



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**The Talented Youth**

**Address:**  
815 Seattle Blvd S #223  
Seattle, WA 98134-1310

**Contact:**  
(206) 905-8400  
<https://www.nffty.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**

Founded in 2007, the mission of the National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY) and its flagship program, The Talented Youth, is the encouragement and acknowledgement of young artists working in the media arts—promoting their accomplishments through festivals and programs and celebrating the extraordinary talent that exists and the compelling stories they tell.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2019 Q2	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from The Talented Youth.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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**THE TALENTED YOUTH**

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Seattle, WA 98134

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[www.NFFTY.org](http://www.NFFTY.org)

501(c)(3) Tax ID: 20-8536377

**NFFTY 2019 FINAL REPORT --- Grant # Q2 2019 14.2**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION & IMPACT (*Attendance = 10,000*)**

The 2019 NFFTY festival was overwhelmingly described as the best year yet from a programmatic quality standpoint. With over 1200 submissions, we were able to select over 260 of the very best films from around the country and across the globe. 24 states and 26 countries were represented, as well as a strong contingent of Washington State filmmakers...some of which were highlighting in our “Locals Only” screening. We are proud to say we achieve gender parity in filmmaker representation for the second year in a row, featuring 50%+ female/non-binary work in our official selections. For the first year we also started asking questions in our submission process around racial/ethnic identity, as well as student-status, in an effort to be more equitable in bringing underrepresented filmmaking excellence to the fore. Our goal was 30% non-white in the first year tracking this effort, and we’re very pleased that our 2019 lineup was over 40% non-white!

This year our presenting sponsor from 2017 and 2018 did not return, so we did not have support to bring back NFFTYx, our showcase of the best VR/AR/360 emerging tech and storytelling from young creators. We did not hear from any filmmakers nor previous attendees as to what happened with the event and if it would come back, which is a clear sign to us that while it was important to try this type of programming, it was not a new crucial piece that would see year-over-year demand. This trend is similar to what a survey of national and international film festivals show...that festivals have experimented with this programming for a few years but audiences are growing tired of it. This could be seen as a positive, pro-social trend...as filmmakers travel to film festivals to network and share work in a face-to-face manner, and most VR experiences isolate the user in a solitary experience.

Because we didn’t have this festival-within-a-festival to produce in NFFTYx this year, we were able to focus on expanding and enhancing the core festival in really exciting ways. We partnered with brands that young filmmakers are excited to learn more about and that have real employment and financial opportunities available, including Seed&Spark, Vimeo, Sundance Institute, NowThis, and Collective to present world class professional development and educational programming at the festival. This also included a keynote from Matty Brown, an elusive yet world-renowned Seattle-based filmmaker, which was an extra special event for the attending youth for whom Matty is a big influence. Through this effort we were able to increase our educational events by 100%, and are pleased by the after-festival survey responses that have identified these experiences as some of the most beneficial of the festival. In previous years screenings were always rated much higher than panels and workshops, and we’ve now equaled in satisfaction.

We were also able to create 8 robust juries with 31 top industry professionals, aligning us with industry standards and hopefully eventually becoming an Oscar-qualifying festival. These industry professionals

were extra exposure for the festival and our top filmmakers, but they also attended the festival to participate in events such as the Works in Progress event. Other returning programs were the 4th Annual Story Starts Here Screenplay Competition presented by Vancouver Film School (the top six get filmmaker passes and are invited to the festival), our 48 Hour Film Off competition (now open to all high school-level programs in the US and Canada for the first year ever), and our Masterclass presentation from a top Danish filmmaker (supported by Scan|Design Foundation and Station Next).

Our second year producing in the fall proved difficult for a number of reasons. In addition to it being a busy season for local and international film festivals (especially in October), it is a busy season for award buzz movies to come out theatrically, which meant our ability to show on two screens in the evening at SIFF Cinema Uptown was still no longer available to us. It also has remained that we cannot produce our Opening Night Gala screening at the Cinerama. However, we utilized SIFF Cinema Egyptian instead this year, which opened up the possibility of producing on Capitol Hill. We replaced the Nesholm Family Lecture Hall with the SIFF Film Center for Friday – Sunday programming, which meant we had access to both the Classroom and Theater and allowed us to help produce more of the aforementioned workshops and professional events. This led to individual screening/event attendance being pretty similar to 2018 while the total attending filmmakers remained similar to 2017 numbers, but because the Film Center seats fewer filmmakers and is close to the Uptown, it felt much more attended and was easier to get around.

**Attendance was approximately 10,000 across all events through the four day weekend!**

We were overall really pleased with all the programming elements of the four-day weekend and they were very positively received. We have work to do with finding a way to keep everything going in this short time span and have less events overlap so that each element receives the attendance and attention it deserves.

One of the high school filmmakers who participated in our 48 Hour Film Off challenge, said:

*“My experience with NFFTY was incredible because of the team that I filmed with. My film could not have existed without the minds of my fellow teams. I credit part of this to NFFTY because you guys are the ones who brought my team together - walking the halls of my high school, I never would have put my group together and believed that we could create an awesome film, but we did, and I am forever grateful for that opportunity.”*

Additionally, we spend extra effort every year making sure young filmmakers feel valued and centered at the event, as well as fostering a genuine sense of community. Giulia Gandini, a UK-based filmmaker and the winner of this year’s Best Narrative jury award (and the film is long-listed for the 2020 Oscars), said of the festival:

*“It’s the best out there! I think the key difference is a sense of family and belonging, plus everybody in the team genuinely knows who I am and cares for my film.”*

Finally, one of the greatest rewards is seeing the filmmakers push each other to be their very best, and the sense of inspiration they take away. One filmmaker said:

*“I’ve created friendships that will last forever. It gave me the motivation and push I needed to keep writing and producing. I know that the future of film is in great hands thanks to my fellow young filmmakers that I have witnessed a week ago. I cannot wait to cross paths with the talented filmmakers that attended NFFTY this year.”*

## AUDIENCE & PUBLIC BENEFIT

NFFTY passes and tickets are discounted for youth 24 and under, and are discounted deeper for groups attending from schools. We also participate in TeenTix \$5 pricing. We set aside several free tickets to NFFTY screenings for homeless and low income youth. We also produce a 48 Hour Film Competition for area high schools, and all participants attend all NFFTY events for free. **In partnership with local funders such as the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, we were able to also provide day passes for free or greatly reduced prices to area youth who registered for Film Career Day.**

We also partnered with Langston and Three Dollar Bill Cinema to feature local filmmakers as official selections in our festival lineup, giving free passes to those filmmakers to be able to attend the full festival weekend. To feature more local artists working in the local scene to attendees visiting Seattle from all over the world, we showcased local bands Cumulus, Chong the Nomad, and Naked Giants at our Opening Night Gala.

We brought back Film Career Day from the 2nd year in partnership with Seattle's Offices of Arts & Culture, Economic Development, and Film + Music, as well as producer One Reel. Over 300 persons under the age of 25 participated in the event held at Cornish Playhouse and McCaw Hall on Friday, October 25th. Participants networked with industry professionals, saw a keynote from Oscar-winning NFFTY alumna Rayka Zehtabchi, and attended breakout sessions and a table fair of local organizations. This year we also added a hands-on experiential element to increase access to learning about how to use professional equipment and techniques, especially targeted at high school and middle school students who don't have fully funded media arts programs. What was also encouraging was seeing new schools participate who didn't participate in 2018, including Seattle World School and Middle College High School, expanding the reach of the event. We are still waiting on final wrap report to be produced by One Reel, but overall the event felt like a success.

In addition to the core activities described above, we produced many more year-round free events in partnership with non-profit and community organizations such as The Vera Project, TeenTix, Northwest Film Forum, Seattle Outdoor Cinema, SIFF, Northwest Folklife, and Tasveer. These events, produced between January 2019 and September 2019, served an additional 2000 participants and attendees in Seattle, including producing events in the south end such as our volunteer orientation and launch party at Clock Out Lounge in Beacon Hill.

NFFTY also programs an online Film of the Week to highlight filmmakers year-round. These short films continue to be paired with a just launched official NFFTY Podcast, which interviews the filmmaker and are distributed via e-news and social media. The 2nd season of The NFFTY Podcast will feature weekly episodes until NFFTY 2020 and are available via all major podcast platforms.

## PHOTOS FROM NFFTY 2019 (*Descriptions and credit for attached photos*)

- FCD NFFTY 2019 Hands-On Experience.jpg -- (local youth experiencing professional film + tv studio equipment first hand)
- FCD NFFTY 2019 Speed Networking.jpg -- (local youth interacting with industry mentors in quick "speed dating"-style sessions at Film Career Day)
- NFFTY 2019 48 Hour Film Off Screening.jpg -- (local high school students in Q&A for their three-minute films)



- NFFTY 2019 Climate Change Panel with Kshama Sawant.jpg -- (filmmakers and local activists discuss how to use storytelling to change the world for good)
- NFFTY 2019 Opening Night Local Band Cumulus.jpg -- (hired local musicians and artists for opening night festivities)

*All photo credits to David Rzegocki*

