



ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023



A YEAR IN REVIEW

A look at the highlights of 2022-2023

Since its inception in 2011, Justice for My Sister has been on an incredible journey, surpassing all expectations and reaching new heights.

Over the past year, we have expanded significantly, attracting a talented and passionate team dedicated to our mission. With a focus on integrity, community, and accountability, we continue to set new standards in the industry to benefit our students and community. As we gaze into the future, our commitment to lifting the voices of filmmakers of color remains unwavering, thanks to your support.



1387

Total number of program participants served in FY 2022-2023



438

Total number of programming hours provided in FY 2022-2023



50

Total number of artists employed in FY 2022-2023



8

Number of neighborhoods served in Los Angeles County in FY 2022-2023

Together, we achieved great things in 2022-2023



Justice for My Sister is one of 5 community-based organizations selected by LA County, the Office of Child Protection, DMH, and DCFS through the Creative Wellbeing Program to provide healing-centered arts education to former foster youth in transitional housing.



Justice for My Sister was chosen by the California Arts Council to work with other community-based organizations to impart insights on best practices for working with incarcerated youth through our Trauma-Informed Storytelling Certification Program.



Justice for My Sister is one of two county-wide community-based organizations selected to host an Artist Facilitator to help communities impacted by police brutality create community-led solutions to reclaim public space through the arts and healing.



In the last year, Justice for My Sister has received support from different foundations and government entities to hire additional administrative and program staff needed to support our programs, partnerships creation, and job placement initiatives.

A Note From Our Founder:

Looking back at July 1, 2022, I had dreams but didn't imagine Justice for My Sister would be where it is today on this timeline. In my early community organizing days, I decided to be the type of leader who makes space for those around me to blossom in their own leadership. However, as the founder of Justice for My Sister, it was hard for me to loosen my grip and really delegate—I love this work, and I truly enjoy teaching about trauma-informed filmmaking to artists of all ages. That said, after the conclusion of our inaugural PA Certification program in the summer of 2022, I knew deep down that I could no longer remain as the lead facilitator for all our programs if the organization were to grow. It was time to deepen my ability to not only make space for my team to shine in their leadership but also re-envision my role as the Executive Director of a growing organization.

A year later, we began our search for additional staff to keep up with our ballooning workload. I was blown away by the incredible applicants and realized through this process that they wanted to work at Justice for My Sister because not only were they committed to our mission but because they came to know our organization as a great place to work and a community in which they could heal.





As we expand, I'm guided daily by the values we hold at Justice for My Sister—integrity, community, vulnerability, honoring lineage, respect and making space for mistakes and growth, and accountability. These values are baked into the fiber of our organizational practices, procedures, and culture. As we look forward to 2023-2024, it fills my heart to know that Justice for My Sister is setting a new standard in social justice media companies and the nonprofit sector as a whole. We are building talent not only in our filmmaking participants but also in our administrative staff. We are making systemic change in two industries: the TV & film sector and the nonprofit field.

Thank you to our participants, community, partners, staff, and Board, who make our dream to change the lives of so many a reality. We do this work in a way that nourishes and reminds us—that another world is possible. "Otro mundo es posible."

Kimberly Bautista
Founder & Executive Director

OUR PROGRAMS

VIDEO DIARIES

Our 2023 cohort included 8 BIPOC directors who created autobiographical films that bring visibility to experiences that are often untold or misrepresented in the predominantly white and male film industry. The subjects explored ranged from gentrification to the school-to-prison pipeline, mental health, and healing your inner child.

The program provides a space for filmmakers of color to create their personal documentary or poetry videos. We provide instruction, technical support, and one-on-one mentorship for participants to own agency over their work and stories.

The eight short films premiered at Whittier Starlight Cinema to a theater full of family, friends, & community members.

80%

Of participants are systems impacted youth.

100%

are BIPOC youth from Los Angeles County.

70%

Improved understanding of media literacy.

First-time director Rain Grey with his guest at the premiere of his Video Diary.




Program participants at the Video Diaries culmination event on July 2023



"Through accountability in a group setting I was able to develop my idea. The structured format of class and the multiple people who assist in making sure the film gets made, all the while being gentle, understanding, and empathetic to things that may be going on in the filmmaker's life, was really helpful."

-2023 Video Diaries Participant



Video Diaries 2022 participant Jackelyn Santiago screened their short film *Para Vivir (To Live)* at Outfest Fusion, QWOC Film Festival, and Long Beach Q Film Festival in 2023.

"I never could have imagined such a loving open caring creative space as the one Justice for my Sister has given me. I am so blessed to say I have made something very much full of that love the organization truly stands for." - Jackelyn Santiago.

OUR PROGRAMS

In 2022 we launched the 3rd cohort of our BIPOC Sci-Fi Screenwriting Lab

In 2022, we welcomed 13 new participants into the fold. After our 8-week lecture series, six participants were selected to match up with BIPOC screenwriters for one-on-one mentorship to polish the draft of their pilots. In the end, participants produced industry-standard scripts of their pilots, giving them a solid work sample that has landed them representation and further opportunities. We hosted an exclusive virtual table read of the pilots where participants got to direct actors and present their work to industry professionals.

The stories that came to fruition in the Lab expand our radical imagination to envision worlds and futures filled with hope, magic, and a call to liberation from oppressive forces for our communities.

Learn more about our program participants and their stories:





Fox Kier

“My short that won the McDonald’s Spotlight Dorado grant is the proof of concept for the show I was working on during the JFMS BIPOC Sci-Fi lab. I’m shooting a short version of Chimera!

This feels like a moment of serendipity because last night, someone made me aware of your Sponsored PA program, seeing as we’re gearing up to produce my short that won the McDonald’s Spotlight Dorado grant on August 5th and 6th.

The person who mentioned it to me thought it would be a great idea because I love to mentor up-and-comers. What they didn’t know is that what I’m shooting is the proof of concept for the show I was working on during the JFMS BIPOC Sci-Fi lab. Full circle moment! The Lab was invaluable. “

-Kryzz Gautier, 2020 BIPOC Sci-Fi Fellow

“Before joining the Lab, I spent my free time polishing my portfolio so I’d be ready to query, always feeling my work was missing something I couldn’t see. As I struggled to find a space where I fit, I couldn’t have asked for a better space than JFMS, where mentors and mentees uplifted one another, and we could be creative and feel comfortable. I even came out of my shell a bit!

For so long, I wrote my scripts to “break into the industry.” I forgot why I came up with the ideas in the first place and remembered that the key to my writing was rediscovering the fun. Thank you, JFMS, for creating this program and allowing my mentorship with Karla and Aaron. Thank you for not only being knowledgeable and respected teachers but genuine people I can call friends.”

-Fox Kier, 2022-23 BIPOC Sci-Fi Fellow



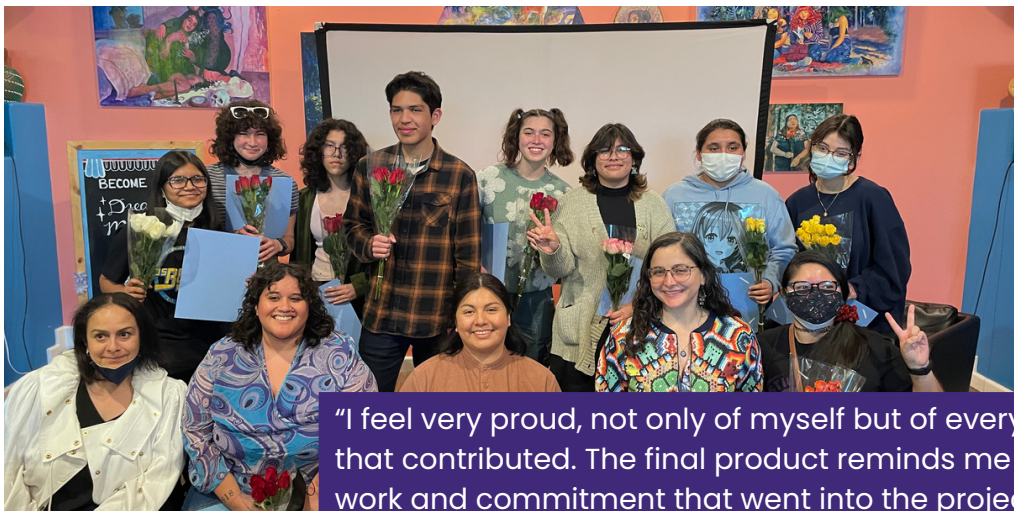
Kryzz Gautier

OUR PROGRAMS

Nuevas Novelas: the Power of Community.

In 2023, fifteen (15) middle school and high school students participated in Nuevas Novelas, our storytelling intensive, to create short films that explore issues affecting their communities. With instruction on media literacy and film production, our students produced two (2) films that explored the topics of class consciousness and gender-based violence.

The cohort screened their narrative short films in front of their community and hosted a Q&A where they were able to talk about their process and films.



"I feel very proud, not only of myself but of everyone else that contributed. The final product reminds me of all the work and commitment that went into the project."

- 2023 Nuevas Novelas Program Participant

OUR PROGRAMS

Trauma-Informed Certification: The Power of Collaboration.

In 2023, we partnered with Arts in Corrections to bring our Trauma-Informed Storytelling Certification to teaching artists who work with incarcerated youth statewide. Participants obtained tools to acknowledge personal and collective trauma interpersonally and through art .

We continue to bring this program to TV and film professionals who wish to create content that serves as a powerful tool for collective recovery and addresses the proliferation of trauma in our communities. As we reflect on the year, we celebrate the program's impact on the intersection of art and rehabilitation. We look forward to expanding this initiative so that decision-makers in the TV and film industry move away from exploiting trauma and instead commit to thoughtful depiction that is healing-centered and survivor-led.

"What I took away from the last session was how to reframe trauma not only in a way that is constructive, but also healing; without ever having a need to tap into explicit violence. Being able to sort of examine it through that sort of softer lens has really provided a lot of grace, as well as, I might even say joy and context in how I move and interact now."

- 2023 Trauma-Informed Certification Program Participant

47

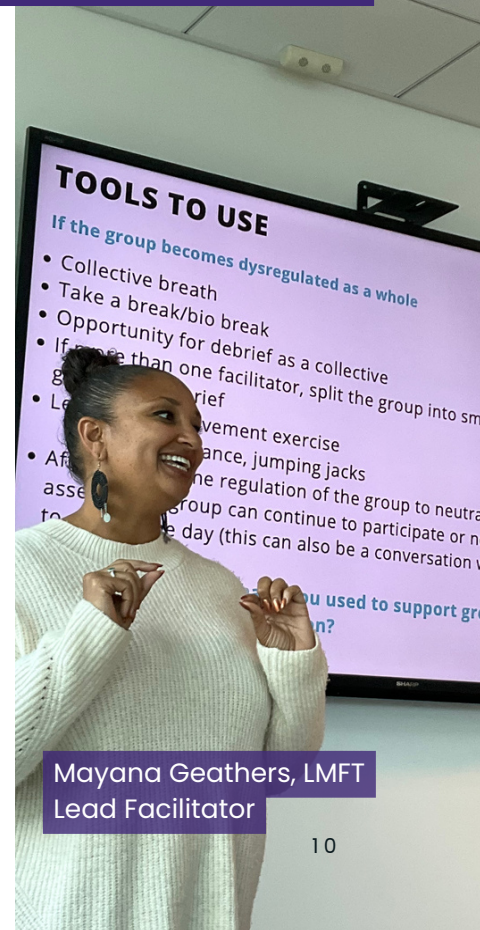
Program participants in 2022-2023

45

Number of hours of training provided

10

Organizations impacted by this training



Mayana Geathers, LMFT
Lead Facilitator

OUR PROGRAMS

AFTER-SCHOOL ARTS FOR YOUTH

Our Afterschool Arts Program is a collaboration with the County of Los Angeles Probation Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture. As part of the Juvenile Justice Art Project, we provide healing-centered arts education through filmmaking, mural making, ceramics and other mediums.

Benefiting over 600 students annually across LA County, this leadership-focused initiative culminated in two film screenings at Whittier Starlight Cinemas and Gardena Cinema, showcasing students' cinematic achievements.

The events allowed our students to refine public speaking skills, share experiences from Filmmaking 101, celebrate creativity, and foster community while emphasizing the program's role in nurturing artistic expression and personal development.



734

*Participants in 2022-2023
at 7 locations across LA
County*





Meet Ocean Vashti Jude: Teaching Artist

Ocean Vashti Jude (they/them) enrolled in our screenwriting class in 2017. A year later, we asked them to step in as a mentor for our youth program. Recognizing Ocean's incredible skill set as an artist and facilitator, we brought them on in 2019 as our Lead Teaching Artist for Community Filmmaking 101 at Friends of the Family, a multi-generational class.

From there, Ocean continued on as our Nuevas Novelas Lead Teaching Artist and successfully produced three student films through the summer film intensive. Ocean has become instrumental in our adult professional development program as a mentor for our BIPOC Sci-Fi Screenwriting Lab. They have since gone on to develop a blooming career as a commercial director, with representation and a busy slate.

Ocean is a two-time recipient of our PA sponsorship program, where they mentor our PAs on-set, who in turn receive paid on-the-job training through our organization. Ocean is now a Lead Teaching Artist at Loma Alta Park for our Youth Program.

261

Hours of arts training provided at 7 locations across LA County

2015

Community members benefited from our programs and community events



OUR PROGRAMS

PA Certification Program: The Power of Opportunities.

Our PA Certification Program welcomed 30 participants in 2023. Twenty one continued to Phase Two, gaining hands-on experience on set and mentorship opportunities.

Understanding how crucial that first job opportunity is for filmmakers of color, we support BIPOC-led production companies by paying PAs to get real-life experience in the films are producing. In 2023, we had the opportunity to support one of our BIPOC Sci-Fi graduates, who won a grant through the McDonald Spotlight Dorado program, by placing three PAs from the program to support production and be mentored through the process.

“Being on the Punk is Punk set helped me see what it takes to be a production assistant and how to be better equipped in terms of supplies and physical and mental needs for future opportunities. In addition, I was able to ask questions about other branches of the film industry and see where I want to take my career.”

- Elizabeth U.
2022 Program Participant

Our Impact in numbers:

90%

Of program participants had their first time on set while in our program.

524

Hours of paid work we've secured for our PAs since May 2022.

65%+

Percentage of graduates obtaining subsequent job opportunities.

Empower Diversity in Media: Choose Justice for My Sister for Your Video Production!

When you hire Justice for My Sister, you fuel opportunities for emerging filmmakers and artists of color, amplifying underrepresented voices in the industry. Our video production services secure additional work opportunities for our Teaching Artists and our students alike. We create documentary shorts for companies eager to showcase the impact of their legacy.

Thank you to the productions that hosted our PA Certification Fellows in 2022-2023. Since the inception of this program, **we have placed 40 PAs in 25 productions**, contributing to a more inclusive media landscape, with plans to place more in at least three more productions by the end of 2023.

Partner with us to champion diversity and create meaningful learning opportunities for emerging filmmakers of color.

Contact us to learn more about our video production services and how you can contribute to fostering diversity in the media industry!



Our Teaching Artist and graduate on set of the production of Chimera.



Our PA as part of the production of Chuck n Fern.

Embracing Growth: Meet our New Team Members.



Alix Azuiké – Program Assistant

With a degree in Television, Film, and Media, Alix brings a creative touch to her role, driven by a passion for community upliftment. She's a screenwriter motivated by the essence of unity, infusing her writing with the beauty of diverse cultures. Breathing life into BIPOC stories and giving back to programs like JFMS fuel her purpose.

Tianna Edmonson – Administrative Assistant

Tianna is a Los Angeles-based genderqueer artist, sound explorer, and multi-instrumentalist. Their work revolves around crafting sonic healing experiences. Tianna is a drummer for the queer no-wave band FUPU and is committed to enhancing accessibility in their creative endeavors and organizing efforts.



Maaman Rezaee – Grants Manager

She is an Iranian-American filmmaker with a background in education, talent management, and nonprofits. Her films that explore themes of memory and transcultural dynamics have been showcased in various national and international film festivals like ICA LA, Anthology Film Archives, and Another Gaze Journal.

Gratitude for Our Team.

Your dedication, passion, and tireless efforts empower us to bring meaningful change to the communities we serve. Together, we are a force for positive impact, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering commitment.

Our Administrative Team

Kimberly Bautista – Executive Director & Founder
Karla Legaspy – Programs Manager
Julissa Villatoro – Programs Assistant
Melba Martinez – Communications Manager
Nancy Ramos – Editor

Our Programs Team

Michelle Barnes – Annette Lisette – Clover – Sebastian Gonzalez – Elizabeth Uribe – Nanobah Becker – Jahmil Eady – Cassandra Hunter – Michael Allen Harris – Sannii Crespina – Adesola Thomas – Eddie Hemphill – Janet Quezada – Chica Barbosa – Luie P. Garcia – Pea Nuñez – Mario Torres Torres – Ronnie Clark – Patricia Ovando

Join Our Vision: Become a JFMS Advisory Board Member

We extend a warm invitation to committed individuals who share our commitment to justice, empowerment, and community building to join the Justice for My Sister Advisory Board. As we navigate the intersection of art, advocacy, and education to foster positive change, your unique insights and dedication will play a crucial role in advancing our mission.

Whether you bring expertise in arts administration, community outreach, or legal advocacy, your contributions will shape and enhance our initiatives. To learn more about becoming a part of our advisory board, please explore the application on our website or contact us at info@justiceformysister.org.

A heartfelt expression of gratitude to our current board members and esteemed advisory council for their ongoing dedication, guidance, and unwavering support as we collectively work towards a more just and empowered future."

Our Advisory Board Members



Chris Hastings
Board Chair



Eliza Hooper
Board Co-Chair



Shannon Matta
Board Member



Molly Murphy
Board Member



Ivonne Rodriguez
Board Member

JFMS Youth Council



**Alexandra
Azuike**



**Desiree
Carcamo**



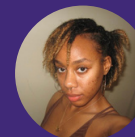
**Espiritu
Enriquez**



**Andy James
Garcia**



**Jackelyn
Santiago**



**Ashante
Weir**

Empower Dreams, Fuel Change: Support Justice for My Sister

We invite you to be a catalyst for change by contributing to Justice for My Sister. Your donation can unleash the creative potential of young filmmakers, amplify marginalized voices, and foster a more inclusive media landscape.

You can donate through GlobalGiving, our website, or by check. Your support can help us achieve remarkable milestones. Every dollar contributes to the amplification of diverse narratives.

Join us in empowering the next generation of storytellers, challenging the status quo, and building a world where everyone's voice is heard and valued. Make your impact today, and be part of the change you want to see.

**BECOME PART OF THE LEGACY.
DONATE TODAY.**



\$50

Provides essential filmmaking supplies for an emerging artist.

\$250

Funds a participant's first job stipend in our PA Certification Program

\$555

Sponsors a student's immersive experience in the BIPOC Sci-Fi Screenwriting Lab.

We are so grateful for you!

Justice for My Sister thanks each and every one of you who has contributed to our programs and mission. Your support and partnership allows us to continue providing healing-centered film instruction to emerging artists of color. ***Thank you for believing in the vision.***



Our 2024 Vision.

Our vision for the coming year revolves around strategic growth and innovative practices with a focus on empowerment, employee well-being, expanded training, and community impact. Here's an in-depth look at our key goals:

Investing in employee well-being. We are instituting comprehensive measures to invest in employee well-being. This includes introducing a rejuvenation week, one yearly week of paid time, and bi-annual meditation & staff retreats.

Enhanced Training Initiatives to equip our employees with the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the evolving landscape of our mission.

We are expanding our reach by **delivering teen dating violence prevention workshops** to 600 students in high schools and middle schools in Los Angeles County. This initiative aligns with our commitment to creating safer and healthier environments for young individuals, fostering awareness, and addressing crucial issues affecting our communities.

Through these strategic initiatives, JFMS is committed to fostering a stronger, more resilient organizational structure while expanding our positive impact within the community and nurturing our invaluable team.



“The set I worked on will help along my professional path [...] I will now add this to my resume and have more knowledge of what to expect for the next project. I met many people who have different roles that I now connected with and may be able to find opportunities through them that'll open doors to learn and find my place in the film industry.”

- *Cristian G.*
2022 PA Certification Graduate





Thank you for fueling our mission.

www.justiceformysister.org
info@justiceformysister.org

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Justice for My Sister, a project of Community Partners.