

# Announcing the 2011 Social Issues Documentary Film Contest!



The **4th Annual SI DocFest** is calling for entries! The SI DocFest is a unique film contest designed to draw upon the creativity and social concerns of **high school filmmakers** in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. To date, close to **\$85,000** have been awarded to schools, non-profits and students.

The pre-registration deadline is **February 1, 2011**. Students should start working on their **8-12 minute documentary** by researching a social issue and a corresponding non-profit in the Bay Area (or elsewhere for our new category – see sidebar). They could get to know the organization by volunteering - establishing a good relationship with their subjects is essential in producing a meaningful film.

## Why Participate?

The SI DocFest offers an excellent opportunity for students to expand their education beyond the classroom. By combining a passion for social action and awareness with film and media, the SI DocFest hopes to give students an important, well-rounded learning experience. At the very least, we hope to ignite a thought process in students about issues in our society. At best, we hope students will unearth and examine thought-provoking questions about social issues and the non-profit organizations that exist to alleviate them.

Many classes in a high school curriculum such as video or film production, social justice, history, economics, science, religion or ethics can serve as a bridge to the SI DocFest's mission. These subjects are very relevant to understanding social issues such as poverty, human rights or the environment.

A main goal of the SI DocFest is that teachers and administrators get involved by supporting the film contest as a valuable chance to make a REEL difference in our community. The SI DocFest hopes educators – especially those involved in video production programs – will use the contest as a possible supplement to a curriculum that already focuses on shaping socially aware and responsible young people. Please feel free to contact us at [info@dogooddocs.com](mailto:info@dogooddocs.com) with any questions.

## New for 2011 !

### New Date



The SI DocFest is moving to the spring. After 3 years of holding the event in early February, the event is moving to the last weekend of April, which next year will be Saturday **April 30<sup>th</sup>** at the same great venue of our sponsors Camera Cinemas, in downtown San Jose.

### New Category



In addition to our standard contest format, we are introducing a new competition category called **"Beyond the Bay"**. Films submitted into this category do not have to exclusively relate to the Bay Area (previously, only films dealing with Bay Area social issues or non-profits were eligible). For instance, if students traveled internationally over the summer or winter breaks and decided to do a social issues film during the trip, now they can enter their films into the contest. The guidelines are otherwise similar.

### Updated Website



For contest details, topic ideas, filmmaking tips and to see past winning films, please visit our website at: **[www.sidocfest.com](http://www.sidocfest.com)**

# SI DocFest 2010 Winners



## FINALISTS

**1st Place** – “Art Works”; Emily Munoz, Natalie Hon; MV/LA HS Freestyle Academy - \$10,000

**2nd Place** – “Sacey/Spa”; Melody C. Miller; San Leandro HS - \$6,000

**3rd Place** – “Beating the Unbeatable: Joe Wise”; Michael Hoff, Tim Jacob; Bellarmine CP - \$4,000

**4th Place** – “Star Riders”; Tom MacVicar; Carmel HS - \$1,500

**5th Place tie** – “The Victory Over Illiteracy”; Tayo Amos; Castilleja HS - \$1,000

**5th Place tie** – “Unite to Fight”; Brittany Ricketts, Jessica Scarborough; Presentation HS - \$1,000

## SPECIAL AWARD

Nate Marshall won the **Terry McElhatton Memorial Award** for submitting the most entries from a single school, resulting in an award of \$1,500 to Valley Christian HS

## SEMI-FINALISTS (Alphabetical by School)

“Habitat”; Zack Olpin, Dmitry Neronov, Henry Merschel; Carmel High School - \$500

“Service to the World”; Jules Walton, Nati Rich; MV/LA HS Freestyle Academy - \$500

“Fault Point”; Dereck Hoekstra; Valley Christian HS; **PLUS** Organizer’s Award for Creativity and Technical Excellence - \$500 + \$1,500

“Imagine Bus Project”; Alice Regan, Alyssa Stockman; Valley Christian HS - \$500

*Photographs (top to bottom):*

1. First place winner Emily Munoz (right) of Freestyle Academy with SI DocFest co-founder Monica Alba

2. Second place winner Melody Miller (center) of San Leandro HS with members of the non-profit she profiled

3. Third place winners Michael Hoff and Tim Jacob of Bellarmine College Preparatory

4. Nate Marshall (right), video production teacher at Valley Christian HS and winner of the Terry McElhatton Memorial Award, with SI DocFest co-founder Loreli Alba

# Rules & Regulations



## CONTENT

- All films must be original, newly-produced works, created in 2010/11.
- All footage must be shot and edited by the filmmaker(s), with the exception of archival footage which cannot exceed 20% of the film's total content and must be properly attributed.
- Dramatizations are discouraged, but if necessary they need to be clearly identified as such and cannot exceed 10% of the film.
- Film must be a documentary that focuses on a social issue within the larger San Francisco Bay Area community. The film may have worldwide scope, but a clear link to a local community must be clearly established. For a variant on this, see the "Beyond the Bay" category below.
- All films must be appropriate for general audiences and in good taste
- Films should be around 10 minutes long, with 2 minute leeway on each end (including end credits). In other words, the minimum length is 8 minutes and the maximum is 12 minutes.

## ELIGIBILITY

- In order to submit a film, you must be a full-time high school student in the San Francisco Bay Area any time in the 2010 calendar year.
- You have the option of working individually OR working in a team of up to 3 students from your school. A maximum of 3 students will be eligible for scholarship money if the film wins; however, there is no limit as to how many students from your school may help you in the course of your filmmaking experience.
- In the case of a team entry, students must be from the same school or academy.
- Filmmaker(s) are welcome to submit more than one film to the SI DocFest.

## TIMELINE

- Pre-registration forms are due **February 1, 2011**. Entries submitted later than this deadline may not be eligible for the festival.
- A 1-2 minute preview must be submitted via mail in a DVD format and postmarked by **March 1, 2011**. This will count as the official registration for the SI DocFest.
- Completed films are to be submitted by **April 1, 2011**.
- The awards screening where the winners will be announced will be held at the Camera Cinemas in downtown San Jose on Saturday **April 30, 2011**.

## AWARDS

- Top 3 prizes are to be distributed equally among the organization or individual(s) profiled in the documentary, the school represented by the winning filmmaker(s) and the filmmaker(s) in the form of a cash scholarship.
- 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive \$10,000.
- 2nd place will receive \$6,000.
- 3rd place will receive \$4,000.
- In addition, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> place will receive awards for their profiled non-profits (\$1,500, \$1,000, \$750).
- Other semifinalists will receive \$500 for their selected non-profits.
- Awards will also be granted to recognize Honorable Mentions, special contributions and/or unique merit.
- Recognition and participation certificates will be presented to all approved entries; in addition, the winners' films will be posted for worldwide view on the SI DocFest website.

## NEW "BEYOND THE BAY" CATEGORY

- This new category should follow all of the above guidelines, except for the requirement to cover Bay Area issues, individuals or nonprofit organizations. Any social issue or organization worldwide is eligible. An award of \$2,000 is to be presented to the winning filmmaker(s).

***Students can download pre-registration forms online at [www.sidocfest.com](http://www.sidocfest.com) and either email them to [info@dogooddocs.com](mailto:info@dogooddocs.com) or mail them to do good docs at 1830 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.***

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bay Area**

**Social Issues**

**Documentary Film Contest**

**SATURDAY**

**April 30, 2011**



**do good docs**  
**1830 The Alameda**  
**San Jose, CA 95126**