





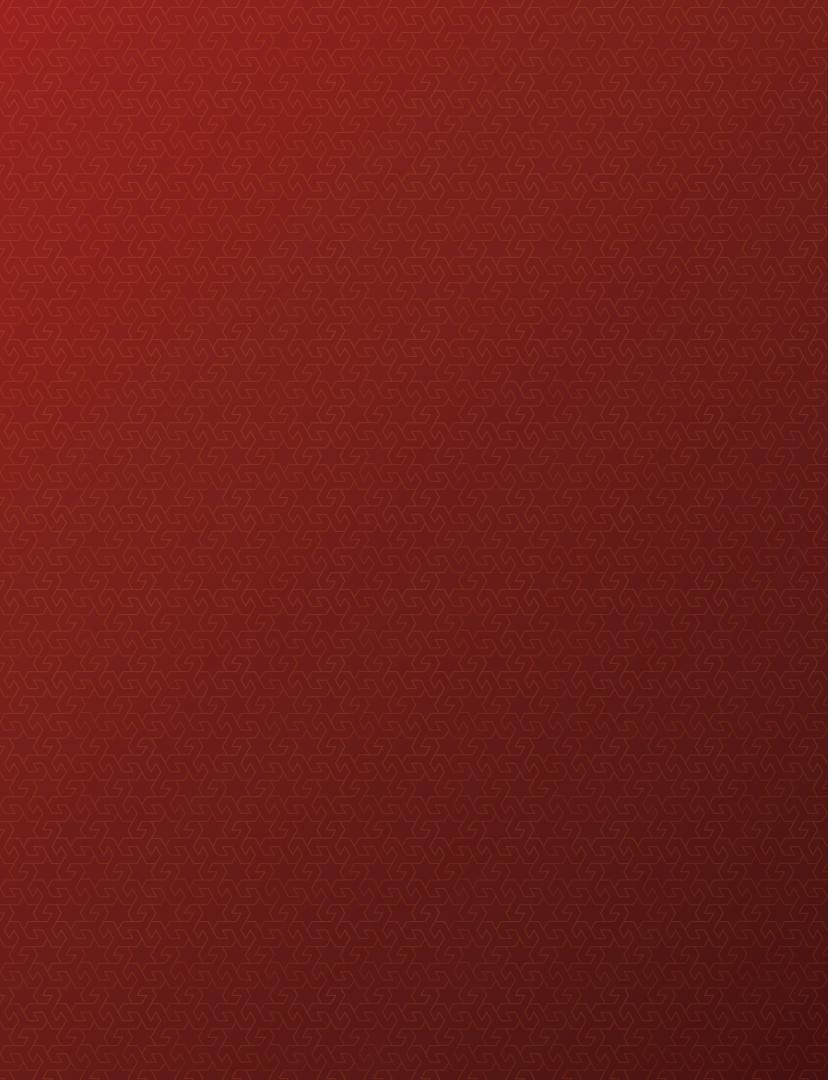


ISLAMIC Scholarship Fund



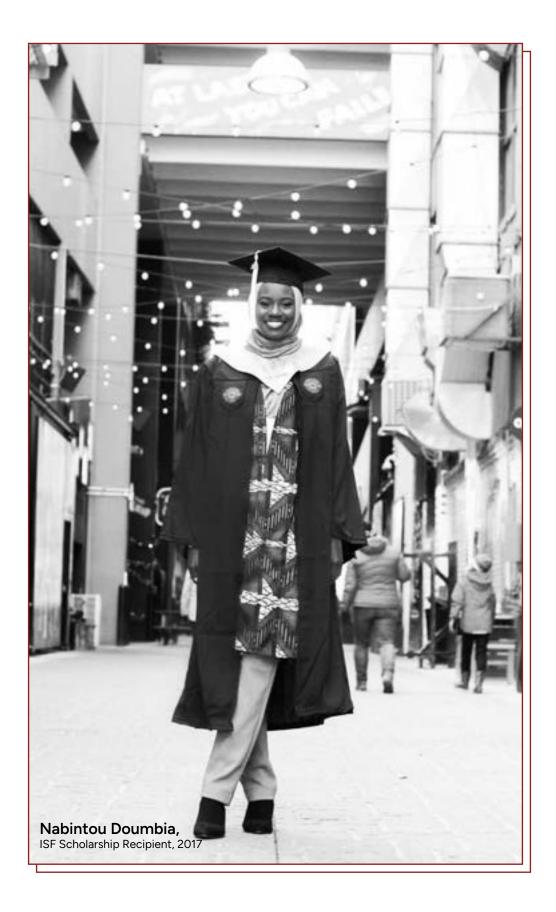
Advancing Muslim Representation Amplifying Muslim Voices

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



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Dear ISF Family,

Each year at ISF, we plan new ways to help our community flourish. We build foundations for long-term impact, influence, and systemic reform in public opinion and public policy. In an uncertain world plagued by political instability, epidemics, social injustice, and environmental crises, ISF helps American Muslims fashion resilience by fostering the talent that already lives in our communities. We champion today and tomorrow's leaders and changemakers through a holistic cycle of support which help them excel through their whole career journey. We grant scholarships, place recipients in internships and fellowships, connect awardees with leaders in the field as part of mentorship and networking opportunities, and offer continued professional development. As a result, our alums thrive.

In these pages, you will be introduced to Pulitzer-prize-winning journalists and Pen/Hemingway novelists. You will see the work of filmmakers showcasing starstudded, award-winning feature films and documentaries that are celebrated at Cannes and the Tribeca Film Festival. You will learn about public interest lawyers fighting discrimination and bias in the workplace and the federal government, state judges serving in districts with underrepresented populations, and elected officials serving at every level of our political system. Our alums change the media landscape by authoring stories that reflect the rich diversity of American Muslims.

They defend human rights, expose injustices, and advocate for institutional change that serves not only our community, but other vulnerable groups. Together, we work to live up to the Qur'anic call: "you are indeed the best community brought forth for humanity." This year, we multiplied our impact in our core programming by increasing our average scholarship amount by 16%. We also expanded our support of American Muslim filmmakers by developing Muslim-centered programming that fosters creative development, wellness, community building, and career strategy.

This included our launch of the Writers' Lab, a workshop and mentorship program that aids filmmakers from script to pitch. Our robust slate of programming is so effective because we develop our offerings in conversation with our alums. ISF believes change happens by increasing our presence and insisting on our inclusion in the fields where we are critically underrepresented: public policy, public interest law, film, and media. Thanks to your crucial support, ISF amplifies our community's power: its power of creativity, its power of knowledge, and its power of persuasion and advocacy. Together, we can empower American Muslims to craft a proactive, resilient, and meaningful future.

With gratitude and excitement for the year ahead,

Somayeh Nikooei

ISF Executive Director

OUR VALUES



Sinthia Shabnam, Congressional Internship Recipient, 2022

WHAT WE BELIEVE

ISF proactively builds a positive American Muslim future by increasing Muslim participation in underrepresented fields that impact public opinion and public policy.

WHAT WE DO

ISF empowers American Muslims in public policy, law, film, and media to advance equity and social justice for all.

HOW WE DO IT

ISF invests in the education of future leaders through scholarships, internships, and fellowships. By providing personalized support, critical industry access, and ongoing development, we empower American Muslims to excel and make a positive impact in the world.

Public Service

Public Policy

Cultural change is only one piece of social justice work. Equity and inclusion need to be fortified by formalized, institutionally-protected rights. ISF supports the American Muslim thought-leaders and policy-makers who recommend policies and set laws on the local, state, and federal level as elected officials, political analysts, and academics.

Public Interest Law

Rights are not easily given. Change requires advocacy, especially for systemically underserved and disenfranchised populations, Muslim or not. ISF helps advance American Muslims who serve public interest law as public defenders, human-rights advocates, and judges.

Media

Film

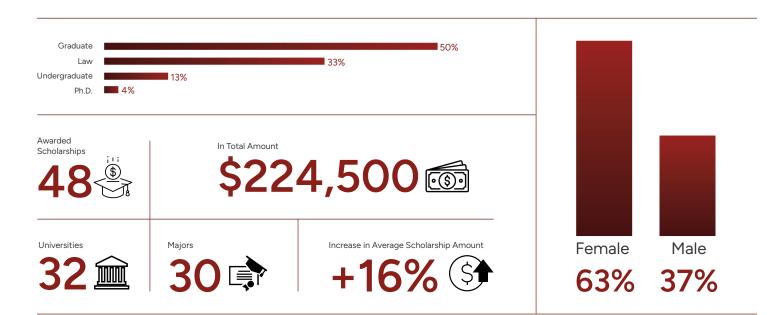
American Muslims deserve to see themselves reflected in all their beauty and diversity in TV and film. ISF amplifies the work of American Muslim actors and filmmakers who challenge stereotypes and offer Muslim-centered stories that explore the rich depth and range of our experiences.

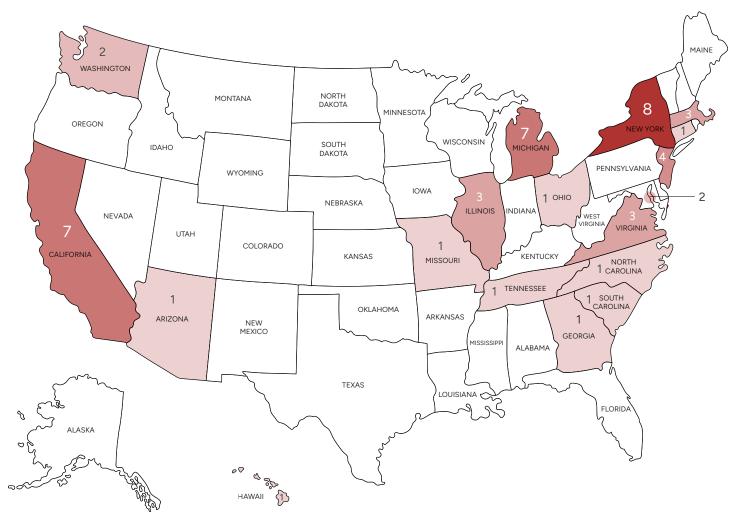
Journalism

We learn about each other and the world around us through stories. Historically, media narratives have been written about Muslims, not by Muslims, and often reflect extreme bias and misinformation. ISF uplifts American Muslim journalists and writers who improve and expand our representation.

2022 IN REVIEW

ISF's scholarship program supports Muslims to overcome financial barriers for accessing their higher education within media and government.





To support past graduation, ISF continues with a cycle of support that includes grants, internships, fellowships, and professional development programming.

PIONEERING FILM PROGRAMMING LAUNCHED

- The Artist Support program provides Muslim artists with a space to restore, define, and center their narratives through script writing and production support.
- The Writers' Lab helps develop Muslim-centered works through a three-day script-to-pitch workshop and extended mentorship opportunity.

2022 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

IN PUBLIC POLICY

Placed 17 congressional policy interns in congressional offices

IN LAW

l st

Placed ISF's first Muslim judicial intern with a state judge

IN FILM \$85,000

Awarded \$85,000 in support to ten filmmakers through nine grants

PROGRAM COHORTS

Law Scholarship



Aaminah Bhat



Abrar Omeish



Ali Fazal



Amearah Elsamadicy



Ayesha Durrani



Christopher Nevarez Azdar



Eman Naga



Iman Masmoudi



Malak Afaneh



Mark Haidar



Mussab Ali













Sarah Khan



Zainab Bhindarwala



Zainab Kahloon

Film Scholarship



Fahim Hamid

Murad Amayreh

Nawal Mubin





Shiraz Ahmed

Public Policy Scholarship











Aleena Haris



Aminah Mabruk







Sief Salameh



Fariha Hossain



Ibrahim Rasheed



Imane Mabrouk



Mariama Badjie



Mohideen Faisal Buharie









Nasir Almasri





Saquib Ali Usman



Sarah Raza





Erum Salam





Tahani Al



Aya Mansour





Saliha Bayrak



Ladan Khoddam Korasani



Mariama Jallow



Rabia Gursoy







Congressional Policy Internship



Hasan Zai





Hamna Chaudhry



Yasmine Elkharssa



Mehdi Haider



Munahil Sultana







Nada Shalash



Sinthia Shabnam



Amina Basharat



Mariam Makki







Rawan Chaker

Film Grant



Angbeen Salam





Collete Ghunim







Maryam Mir

Mo Sabri



Mustafa Eck







Samina Saifee



Sultan Sharrief

Congressional Fellowship



Tahreem Alam

Judicial Internship



Abrar Omeish

Writers' Lab



Left to right / Mahnoor Euceph, Marwan Mokbel, Anna Khan, Mithra Alavi, Aiman Mimiko



"I am convinced, that among the most important priorities in our shared aim of building a strong and vibrant Muslim community in North America, is the necessity to ensure that young leaders have the intellectual tools and provisions to excel. Thank you to all of the organizers at ISF, and in particular ISF supporters, who are sustaining and promoting the next generation of American Muslim leaders."

Dr. Celene Ibrahim, 2013 Scholarship Recipient

Scholar and author of Women and Gender in the Qur'an (2020) and Islam and Monotheism (2022)

ADVANCING REPRESENTATION



"One either believes problems are rooted in groups of people, as a racist, or locates the roots of problems in power and policies, as an anti-racist."

Ibram X. Kendi

Historian, antiracism-activist, and author of best-selling How to Be an Antiracist

IN PUBLIC POLICY: ADVANCING REPRESENTATION

To build proactive futures, public opinion change needs to be reinforced with policy reform. ISF uplifts American Muslims who work as elected officials, think tank analysts, and university professors to establish socially-just policies that serve the needs and rights of all marginalized communities, including our own. Since 2009, ISF has empowered policy change by:

- Advancing the careers of 311 law and policy alums that work for systemic change, equity, and justice, including the 49 working in government and 5 serving as elected officials
- Placing 62 aspiring attorneys in the legislature
- Placing 3 fellows in congressional offices as part of the nation's first and only Muslim Congressional Policy Fellowship program

The ISF Congressional Policy Fellowship places American Muslims into congressional offices in Washington D.C. to work on legislative issues. The paid nine-month, full-time program helps fellows secure permanent positions as staffers and builds experience for running for office and working in the administration.



ISF Congressional Policy Summer Intern Fahima Band Ali with Representative Cori Bush on Capitol Hill



ISF Congressional Policy Summer Interns gathered in front of Capitol Hill to celebrate the conclusion of their summer internships. The interns had the privilege to witness the inner workings of Congress and were involved in crafting impactful policies.



Wardah Khalid, ISF Alum and Senior Policy & Strategy Advisor met in DC with ISF Congressional Fall Interns Mehdi Haider, Amina Bashirat, Mariam Makki, and Husam Kaid to discuss pathways to federal appointments and the importance of a Muslim presence on the Hill

MEET OUR CONGRESSIONAL FELLOWS







Tahreem Alam / 2022 — 2023

Tahreem Alam serves as a congressional fellow in the Office of Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (MN-05). She is currently obtaining an M.A. in Middle East Studies from George Washington University, and is a 2021 alumna of Virginia Tech where she majored in multimedia journalism, international relations, and Arabic, with minors in women's and gender studies and Middle East studies. Throughout Tahreem's academic and professional experience, she wrote for several newspapers as a news reporter and advocated for greater Muslim representation. Her interdisciplinary education and experience fueled Tahreem's desire to work in public policy at the national level.

Mustafa Alemi / 2020 — 2021

Mustafa Alemi was ISF's first Congressional Policy Fellow and served in the Office of Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (MI-13). He is now a JD candidate at the University of Washington School of Law as a William H. Gates Public Service Law Scholar. He has interned in the U.S. House of Representatives as a 2017 ISF Congressional Policy Intern, and he was a Fulbright scholar who served as a teaching assistant in rural Malaysia. Born to Afghan refugees and raised in southern California's diverse immigrant community, Mustafa intends on utilizing his legal education to protect society's most vulnerable and advocate for progressive policy reform.

Ala Tineh / 2021 — 2022

Ala Tineh served as a congressional fellow in the Office of Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-07). Ala has worked in management consulting at L.E.K. Consulting in Chicago, and The Bridgespan Group in New York, a leading social impact advisor to nonprofits, philanthropists, and investors. Born in Amman and raised in the suburbs of Chicago, Ala has a strong interest in addressing inequities in the American healthcare system by elevating the voices and lived experiences of communities of color.

OUR PUBLIC POLICY ALUM WORK FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE



Ruwa Romman / 2018

Sponsored by the Higgy Family

Ruwa Romman made history as the first Muslim woman elected to the Georgia State House, and the first Palestinian elected to any Georgia public office. Despite her opponent's anti-Muslim campaign, Ruwa won by focusing her positive platform on public service for marginalized groups.



Samah Shaiq / 2018

Sponsored by the Kazmi Family

Samah Shaiq has worked at the congressional level by serving as Deputy Press Secretary at the Office of Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.





Abdullah Hasan 2014-2015

Sponsored by the Muslim Community Association of the Bay Area (MCA)

Abdullah Hasan participates in the executive branch of the government as Deputy Associate Director for Communications for the White House Office of Management and Budget.



Fariha Hossain / 2021-2022

Sponsored by the Amanda Crosby Memorial Scholarship and the Syeda Zehra Batool Jafri Scholarship

Fariha Hossain is a master's student at Vanderbilt. As a fellow with Education Trust, she analyzes K-12 education bills for equity. She also tracks bills that impact the Muslim community and develops advocacy training for Tennessee Muslim communities as a policy intern for the American Muslim Advisory Council (AMAC).

Faiqa Mahmood / 2012

Sponsored by the Zehra Attari Memorial Scholarship

Faiqa Mahmood is editor for South Asian Voices (SAV Urdu), an online policy platform for strategic analysis on South Asia hosted by the Stimson Center (a nonpartisan international peace and security think tank in Washington, DC).



Brhan Ahmed, 2017 Law Scholarship Recipient

Legal disenfranchisement is a reality: 46% of eligible American Muslim voters reported difficulties casting their vote in the past four years, compared to 10%-26% of all other groups. ISF works to support the public interest lawyers who advocate for your legal rights.

IN LAW: ADVANCING REPRESENTATION

The law is a mechanism for enshrining social change. Without it, reform is incomplete. ISF uplifts American Muslims who advocate for civil liberties, human rights, and the needs of dispossessed communities. ISF supports the advancement of American Muslims pursuing public interest law by awarding scholarships, placing first-year law students in internships at the offices of district, state, or federal judges, and providing mentorship programs. Since our launch, ISF has supported 91 law students, 65 of whom are practicing attorneys bringing justice to communities across the nation, and one judicial intern placed with a state judge.

The ISF Judicial Internship places first-year law students in internships or externships with a district, state, or federal judge. The internship is an eight-week program that promotes diversity in the judiciary and law profession.

FROM LAW SCHOOL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE



Laila Ikram / 2014

Law Recipient sponsored by the Zehra Attari Memorial Scholarship

Laila Ikram is the first Muslim judge in Arizona. She serves on some of the most high-volume courts in the state where many cannot retain attorneys and instead represent themselves.



Nicole Fauster / 2015, 2017, 2018

Law Recipient sponsored by the Foundation for Intelligent Giving (FIG) and Capital Area Muslim Bar Association (CAMBA)

In addition to her current role investigating discrimination in higher education as a Title IX attorney at American University, Nicole Fauster previously investigated discrimination claims against the federal government as an attorney consultant with the Bashen Corporation, represented Muslims in employment discrimination cases with CAIR Georgia, and worked internationally to protect the rights of migrants and refugees.

AMPLIFYING VOICES



"I cannot go to a film without seeing myself. I wait for me. In the interval, just before the film starts, I wait for me. The people in the theater are watching me, examining me, waiting for me."

Decolonial theorist Franz Fanon in Black Skins, White Masks

IN FILM: AMPLIFYING VOICES

The history of prejudicial representations in film of BIPOC communities is as long as the history of film itself. And yet film and TV are a central source for American imagination: On any given day, 80% of Americans are immersed in the sights, sounds, and images of new and familiar worlds as they watch an average of 3-4 hours of TV and film a day. But only one percent of characters are Muslims, including the stereotypes.

ISF works to illuminate the richness and diversity of Muslims, from their heritage to their everyday experiences. It empowers Muslim filmmakers to author their own stories and produce Muslim-centered narratives with depth, subtlety, and beauty.

The Artist Support program and **The Writers' Lab** provide American Muslims working in film and television with assistance in developing their projects and fostering creative wellness, community building, and career strategy.

Muslims make up about only 1% of the characters portrayed in the 100 top US films from 2017-2019.



"In the representation of Muslims today in pop culture and the media, we are either depicted as invisible or monsters. There's a whole generation of American Muslim artists that's trying to do something about that by creating culture and a representation that better reflects us and all of our nuances and complexities and dimensions."

Assia Boundaoui, 2016 Film Grant Recipient Journalist & Director of the multi-award winning documentary The Feeling of Being Watched



Supporting them as they learn their craft with film scholarships



Connecting them to industry leaders, platforms, and career-building opportunities, like Gotham EDU



Facilitating creation of their films through production grants and Muslim-centered incubator programs, including the Writers' Lab



2011 Film Scholarship Recipient Mustafa Eck graduates from the prestigious USC School of Cinematic Arts.



ISF presented the panel "Building Autonomous Film
 Communities" with the New Orleans Film Society and
 Mama Film at Gotham Week, a platform that supports
 and offers resources to independent film and media
 creators



| Samir Chiali | Documentary A Town Called Victoria

They have produced over 200 globally-circulated films. We have amplified their voices by:



Helping them form community and foster creative wellness with Artist Circles



Promoting their continued growth through mentorship and career development programs, including Table Reads, Works-in-progress, Technical workshops, and Pitch workshops



Promoting their national and global reach through the first-ever Muslim distribution grant



The 2022 Writers' Lab Fellows build lifelong support systems. From left to right: Mahnoor Euceph, Marwan Mokbel, Aiman Mimiko, Anna Khan, and Mithra Alavi.



2022 Writers' Lab Fellow Marwan Mokbel receives one-on-one feedback from ISF Artist Support Manager Shireen Alihaji.



Huda Abdul-Razzak won
the 2022 Film Distribution
Grant for her animated film
The Ocean Duck. She works
to produce high-quality
animated content that will

inspire young Muslims.





Top Left/ Fellows learned from workshops offered by industry experts Right/ Fellows refined their projects and practiced their pitches Bottom Middle/ Fellows formed bonds of support and partnership Bottom Left/ Accomplished filmmakers gave fellows personalized feedback and guidance

Writers' Lab

In 2022, ISF pioneered and launched the Writers' Lab with support from The Black List and Extracurricular. Led by ISF alums and artists, the Writers' Lab is a Muslim-centered space for filmmakers to develop their craft, receive mentorship by industry professionals, and foster well-being in community with other Muslim creatives.

The Lab creates space for Muslim artists to restore, define, and center their narratives. Fellows received craft-to-pitch guidance from educators Q. Terah Jackson, Karim Ahmad, and Erika Kennair. Fellows received mentorships Carlos López Estrada (*Blindspotting, Summertime*), Tanuj Chopra (*Delhi Crime 2, Punching the Sun*), and ISF's own Director of Film Programs and Filmmaker, Iman Zawahry.

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY & DIVERSITY The Voices of Our Writing Fellows





Aiman Mimiko,

Writers' Lab Fellow

"Having the space to examine something as dear to you as a story and not having to explain the parts of life, faith and race is freeing."

Mahnoor Euceph,

Writers' Lab Fellow

"Pursuing film can be a lonely experience. It's hard to believe in yourself in such an enigmatic, competitive industry. To have support – financial, communitywise, education-wise – was just so incredibly needed. I hope we will all stay lifelong friends and advocate for and support each other throughout our careers. Hopefully we can make a difference in the world by doing so."

OUR ALUM DIVERSIFY MUSLIM REPRESENTATION In TV and Film









Imran J. Khan / 2012

Film Scholarship Recipient sponsored by Muslim Community Association of the Bay Area (MCA)

Editor and writer-director Imran J. Khan shot *Mustache* with executive producer Christopher Storer EP of *Ramy* and *The Bear. Mustache*, a feature film about growing up Muslim in the 90s, stars Rizwan Manji, Alicia Silverstone, and Hasan Minhaj. The film has been selected for competition at film and music festival SXSW. Imran has also worked on films such as *Minions, Space Jam*, and *Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King*.

Kausar Mohammed / 2020

ISF Film Grant Recipient

Actress and comedian Kausar Mohammed stars as the superhero Fast Track/ Dr. Meena Dhawan in the CW's TV series *The Flash*. She has played tech genius Soraya on *The 4400*, lead co-star of *East of La Brea*, played a role in *Mo*, and acted alongside Danny Pudi in *Coffee Shop Names*. She also worked with Taraji P. Henson on the film *What Men Want* (Paramount) and Issa Rae on the film *Little* (Universal).

Nausheen Dadabhoy / 2017

ISF Film Grant Recipient

Director and cinematographer of *An Act of Worship*. Dadabhoy's second feature film premiered at the 2022 Tribeca Film Festival. The film examines the collective memory of American Muslims through pivotal moments like the 2013 Boston Bombing and the 2017 Muslim Banweaves through a tapestry of personal stories, archival footage, and home movies that capture the everyday struggles and triumphs of her subjects with a sensitivity.

Jumai Yusuf / 2018

Film Scholarship Recipient sponsored by the Ghulam and Arifa Azad Family

Director and filmmaker Jumai Yusuf was recognized at the Cannes Film Festival for *Cocoa Doll*. Her script was selected for the 2022 WScripted Screenplay List, a contest that recommends remarkable feature films written by women & non-binary screenwriters to producers.



Rawan Elbaba, 2018 Journalism Scholarship Recipient





Lila Hassan,

2019 Media Scholarship Recipient sponsored by the ISF-Safari/Heidari-Bateni Fund

Lila Hassan is an award-winning journalist who worked with a New York Times team led by Azmat Khan on the groundbreaking "Civilian Casualty Files," which won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting. The report revealed evidence of the practices and consequences of U.S. Military drone policies.

Jamil Jan Kochai,

2015, 2017, 2018 Media Scholarship Recipient

Jamil Jan Kochai is a writer whose debut novel 99 Nights in Logar was a Pen/Hemingway Award finalist and whose most 2022 short story collection *The Haunting of Hajji Hotak and Other Stories* was a finalist for the 2022 National Book awards.

IN MEDIA: AMPLIFYING VOICES

Nobel-Prize-winning novelist Morrision once declared that "the very serious function of racism is distraction," which keeps a community apologizing for the narratives written about it from the outside. ISF believes in a proactive, not reactive, public impact. We believe in authoring our own stories. That's why we amplify the work of journalists, novelists, poets, and writers through scholarships and mentorship programs that elevate their work changing public opinion through storytelling. Since our first launch, 87 ISF Media Alum have changed the narrative by publishing over 3,000 articles.

"If there's a book that you want to read, but it hasn't been written yet, then you must write it." Toni Morrison

2022 PROGRAM SPONSORS:

Memorial Scholarships

Abdul Sattar Gandhi Memorial Scholarship Abdul Sattar Rydhan Memorial Scholarship Afshin Riaz Future Leaders Scholarship Azza Shamseldin Scholarship David Dobbins Memorial Scholarship Ghulam and Arifa Azad Family Scholarship Hina (Fakhera) Sherwani Memorial Scholarship Hina Jafri-Syeda Zehra Batool Jafri Scholarship Mahmoud Abdelmageed Memorial Fund Rahmatara Begum Scholarship Syed Shaukat Husain Memorial Scholarship Tarek Al Kadri, Social Justice Leadership Scholarship by MFLA Zehra Attari Memorial Scholarship

Community or Organization Scholarships

Amana Mutual Funds Foundation for Intelligent Giving (FIG) Goats Foundation Islamic Institute of Orange County (IIOC) Muslim Bar Association of New York (MuBANY) National Association of Muslim Lawyers (NAML) Scholarship Palo Alto Networks Group Salman Ravala Scholarship Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP Scholarship UC Irvine Muslim Alumni Scholarship

Family Scholarships

Afzal Family Foundation Akbari Scholarship Alassar Family Scholarship F. Basma Scholarship Fikry and Dorria Fahmy Scholarship Ghobarah-Naqvi Scholarship Guillen-Omar Family Scholarship Haider Family Scholarship Kosar and Javed Mohammed Scholarship Makhraj Endowment Fund Scholarship Shahin-Fatemeh Scholarship Shohoud Family Soltan Family Syed & Hijazi Family Scholarship

OUR ALUM LEAD PIONEERING CAREERS AT:

Government

The White House United States Courts United States Senate U.S. House of Representatives

Nonprofit Organizations

ACLU

Asian American Advocacy Fund Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Human Rights Watch

Educational Institutions

Columbia University Harvard University University of Chicago University of Michigan

Media Companies

Al Jazeera CBS CNN Hulu New York Times NPR PBS Reuters Sesame Workshop Sony Pictures U.S. News & World Report Warner Bros.

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Asma Uddin

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Shajuti Hossain





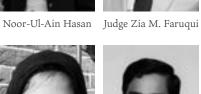
Tooba Hussain





Salmah Rizvi

Zahra Billoo





Shabbir Chaudhury





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STAFF



Somayeh Nikooei Executive Director



Iman Zawahry Film Programs Director



Omar Elsayed Program Manager



Tina Tran Accountant



Aisha Kishta Administrative Coordinator



Osama Yaish Marketing Manager



Aizzah Fatima Artist Support Manager



Angelica Malik Development Manager



Wardah Khalid Senior Policy & Strategy Advisor





When you donate to ISF, you help amplify the diverse American Muslim voices that assert our inclusion in society and uplift Muslim-centered representation. You empower legal minds to advocate for human rights, and political leaders who set policies to protect those rights. You help build a proactive, resilient future. With your support, our community thrives.

Don't wait for the future. Build it now. **Start** small, or go **big**, with many ways to support ISF:



Donate your stock or your old car to connect resources and maximize your gifts.



Give a one-time gift to support our mission.



Participate in your employer's corporate match program to double your gift and impact.



Become a sponsor or name a scholarship or internship that enables the work of a student, grantee, intern, fellow, or even one of our verticals. This is a great way to honor a loved one or connect your business to American Muslim civic engagement efforts.



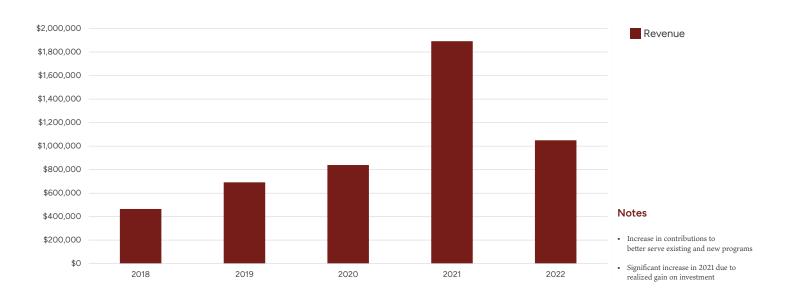
Set up a monthly contribution to transform your gift into a lasting impact.



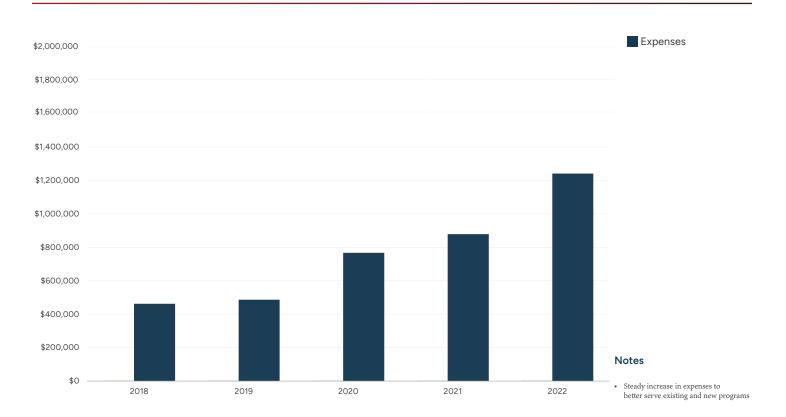
Contribute to our endowment fund to build the future.

FINANCIALS

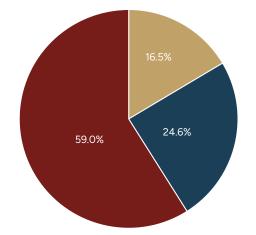
REVENUE YEAR COMPARISONS



EXPENSES YEAR COMPARISONS



FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE ALLOCATION MIX

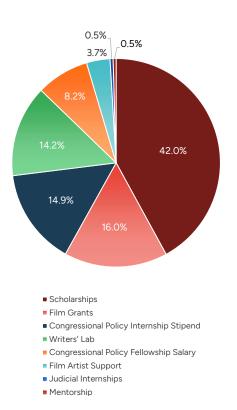


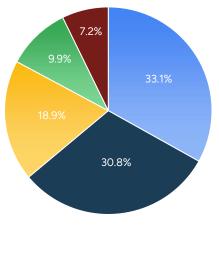


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Fundraising
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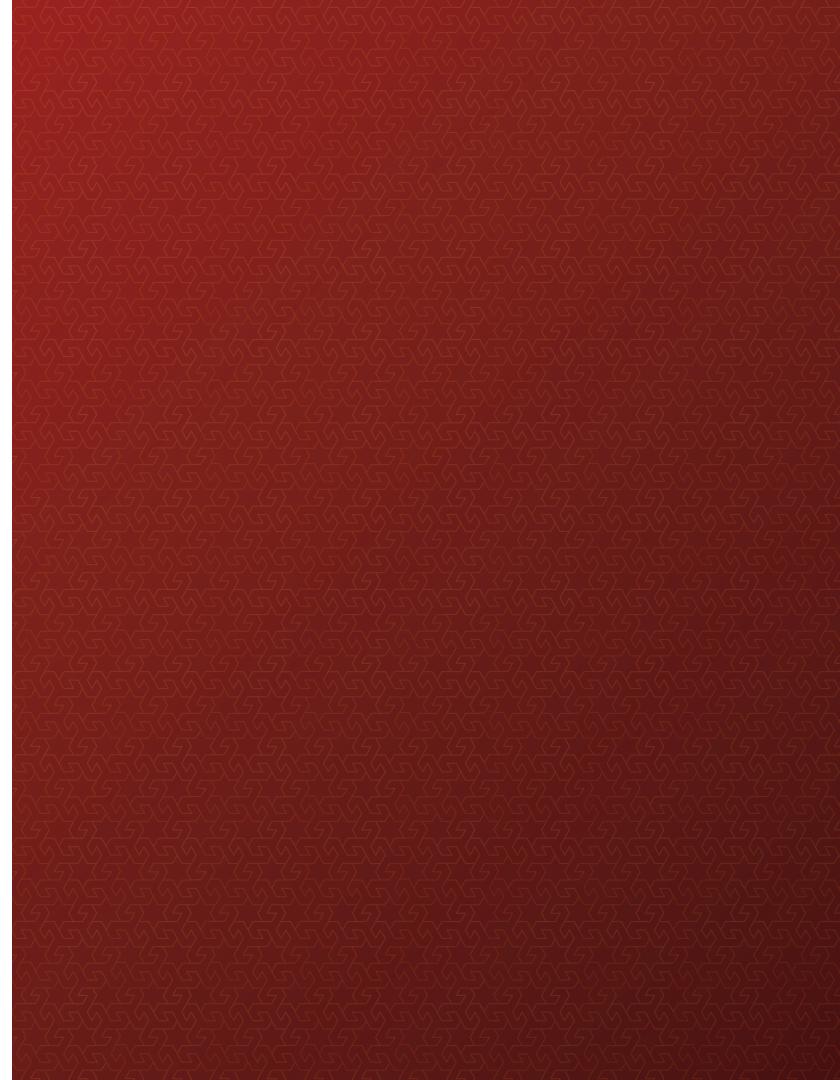
Program Services

PROGRAM SERVICES MIX











ISLAMIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND www.islamicscholarshipfund.org 650-995-6782