

---

# A BLADE OF GRASS

## **A Blade of Grass Announces Partnership with ALL ARTS to Release Series of Films Focused on Work of Socially Engaged Artists**

### **Program to Launch on July 27, with the Premiere of Artist Jordan Weber's Film on His Project with the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation And an Instagram Live Discussion Hosted by A Blade of Grass**

**New York—July 22, 2020**—A Blade of Grass, the national nonprofit focused on socially engaged art, announced today its partnership with ALL ARTS, an online arts and culture platform created by WNET, to release a series of films about artists working toward social, political, and cultural transformation. The A Blade of Grass Films, which are five to ten minutes in length were co-produced with RAVA Films between 2015 and 2019 as part of A Blade of Grass's Fellowship for Socially Engaged Art. Several of the films have never been shown publicly and many others have been available in only limited circulation. The partnership provides a new opportunity for audiences to learn about the beauty, rigor, and impact of artists working collaboratively in communities to address critical issues such as gentrification, environmental racism, mass incarceration, cultural preservation, and the creation of more BIPOC-led institutions. In total, A Blade of Grass will release 16 films from its archives on ALL ARTS, including the premieres for artists Jordan Weber, Gregory Sale, Miguel Luciano, and Frances Whitehead.

The first film will be released on July 27 and explores Jordan Weber's *4MXGreenhouse*, an architectural and experiential artwork that gives physical form to the four "pillars" the artist identifies with Malcolm X and community health: self-empowerment and determination; soil and air cleansing on superfund sites; spiritual reflection and meditation; and medicinal and food supply. Developed in collaboration with the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation, Weber created a greenhouse based on the design of the home that Malcolm X was born in, which originally stood where the foundation is located in North Omaha, Nebraska. The once rural area has, in the years since, been heavily polluted by industry, and the neighborhood is impacted by a long history of poverty and social and economic challenges defined by environmental racism and food desertification. The greenhouse produced food crops and served as a site of spiritual practice and other community-based programming.

To support further engagement with the film, project, and Weber's practice more broadly, A Blade of Grass will host an Instagram LIVE conversation with Weber and JoAnna LeFlore, a board member from the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation on July 27, at 5:00 PM EST. The discussion will be available at [@abladeofgrassorg](https://www.instagram.com/abladeofgrassorg).

Additional films will be released on a weekly basis and will live on a dedicated A Blade of Grass Films page on ALL ARTS, with films clustered into four thematic categories that broadly define the featured artists' work: Black Self-Determination; Criminal Justice; Cultural Identity; and Alternative Futures. The films will also be broadcast on WNET, and further promoted across the ALL ARTS and A Blade of Grass social media channels. The roster of films and release dates follows below:

#### **Black Self-Determination**

July 27 (Premiere): Jordan Weber, *4MXGreenhouse*, North Omaha, NE

August 3: The Black School, Brooklyn  
August 10: Our Mothers' Kitchen, Philadelphia  
August 17: Adaku Utah, *Harriet's Apothecary*, Brooklyn

### **Criminal Justice**

August 24 (Premiere): Gregory Sale, *Future IDs at Alcatraz*, San Francisco  
August 31: jackie summel, *Solitary Gardens*, New Orleans  
September 7: Rachel Barnard, *The Fair*, New York City  
September 14: Courtney Bowles & Mark Strandquis, *ReEntry Thinktank*, Philadelphia

### **Cultural Identity**

September 21 (Premiere): Miguel Luciano, *Island/Inland PROMESAS*, New York  
September 28: Chinatown Art Brigade, New York City  
October 5: Ronny Quevedo, *Higher Sails*, New York City  
October 12: Rulan Tangen, *seeds: ReGeneration*, Four Corners Region

### **Alternative Futures**

October 19 (Premiere): Frances Whitehead, *Fruit Futures Initiative Gary (FFIG)*, Gary, IN  
October 26: Stephanie Dinkins *Project al-Khwarizmi (PAK)*, New York City  
November 2: Theater of the Oppressed, New York City  
November 9: Las Imaganistas, *Hacemos La Ciudad (We Make the City)*, Brownsville, TX

### **About A Blade of Grass:**

A Blade of Grass is a national arts non-profit established in 2011 that nurtures socially engaged art through direct financial support to artists, advocating for artists working in the field, and creating digital and print media, documentary films, public programs, and research. For more information, please visit [www.abladeofgrass.org](http://www.abladeofgrass.org). Instagram: @abladeofgrassorg Twitter: @abladeofgrass

Our work is made possible through the generous support of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; David Rockefeller Fund; SPART; The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation; The Cowles Charitable Trust; The Robert & Mercedes Eichholz Foundation; Re-Inc.; in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council; in part by the National Endowment for the Arts; our groundbreakers Annette Blum, Agnes Gund, Eva Haller, Shelley Frost Rubin, and Linda Schejola; and our growing family of individual donors.

### **About ALL ARTS:**

ALL ARTS is breaking new ground as the premier destination for inspiration, creativity and art of all forms. This New York Emmy-winning arts and culture hub is created by WNET, the parent company of New York's PBS stations.

With the aim of being accessible to viewers everywhere, ALL ARTS's Webby-nominated programming — from digital shorts to feature films — is available online nationwide through [allarts.org](http://allarts.org), the free ALL

ARTS app on all major streaming platforms, and @AllArtsTV on [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). New York area TV viewers can also watch the 24/7 broadcast channel.

**About RAVA Films:**

Under their production banner RAVA Films, Ava Wiland and Rafael Salazar have directed and produced short documentary films which have received prestigious festival selection, including a Webby and FIFA nomination, Palm Springs Shortfest, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Miami Film Festival and have been featured at museums and cultural venues around the world, such as at the Whitney Museum, Brooklyn Museum and TATE. They are best known for producing a series of documentary portraits celebrating contemporary artists such as Art21, Fieldworks and smARTpower.

###

For more information, please contact:

Alina E. Sumajin

PAVE Communications & Consulting

[alina@paveconsult.com](mailto:alina@paveconsult.com) / 646-369-2050