MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE AND THE ALFRED P. SLOAN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE 2023 SLOAN STUDENT PRIZE FINALISTS AND MENTORS

Promising emerging filmmakers with science-themed screenplays will work with mentors through the summer, with two winners to be announced in the fall, each to receive $20,000

Previous Sloan grantees Jenny Halper, Robert Brooks Cohen, and Colin West join as mentors, alongside Flora Greeson and Casimir Nozkowski

Astoria, New York, October 11, 2023 — Finalists for the prestigious Sloan Student Prizes, part of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's nationwide film program, were announced today by Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) and the Sloan Foundation. The finalists include student filmmakers from schools across the country, including American Film Institute, Columbia University, UCLA, Florida State University, and more, who will work with writing mentors to refine their screenplays leading up to the jury deliberation. All this year's finalists identify as women or non-binary.

Prior Sloan grant winners Robert Cohen (*Law & Order: SVU*), Jenny Halper (*American Honey*) and Colin West (*Linoleum*) will participate as this year's writing mentors, alongside Flora Greeson (*Princess Diaries 3*, *High Note*) and Casimir Nozkowski (*The Outside Story*).

"We are proud to partner with Museum of the Moving Image and to continue honoring the best-of-the-best screenplays from our partner film schools while also discovering new screenwriters who integrate science and technology into their work," said Doron Weber, Vice President and Program Director at the Sloan Foundation. "These exceptional screenwriters will receive guidance from seasoned film industry professionals, three of whom are previous Sloan winners, and we look forward to seeing the final outcome of their exciting screenplays."

"This year's slate of nominees is a diverse group of writers grappling with the impact of timely issues including food scarcity, artificial intelligence and its impact on

relationships, science education, and historical injustice in the sciences. We are grateful to our stellar writing mentors and to the Sloan Foundation for making these impactful awards possible," said Sonia Epstein, Executive Editor of *Sloan Science & Film* and MoMI Curator of Science and Technology.

Awarded to two outstanding screenplays for feature films or scripted series that integrate science or technology themes and characters into dramatic stories, the Sloan Student Grand Jury and Discovery Prizes come with a cash prize of $20,000 and year-round, dedicated mentorship from a scientist and film industry professional. Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony at MoMI in January, with work-in-progress readings to be showcased as part of the Museum's First Look Festival in spring 2024.

Established in 2011 (Grand Jury Prize) and expanded in 2019 (Discovery Prize), the Sloan Student Prizes aim to advance the professional paths of diverse, emerging filmmakers as they transition out of school and into the film industry. For the past 25 years, the Sloan Foundation has awarded annual prizes in screenwriting at six partner film schools and each school nominates one winning candidate for the best- of-the-best Grand Jury Prize. The Discovery Prize represents an expansion of the Sloan film program to public universities not regularly affiliated with the Foundation.

This is the third year the Sloan Student Prizes are administered by Museum of the Moving Image, as part of the Museum's wider Sloan Science & Film initiative, which provides opportunities for the creation, distribution, exhibition, and discussion of films that amplify understanding of scientific themes. The Museum was recently awarded a major grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for this work.

The Prizes are also part of the Museum's endeavor to foster the work of emerging artists, a path that leads from media education for youth to spaces for creative collaboration and to artist recognition and industry participation.

See below for 2023 finalists and confirmed mentors.

2023 SLOAN STUDENT GRAND JURY PRIZE Finalists:
Nominated by six graduate film programs that have year-round partnerships with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to award screenplay grants for science-themed narratives.

One Art by Meg Dudley (Feature)
American Film Institute (AFI)

Too Many Fish in the Sea by Sally Seitz (Feature)
Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama

Killing Jar by Vivienne Shaw (Feature)
Columbia University

[Nomination forthcoming]
NYU Tisch School of the Arts

Novas by Molly Lindsey (Pilot)
UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television

La Forza by Justine Beed (Pilot)
USC School of Cinematic Arts

2023 SLOAN STUDENT DISCOVERY PRIZE Finalists:
Nominated by public film programs without year-round screenplay development partnerships with the Sloan Foundation.

Creating Evolution by Arden Walentowski (Pilot)
Brooklyn College Feirstein School of Cinema

Syncing by Liv Jonsé (Pilot)
Florida State University

Potential by Noor Nounou (Feature)
University of Michigan

The Garden by Lara Palmqvist (Feature)
University of Texas at Austin

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, supports books, radio, film, television, theater and new media to reach a wide, non-specialized audience and to bridge the two cultures of science and the humanities. Sloan's Film Program encourages filmmakers to create more dramatic, accurate, and inclusive stories about science and technology and to challenge existing stereotypes about scientists and engineers in the popular imagination. Over the past two decades, Sloan has partnered with a dozen leading film schools and established annual awards in screenwriting and film production. The Foundation also supports screenplay development programs with the Sundance Institute, SFFILM, Film Independent, the Black List, the Athena Film Festival, and the North Fork TV Festival, and has supported over 750 film projects, and has helped

develop over 30 feature films. For more information visit sloan.org or follow @SloanPublic on Twitter or Facebook.

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals comprehensively with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its facility in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation's largest collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations. For more information about the MoMI, visit movingimage.us.

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<u>**MUSEUM INFORMATION**</u>
<u>Hours</u>: Thurs, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Fri, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 12:00–6:00 p.m.
<u>Museum Admission</u>: $20 adults, $12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID, $10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.
<u>Film Screenings</u>: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: $15 adults, $11 students and seniors, $9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online.
<u>Location</u>: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.
<u>Subway</u>: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.
<u>Program Information</u>: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us
<u>Membership</u>: movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member or 718 777 6877

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 Kathy Hochul 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.