



ANNUAL REPORT



2019-2020

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REPORT!

Justice for My Sister hit major milestones in our growth and operational capacity during our fiscal year 2019 - 2020. Expanded partnerships, more student films, and even student podcasts! We launched two new programs rooted in environmental justice, providing students with the skills to tell stories that reimagine the future through an indigenous perspective of sustainability of the land. We were able to pivot our programming to provide our community with much needed professional development, community, and resources during quarantine. **Thank you for being part of the JFMS community!**

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our organization's growth this past year is a testament to the personal commitment of our team. The love, dedication, and community rapport that we've developed over the years have propelled us to expand our service area to San Fernando and Pacoima. Pivoting to provide online services challenged us to tap into our creative will.

In the mad dash to adapt to a digital world, we created new programs that far surpassed prior calls for applicants— confirmation of how much our community needs our work. Participants confidently told stories to unapologetically demand justice. They expressed their dreams and joy— crucial during these dire times.

We were able to hire alumni. Our team and participants alike are stepping into their leadership with grace and confidence. Witnessing this metamorphosis brings me so much satisfaction and fulfillment.

Launching our long-anticipated Black, Indigenous, People of Color Sci-Fi Screenwriting Lab allowed us to acknowledge the ways we are filling a gap in providing arts education to working adults. Our modified Nuevas Novelas for teens brought into focus a new medium wherein students developed their own podcast episodes, elevating their voices with sharp analysis on environmental justice.

Thank you for the ways you've supported us so that we can show up boldly for our community, hold space, and provide a container where stories of BIPOC folks are celebrated, honored, and amplified. We continue onwards, to break barriers within us that keep us silent on the sidelines, as well as the barriers imposed upon us by a white supremacist, capitalist, heteronormative, patriarchal society. **Our stories pave a road to liberation, and we are passionate about providing pathways into the TV & film industry for our students so that they can change the narrative.**

**In solidarity and deep gratitude,
Kimberly Bautista
Founder & Executive Director**

FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

2019-2020

This year has given Justice for My Sister a chance to reflect on our resiliency, as well as our community's need for our services. We put our all into developing a sustainable organization to provide year-round programming for our participants who vary vastly in age and experience. We're thrilled to witness our growth as an organization—and the growth of our students and team alike—as we set our eyes on the next steps we will embark upon.

OUR MISSION

Justice for My Sister Collective (JFMS) trains women of color, nonbinary youth, and foster youth to make films with gender equity and racial justice lens, as a means to heal from trauma and overcome financial barriers to entering the TV & film industry.

OUR VISION

We envision a film and TV industry populated by advocates of gender equality and racial justice, to champion a transformation of the industry based on anti-violence practices.

91

STUDENTS SERVED
IN ALL OUR
PROGRAMS
AND CLASSES.

32%

OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS
REPORTED
EXPERIENCING GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE.

OUR 2020 CHALLENGES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a year of challenges for all of us.

As an organization, we had to adapt our programming to continue serving our clients. We believe in the power of the arts to transform our society-- needed now more than ever. JFMS adapted all its programming to the online digital platform Zoom, offering online personalized consultations and virtual seminars so students could connect to our mentors, guest speakers, and experts in the field.

37

Students served during quarantine

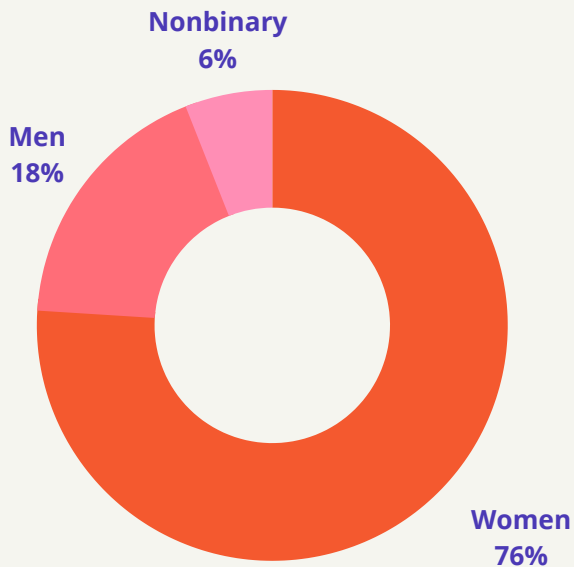
70

Student applications received during quarantine

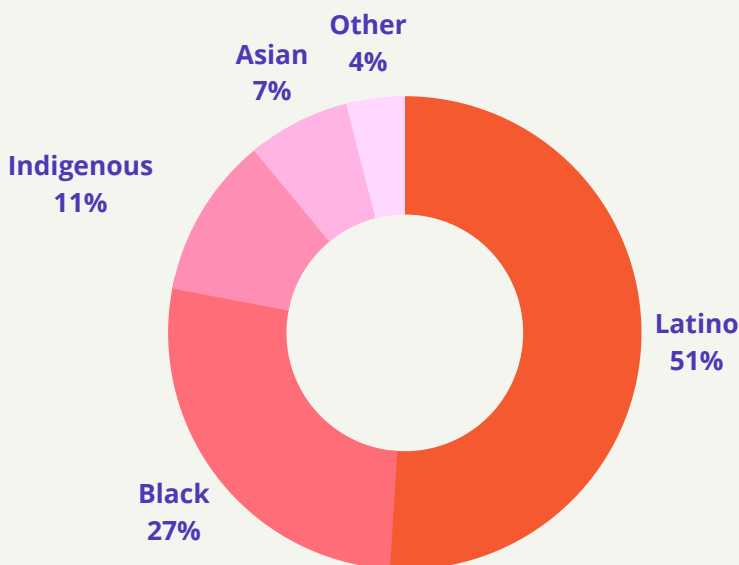


OUR STUDENTS

Our students motivate us to recommit to this work day in and day out. **90% Of our students come from low-income communities of color** and it is our mission to provide them with the opportunities they need to thrive.



76% Women, girls and femmes participated in our programs.



50%
of our students and/or their families have experienced being undocumented

56%
of our students are former or current foster youth.

65%
of our students have experienced racial discrimination

OUR PROGRAMS

VIDEO DIARIES

We provide instruction and one-on-one mentorship for participants to tell their own story. This program began as a partnership with PBS SoCal's social impact initiative "To Foster Change." Through this program, JFMS has worked with 160 former foster youth, 24 of which have gone on to produce personal short films that went on to be broadcast.

NUEVAS NOVELAS

A summer intensive for teens of color covering media literacy and film production. Students have historically created award-winning short films in teams. In summer 2019, Nuevas Novelas was held in San Fernando. In summer 2020, students produced individual podcasts focused on environmental justice via the online platform Zoom.

BIPOC SCI-FI SCREENWRITING LAB

A competitive 12-week incubator, where selected fellows conceive of sci-fi and fantasy TV show concepts and author the pilot episode of their show with one-on-one mentorship support, informed by Afrofuturism, Indigenous Futurism, and Asian Futurism literature.

ANTI-RACIST TRAINING

We offer a variety of tailored sensitivity trainings on trauma-informed facilitation, discussing power dynamics in the workplace, racial justice, whiteness, the nonprofit industrial complex, LGBTQIA allyship, and working with survivors of domestic abuse and sexual assault, to name a few.



94%

of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they learned new techniques to help them become a stronger screenwriter through our training.

75%

of participants reported agreeing or strongly agreeing that they learned new techniques to better help apply critical race theory to their writing through our training.



56%

after participating in the program, student's comprehension of environmental justice increased by 56%.

JFMS LEADERSHIP

Our organization is entirely led by women of color, and we are personally committed to trauma-informed storytelling and facilitation—we see it as inherently linked to our collective and personal liberation. Our staff and leadership team have experienced gender-based violence first-hand, which has inspired us to intentionally cultivate a safe space for all of our programming, where students can feel supported to both hone their creative skills and heal.

FOUNDER:

Kimberly Bautista

Executive Director and Founder

STAFF:

Hilda Franco

Director of Education
and Prevention

Janet Quezada

Strategic Partnerships

Ocean Vashti Jude

Instructor

Patricia C. Ovando

Instructor

Karla Legaspy

Mentor

Nancy Ramos

Executive Assistant

Julissa Villatoro

Mentor and Production
Coordinator

ADVISORY BOARD:

Eliza Hooper

Shannon Matta

Molly Murphy

Ivonne Rodriguez

Marie Alyse Rodriguez

Chris Hastings



OUR STORIES

"Thank you for helping me find my voice, understand the theory and conventions to apply it and giving me the confidence to use it to tell my own story!!" - BIPOC Sci-Fi Lab participant.

JASMINE BROWN

Justice for My Sister has been so much more than just an experience for me--they are like my second family. I currently suffer from anxiety and it's a constant battle which makes it hard to do many things. While attending the program, I was able to see myself differently and express myself like never before. Before being introduced to Justice for My Sister, I never had that type of experience or an outlet. Being able to tell a piece of my life story felt like a dream come true. For years, I've always wanted to talk about what happened to me after emancipation. Justice for My Sister gave me that opportunity and courage to tell my story. At times it can be hard to be vulnerable and open up about things in our past that can classify as trauma. The mentors from Justice for My Sister made me feel welcome and most importantly, I felt safe. With open arms, they accepted me and they understood how much it meant to me to get this story out.

JFMS provided me with resources to assist me in telling my story. This project is very important to me because oftentimes former foster youth or current youth become homeless, and it's a big issue that must be corrected. Justice for My Sister inspires me to keep pushing and to continue telling my story because many people have been in the same position whether they were foster youth or not.

Having an organization that supported me along my journey has helped me in my life today. They aren't just about making films but they are advocates. Justice for My Sister has continued to keep in contact with me, even after my project was completed. As simple as it sounds, it means the world to me, as I'm sure it does to others.

As of today, my story has touched a greater audience. I'm very proud of my project and the fact that I was able to accomplish one of my life goals, thanks to Justice for My Sister. I'm going to keep filming and telling my story because I want to help someone, just like Justice for My Sister helped me.



STUDENTS TESTIMONIALS

"I want to say that this was such a pivotal learning experience for me. This lab gave me so many tools for being a screenwriter, but more importantly, made me feel like it was possible. Kimberly and Hilda also modeled real mentorship, and because of them, I know I won't fail. I'm also grateful for having a supportive community grounded in progressive values modeled for me, and to know I have this group of fellows as part of my community as I embark on this work. This experience has made me feel like I can do so much, and has honestly given me a new lease on my passions. The pandemic would have been a really hard time for me, but this fellowship is a big reason I've gotten through. Thank you, so much, from the bottom of my heart."

-- BIPOC Sci Fi Lab 2020 Participant

"I loved the support and encouragement I felt when joining every class. When talking about these topics that are usually hard to talk about with other people, I loved seeing the passion everyone had. I definitely learned a lot from being part of this summer intensive and was always truly interested in what we learned every day. I love the work this summer intensive does and believe the information shared here is very valuable for everyone to learn. Thank you for this opportunity of being able to join Nuevas Novelas and for all the support and encouragement received by each and every one of the mentors!"

-- Nuevas Novelas 2020 Participant

"This lab is doing such crucial work at a time when the world needs it. The encouragement of stories from BIPOC and connecting them to working professionals in the industry while providing structure and a blueprint is unparalleled and I'm so grateful! I will sing JFMS' praise for years to come! "

-- BIPOC Sci Fi Lab 2020 Participant



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS!

This year posed great and unprecedented challenges, but our team stepped up and met those challenges head-on anyway. None of this would have been possible without the support and generosity of our partners and sponsors.



PARK PROUD LA



AND OF COURSE, TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS WHO DONATED DIRECTLY TO OUR PROGRAMS!

Ana Bernal
Ana Lucia Fuentes
Angel Alexis Rodriguez
Azani Creeks
Diana Cho
Elizabeth Vega
Emilia Serrano
Indira Persad
Ivonne Rodriguez
Jean Hooper
Jimmy Goldblum

Jonathan Curtsinger
Juan Castillo-Alvarado
Kathee Hennigan Bautista
Lorie Chan
Marie Alyse Rodriguez
Nadia Zepeda
Patricia C. Ovando
Sarah Williams
Shannon Mata
Silvia Rodriguez
Tom Nguyen

OUR 2021 GOALS

We envision 2021 as the year we double the number of first-time filmmakers who we bring into the fold. Major milestones we look forward to include increasing our staff and providing year-round programming that will serve more systems-impacted people.

50%

Increase of students' job placement.

50%

Increase of donations and funding.

LAUNCH NEW PROGRAMS:

- **STAGE READINGS OF STUDENT SCRIPTS**
- **TRAUMA-INFORMED STORYTELLING GUIDELINES**

GET INVOLVED

As we work towards our vision, we invite you to become part of the movement to transform the film and TV industry. Your contribution goes directly to creating opportunities for underrepresented emerging filmmakers.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR!

\$50 a month helps us connect 1 student to a job opportunity in the industry.

\$85 a month helps us provide a full scholarship to a student for one of our multi-week classes if you donate for a year.

\$150 a month allows us to hire a mentor for one of our multi-week classes if you donate for a year.

BECOME A PARTNER

\$30,000 helps us bring a program to a new school.

Join us in our mission to diversify the TV and Film industry. If you represent a company, contact us to provide job opportunities or internships to our students. When you partner with us you open the door to emerging filmmakers from marginalized communities in Los Angeles to cultivate the next generation of storytellers and change the face of Hollywood.

BECOME A CORPORATE SPONSOR

Contact us if you like to provide additional opportunities to emerging filmmakers. **Contact us to become a sponsor.**



HIRE US!

JFMS TRAININGS

Need sensitivity training for your organization?

Hire us to bring our curriculum to your team! We can provide trainings on racial justice and gender equity to your organization or company.

Contact us to learn more!
info@justiceformysister.org

PRODUCTION SERVICES

Need high-quality video production services?

JFMS provides video production services. By hiring us, you support our organization and give opportunities to our graduates, who are working adults.

Contact us to learn more!
info@justiceformysister.org



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Thank you to everyone who makes our work possible.
Please follow our journey and help us spread the
word about our work.



@justice4sister



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/JusticeforMySister

Justice for My Sister Collective

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THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.