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Dear Fellow City Councilmembers,

The Berkeley FILM Foundation (BFF) is a 501(c)(3) grant and educational program for independent filmmakers founded by the City of Berkeley, Wareham Development and the Saul Zaentz Company with a mission to nurture, sustain and preserve the thriving local film community while attracting the next generation of filmmakers. The BFF focuses on supporting social, historical and innovative documentary and dramatic works. Many of their grant winners have gone on to screen at U.S. and international film festivals, been recognized with prestigious awards, received television broadcasts and are making a difference around the world.

Since its inception, the The Berkeley FILM Foundation has awarded more than \$1,000,000 to projects in the production, post-production and distribution stages.

The Saul Zaentz Award of \$25,000 is given each year to honor Saul's legacy. The Al Bendich Award of \$20,000 is given in honor of social justice advocate and BFF founding member, Al Bendich.

In its effort to encourage the next generation of local filmmakers, BFF has awarded more than \$90,000 to 29 student filmmakers.

The BFF grant program accepts applications from the cities of Berkeley, Oakland, Emeryville, El Cerrito, Albany and Richmond. The BFF has recently begun funding Oakland-Based Films and Filmmakers and hopes to partner with the City of Oakland on future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Annie Campbell Washington  
City of Oakland Vice Mayor and Councilmember, District 4