

Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival confirms 2026 programme highlights for Sundance

Jan 19, 2026



DIFF has revealed its programme highlights

The Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival has confirmed its programme highlights for the 2026 **Sundance Film Festival**.

The event will include panels, performances and mixers (supporting inclusion, impact, belonging and diversity) throughout Sundance's run in Utah.

A sneak peek at DIFF's programme, provided by event organisers, is available below.

FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2026:

United Airlines Lounge

- Panels Presented by: **Latino Filmmakers Network (LFN)**, **United Airlines**, and **The Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival (DIFF)**
- Welcome Intro: **Moi Santos** (Manager – Equity, Impact & Belonging Program at Sundance Institute)

Panel 1: **Our Road to the Sundance Film Festival**

- **Date:** January 23rd
- **Time:** 2pm

Highlighting some of the Filmmakers whose movies are playing at the 2026 Sundance Film Festival, their journey in getting their movies made that led them to this moment in time. Get inspired to never give up on telling your stories.

Moderated by LFN Founder: **Maylen Calienes**

Panelists: **David Alvarado** – *American Pachuco* (Director), **Walter Thompson Hernandez** – *If I Go Will They Miss Me* (Writer, Director, Editor), **Giselle Bonilla** – *The Musical* (Director), **Ana A. Alpizar** – *Norheidsund* (Director, Writer, Editor), **Suzanne Andrews Correa** – *The Huntress* (Director, Writer)

Location: United Airlines Lounge on Main Street, Park City, Utah

Panel 2: **Access, Allies & Action: Rethinking How Films Get Made.**

- **Date:** January 23rd
- **Time:** 3pm

Diversity isn't a trend, it's a necessity. This panel brings together professionals from across the filmmaking ecosystem casting, producing, acting, and finance to explore how access, inclusion, and collaboration can truly transform the industry. Panelists will share practical strategies for creating opportunity, supporting underrepresented voices, and building sustainable careers, while shaping stories that resonate both culturally and globally.

Moderated by DIFF Founder: **Sola Fasehun**

Panelists: **Alan Luna** – *IF I GO WILL THEY MISS ME* (Co-Producer, Casting Director) and *MARGA EN CDMX* (Casting Director), **Daniel Benge** – Attorney Partner in Fox Rothschild Entertainment & Sports, **Cristina Garza** – United Talent Agency/UTA, Independent Film Agent, **Aitch Alberto** – HBO Max's *DUSTER* & Apple TV+'s *LITTLE AMERICA* (Writer, Director), **Gabriela Ortega** – *MARGA EN EL DF* (Director, Writer, Actress)

Location: United Airlines Lounge on Main Street, Park City, Utah

Impact Lounge

Voices of a People's History: The People Speak and Sing!

- **Date:** Friday January 23rd
- **Time:** 5:30pm
- **Live Performance** / 5:30pm
- **Cocktail Reception** / 6:30pm
- **Location:** Impact Lounge, Prospector Square, Park City, Utah

Presented by: Impact Lounge, Voices of a People's History (VPH), Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival (DIFF)

Produced by: Heather Mason, Anna Strout, Sola Fasehun

Creative Director: Cassie Bradley

Digital Media Manager: Shade Adeyemo

Stage Manager: Mark Brystowski

Technical Manager: Rachael Conrad

Performers: **Tatiana Maslany** (HBO's *Perry Mason*, *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law*), **Aasif Mandvi** (*Evil*, *Mr. Robot*), **Luciane Buchanan** (*The Night Agent*, *Mother Tongue*), **Alysia Reiner** (*The Diplomat*, *Ms. Marvel*), **Brendan Hines** (*Lie to Me*, Netflix's *Locke & Key*), **Brandon Finn** (*Chief of War*), **Cassie Bradley** (*Coronation Street*, *Casualty*), **Sola Fasehun** (Founder DIFF), **Tanya Selvaratnam** (Co-Founder The Federation), more TBA

Event Description: Join us at DIFF at Sundance Presents: The People Speak and Sing for a night of powerful voices and inspiring stories!

Diversity and Inclusion Film Festival at Sundance Presents: The People Speak and Sing!

Come join us for an unforgettable evening at **The Impact Lounge at The Prospector Conference Center and Theatre!** Experience the power of **music** and **spoken word** as we celebrate the voices of the people. VPH is a live performance that brings to life marginalized stories through readings and songs, inspired by Howard Zinn and Anthony Arnove's book, featuring an all-star cast of actors, musicians and activists.

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY 2026:

Impact Lounge

- **Panel Title:** DIFF Explores – Inclusion & Impact in Entertainment
- **Panel Presented by:** Impact Lounge and The Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival (DIFF)

Panel Description: With today's changing world and the shifting landscape of entertainment, executives from various industry organizations (that are known for championing diversity, impact, & belonging) come together to discuss ways to support filmmakers, movies, and artists during these turbulent times. Please join us as the panelists reveal insight into how filmmakers can navigate the current landscape of entertainment (Film, TV) to continue to tell stories that promote representation and champion inclusion. These changemakers will also discuss the power of and the continued goal of bringing people together from all walks of life to celebrate inclusion and art despite living in a divided world. A Q&A will follow the panel discussion.

Panelists: **Heather Mason** (Founder, Impact Lounge), **Bing Chen** (Co-Founder, Gold House), **Maylen Calienes** (Founder, Latino Filmmakers Network/LFN), **Moi Santos** (Manager – Equity, Impact & Belonging Program at Sundance Institute), **Sola Fasehun** (Founder, Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival/DIFF), more TBA

Moderator: **Larry Laboe** (Co-Founder, New Filmmakers Los Angeles/NFMLA)

- **Date:** Sunday January 25th
- **Time:** 11:30am
- **Location:** Impact Lounge, Prospector Square, Park City, Utah

Sundance Film Festival's Filmmaker Lodge

Sundance and New Filmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA) Panel/Q&A

- **Date:** Sunday January 25th
- **Time:** 1:30pm – 3pm

Moderator: **Sola Fasehun** (Founder, The Diversity & Inclusion Film Festival/DIFF)

Location: Sundance Film Festival's Filmmaker Lodge, 550 Main St, Park City, UT 84060

Panel Title: From First Break to Lasting Impact: Building Creative Pipelines in Film & Media

Panel Header: *Join NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (NFMLA), Alliance of Women Directors (AWD), Shine Global, and Creating Creators for an Official 2026 Sundance Film Festival Panel held at Sundance Film Festival's Filmmaker Lodge on Main Street in Park City. Moderated by Sola Fasehun.*

Panel Description:

Panelists will discuss the ways in which intentional career pipeline programs fuel long-term success in the entertainment industry. Bringing together leaders from each organization, the conversation will spotlight how professional development initiatives support creatives at critical moments—from early-career discovery and skill-building, to mid-career expansion and leadership, to late-career sustainability and legacy-building.

More information is available on the **DIFF website**.