a particular focus on Colombia and its regional neighbors. The program will include special news reports combining elaborate pre-produced features with live dispatches from Colombia. Additional reports from Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia will highlight events in the indigenous communities and the broader social movement throughout the region. The reports will be produced in collaboration with radio reporters from the broad network of community radio stations in these countries, and will broadcast on WBAI Pacifica Radio on its morning-drive program "Wake Up Call," as well as on other Pacifica stations. *Our Americas Special Report: Voices of Resistance* will also include an interactive blogging component through a website linked to wbai.org and the Colombia Human Rights Network.

Queer Voices of Resistance (QVR)

Springfield, MA

www.outnowyouth.org

Holly Richardson and Jules Gimbrone

\$5,000

Queer Voices of Resistance (QVR), is both an artistic outlet and a tool for grassroots community organizing. A project of Queer Empowerment thru Solidarity and Truth (QuEST), QVR centers its work within the queer youth community of Springfield, MA.

Following the anti-oppression mission of QuEST, QVR creates radio pieces that showcase the stories of community members in response to larger systems of oppression, specifically exploring the multi-dimensional effects of the Prison Industrial System and violence on queer youth.

FILM & VIDEO GRANTS

Children in No Man's Land

Los Angeles, CA

www.impactofilms.com

Anayansi Prado

Distribution: \$20,000

Children in No Man's Land is a documentary that reveals the plight of 100,000 unaccompanied minors entering the United States every year. This film gives the timely political debate about the U.S.-Mexico border a human face by exploring the story of Maria de Jesus, age 13, and her cousin Rene, age 12, as they attempt to cross the U.S./Mexico border alone to reunite with their mothers in the Midwest. Focusing on minors crossing the Sonora Desert area in Nogales, Arizona, this film explores every detail of these children's journey, as well as the journeys of other children they meet on the way.

Freed

Brooklyn, NY

Regina Park

Pre-Production: \$7,000

Lured by promises of hope and opportunity, many South Korean women are duped and smuggled into the United States every year at alarming rates. They face unspeakable horrors while repaying their debt bondage to their traffickers and madams by way of sexual servitude, and are forced into drug use and immeasurable physical and mental abuse. FREED (working title) is a feature-length documentary exploring the traumatic aftermath of the lives of three international survivors of sex trafficking. Bearing their scars, can they return to Korea and the their lives they left behind? Or, do they stay and attempt to assimilate into the foreign culture that they may forever associate with their captivity? Can they ever really be freed?

Going on 13

Oakland, CA

www.goingon13.com

Dawn Valadez and Kristy Guevara-Flanagan

Distribution: \$10,000

From Tweety Bird to Bow Wow, double dutch to chat rooms, Daddy's girls to first deceptions, watch as Ariana, Isha, Rosie, and Esme let go of childhood and fumble—or sprint—toward and uncertain future. This is puberty, and for each of these girls of color, it's a whirlwind of change and new choices. Without flinching, *Going On 13* enters their world as they negotiate the

precious, precarious moments between being a little girl and becoming a young woman. In conjunction with a national broadcast, *Going On 13* will: 1) launch a community engagement tour that will provide many “hands-on” activities for exploring the film’s themes, and offer portable downloads of the trailer from their website; 2) participate as a featured film of the upcoming “Girls at Risk” National Summit to be held in Washington, D.C.; 3) exhibit the film and related materials at girls’ organizations, schools, libraries, and community centers to ensure the campaign reaches the communities intended; and 4) create a study guide and discussion materials.

Old South

Athens, GA

Danielle Beverly

Pre-Production: \$12,500

Through the eyes of one African American woman *Old South* weaves traditional racial themes of the region with contemporary issues of corporate versus community owned business. Hope Inglehart is 30, single, and recently licensed as an embalmer. She’s fighting to save her family’s black owned funeral home from disgrace and disrepair, and her historically African American neighborhood from encroachment by an elite white fraternity. Will she be able to single-handedly stop the Kappa Alphas from staging their annual antebellum “Old South” parade next to her family home? Can she keep her ailing family business alive?

The Parliament of One: A New Documentary Film on U.S.-U.N. Relations

Brooklyn, NY

www.governessfilms.com

Lisa Russell and Mandy Ward

Pre-Production: \$5,000

The Parliament of One is a new documentary film produced and directed by filmmaker Lisa Russell, a former humanitarian relief worker and consultant for the United Nations. Intended for the general public who know little about the inner workings of the United Nations and how superpowers exploit it, *The Parliament of One*, will expose how the United States—from its espionage tactics during the U.N.’s 1945 inception to its role in the current controversy over the war in Iraq—paralyzes the world body in pursuit of its foreign interests. The film will use stylistic cinematography, animation and fresh storytelling techniques to give general audiences a 101 introduction to the U.N., its power structure (particularly in the Security Council), and the impact the veto-power by the Permanent Five has on so-called U.N. “failures.” *The Parliament of One* will stimulate American viewers to re-think their biases about this important, yet neglected, world body.

Race to Execution: Juror Number Six Outreach Project

Brookline, MA

www.jurornumbersix.com

www.lionessmedia.com

Rachel Lyon and Jim Lopes

Distribution: \$10,000

Race to Execution: Juror Number Six Outreach Project exposes how “racialized” framing of crime in all media platforms sway audiences and juries. Media use of distorted images of U.S. minorities as violent criminals contributes to a cycle of fear and injustice, resulting in draconian sentences for minorities. The project is a two-part limited series; a one-hour documentary on race and the death penalty, along with a short internet film that analyzes and provides instruments that can change current public perceptions—and trial outcomes. *Juror Number Six Outreach Project* will distribute the series using several integrated methods for reaching community-based activists, including broadcast, Web-cast, and embeddable website. Through community conferences and conversations *Juror Number Six Outreach Project* offers a set of “best practices” tools for current and prospective journalists, filmmakers, and internet content providers to enable production of more nuanced stories on criminal justice rather than crime. *Race to Execution: Juror Number Six Outreach Project* will provide much-needed focus on the impact of media on race, crime, and punishment.

Racism Without Race: The Other Japan

New York, NY

www.twn.org

JT Takagi

Pre-Production: \$7,000

Racism without Race: The Other Japan will be a one-hour documentary look through the eyes of three different communities struggling for civil and human rights in Japan—the third and fourth generation Koreans living in Japan, the Burakumin and Okinawans. Using a combination of media depictions and personal stories, interviews with scholars and activists, this video will examine the human legacy of Japan’s past aggression and its current geopolitical aims that drive its continued oppression of different peoples. In addition, the video will profile the communities’ struggles for civil and human rights, while providing a different vantage point to examine racism, discrimination, and the meaning of national and cultural identity.

Revenge on a Ghost

Santa Barbara, CA

www.brightsunproductions.com

Thomas Adjani

Pre-Production: \$6,000

At a time when the U.S. government has endorsed torture as necessary and effective for waging the “war on terror,” *Revenge on a Ghost* examines the consequences by following an ex-Marine, Harrison, who tortured prisoners in Iraq. This thriller

is the first narrative film to explore what torture does to the torturer, while integrating themes of coercion, secrecy, and retaliation to educate audiences about the human costs of U.S. military policies.

Seeds

San Francisco, CA

www.teddybearfilms.com

Micha Peled

Pre-Production: \$7,000

India is experiencing an epidemic of mass suicides among its farmers. With over 150,000 victims, this tragedy is unprecedented in world history. Forced to use GMO seed designed to be sterile, and simultaneously compete in a global economy dominated by agro-business conglomerates, many farmers lose all hope of providing for their families. *SEEDS* follows two families in a village throughout a farming season to explore the reasons why. It follows the leads all the way back to the U.S. where Monsanto, the world's leading seeds company, which has just doubled its stock value, and U.S. government subsidies combine to keep India's farmers at a critical and deliberate disadvantage. This connection remains as yet unreported in mainstream media. *SEEDS* is the third in a globalization trilogy. Both previous films, which aired on PBS, were used extensively by advocacy organizations.

Spare the Rod—Juvenile Justice in Missouri

Brooklyn, NY

Rachel Liebling and Marc Cantone

Pre-Production: \$15,000

Over 100,000 troubled youth are trapped in America's failing juvenile incarceration centers, except for the "lucky" ones who live in Missouri. With the country's highest success rate for juvenile reform—an astounding 92% compared to California's 20%—the Missouri Division of Youth Services is doing something remarkable. *Spare the Rod*, a feature-length documentary, captures an intimate portrait of violent youth offenders whose lives are transformed by Missouri's radical and humane approach to juvenile justice. Presenting a compelling vision for reform of the punitive, inhuman, and ineffective approach to juvenile justice now implemented across the country, *Spare the Rod* will reach hearts, change minds, and affect policy.

Transfeminism

Chicago, IL

www.samfeder.com

www.julesrosskam.com

Sam Feder and Jules Rosskam

Pre-Production: \$5,500

Transfeminism (working title) is a feature documentary that depicts transgender women working from both inside and outside feminist movements towards social and economic justice for all. The film argues that transgender women not only belong as fully-fledged members of any women's spaces, but have invaluable insights into propelling the feminist movement forward. By addressing the injustice towards transgender women of color and low-income transgender women, *Transfeminism* simultaneously addresses issues of gender, race, class, and sexuality within feminist movements.

Ubuntu

Brooklyn, NY

www.ubuntufilms.org

Ana Nogueira and Erez Gudes

Pre-Production: \$20,000

Ubuntu is a documentary that will explore in detail the comparison to the Israeli-Palestine conflict, and the South African creation of and end to apartheid. It will analyze the current U.S.-led peace process in the hopes of educating Americans about our role in the volatile region. The effectiveness of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement that helped end apartheid in South Africa will also be compared to its effectiveness in the Israeli context to end the occupation.

Who Owns the Internet?

New York, NY

www.anothercupdevelopment.org

Rosten Woo

Pre-Production: \$5,000

Who Owns the Internet? is a documentary video that will explain the uneven distribution of internet infrastructure throughout New York City, and the technical and political issues that shape the debate over equal internet access. It will help identify and address the social, political, financial, physical, and technological barriers to internet access in cities, using New York City as an example. This video will be used as an organizing and education tool by media activists and low-income communities nationally.