

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE TO AWARD SLOAN STUDENT PRIZES TO TOP SCREENPLAYS THAT INTEGRATE SCIENCE IN DRAMATIC FILM AND SCRIPTED TV WORKS

The Sloan Student Grand Jury and Discovery Prizes will be awarded to two original screenplays—each receiving \$20,000 and professional mentorship

Astoria, New York, May 26, 2021 — Beginning this year, Museum of the Moving Image and its science-focused publication [Sloan Science & Film](#) will administer the prestigious **Sloan Student Grand Jury and Discovery Prizes** on behalf of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The prizes celebrate two outstanding screenplays for feature film or scripted series that integrate science or technology themes and characters into realistic, compelling, and timely stories. Winners receive a cash prize of \$20,000, along with dedicated mentorship with working professionals including Claudia Weill, Luca Borghese, and Musa Syeed, and will be honored at an awards ceremony in fall 2021 and take part in work-in-progress sessions at the Museum's First Look Festival in 2022.

The Sloan Student Prizes, established and formerly administered by Tribeca Film Institute in partnership with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, aim to support film development as well as advance the careers of diverse, emerging filmmakers interested in science and technology as they transition out of graduate school and into the film industry.

Student filmmakers from twelve of the nation's top graduate film schools are eligible for the Prizes, and are nominated by faculty at each school. Specifically, nominees for the Sloan Student Grand Jury Prize are selected from the six university film programs that partner year-round with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation: American Film Institute; Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama; Columbia University Film Department; NYU Tisch School of the Arts; UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television; and USC School of Cinematic Arts. Nominees for the Sloan Student Discovery Prize are selected from six public universities with established graduate film programs. They are: Brooklyn College Feirstein School of Cinema; Florida State University; SUNY Purchase School of Film and Media Studies; Temple University; University of Texas at Austin; and University of Michigan.

Each nominated filmmaker (or filmmaking team) will work with an assigned writing mentor over the summer of 2021. To date, confirmed writing mentors include director Claudia Weill (*Girlfriends, Girls*); producer Luca Borghese (*Okja, Diane, The Lost City of Z*), founder of the New York-based production company AgX; writer Nissar Modi (*Z for Zachariah*); producer Yu-Hao "David" Su (*Test Pattern, Paper Tiger*); writer/director Musa Syeed (*Valley of Saints, Menashe*) who is also the Briggs-Copeland Lecturer in Screenwriting at Harvard; and Emmy-nominated producer Kate Sharp (*Madame Bovary, Better Living Through Chemistry, Behind the Mask*), who is also Literary Manager at Bellevue Productions.

A jury of science and film industry professionals, appointed by the Museum and *Sloan Science & Film* Executive Editor Sonia Epstein, who is leading this initiative, will then select two winners. Winners will be celebrated at a public awards ceremony at the Museum in November 2021, and will then return to the Museum in March 2022 to take part in a works-in-progress showcase at the Museum's annual First Look Festival. Winners will also have an opportunity to serve as mentors to the Museum's Teen Council, a team of students from New York City high schools who work with the Museum's education department to plan programming and development leadership skills.

Past winners for the Sloan Student Grand Jury and Discovery Prizes include Shawn Snyder and Jason Bogue (2016 Grand Jury Prize), whose film *To Dust* was released theatrically in 2018, produced by Emily Mortimer and Alessandro Nivola, and starring Matthew Broderick and Geza Rohrig. For more information about the Sloan Student Prizes and to see a list of past winners, visit movingimage.us/about/sloan-student-prizes.

"We are excited to partner with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to award the Student Grand Jury and Discovery Prizes to emerging filmmakers whose work grapples with some of today's most pressing topics," said Carl Goodman, Executive Director of Museum of the Moving Image. "This represents a critical next step in our 15-year collaboration with the Sloan Foundation, which includes their support for the publication *Science & Film* and for the development and presentation of public and educational programming that highlights the many points of intersection between the art of science and the science of film. We cannot be more grateful to the Sloan Foundation and Doron Weber for providing this opportunity to the Museum."

"We are proud to join with our great partners at the Museum of the Moving Image to administer this new grant for the prestigious Sloan Student Prizes for screenwriting," said Doron Weber, Vice President and Program Director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. "These awards are a highlight of the nationwide Sloan Film Program and celebrate the 'best of the best' science and technology screenplays from some of the most talented and promising students at the top film schools across the country."

About the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation:

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a New York based, philanthropic, not-for-profit institution that makes grants in three areas: research in science, technology, and economics; quality and diversity of scientific institutions; and public engagement with science. Sloan's program in Public Understanding of Science and Technology, directed by Doron Weber, aims to enrich people's lives through a keener appreciation of our increasingly scientific and technological world and to humanize the lives of the men and women working as scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. The goal is to integrate the two cultures of science and the humanities by supporting an array of original works such as books, radio, television, film, theater, and new media. The Foundation works with about 20 film school and film festival partners and has supported over 750 film projects, including over 30 feature films. For more information visit sloan.org or follow @SloanPublic on Twitter or Facebook.

About Museum of the Moving Image:

The Museum's mission is to advance the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. Museum of the Moving Image fulfills this mission by presenting exhibitions, education programs, and screenings and events on-site at the Museum; online through live conversations with artists, filmmakers, scholars, media educators, and other industry professionals; articles published in MoMI's online film magazine [Reverse Shot](#) and science and film resource [Sloan Science & Film](#); and by providing access to the Museum's collection, including through virtual tours and recorded programs. For more information, visit movingimage.us. Follow MoMI on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

About Sloan Science & Film (scienceandfilm.org):

[Sloan Science & Film](#), an initiative of the Museum of the Moving Image, explores the intersection of science and film. The online publication features weekly interviews, news about goings on in the world of science and film, and "Peer Review" articles authored by scientists writing on themes in current film and television. Over 60 science-themed short films are available to stream, accompanied by Teacher's Guides for classroom use. These films are part of the over 700 film projects that have been supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation which *Sloan Science & Film* catalogues. Executive Editor Sonia Epstein also curates the Museum's film series Science on Screen, which pairs films with conversations between scientists and filmmakers to offer new perspectives on both subject matters.

###

Press contact: Tomoko Kawamoto, tkawamoto@movingimage.us

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Temporary Hours (through August 2021): Friday, 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, 12:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission : \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID; \$9 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free.

Address : 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), Astoria (Queens), NY, 11106

Subway : M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. W (weekdays only) or N to 36 Ave.

Program Information : Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership : <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$15 adults / \$11 students and seniors / \$9 youth (ages 3–17) / discounted for Museum members. Advance purchase is recommended online.

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.