

# SIMS

## INITIATIVE



A PROJECT OF THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE



# MFI SIMS INITIATIVE FROM HERBERT AND SANDRA SIMS

**We are excited to introduce** you to **The Minority Film Institute's Sims Initiative**, a groundbreaking effort to bring essential minority stories to the public stage and societal discourse. As founders of this initiative, we are deeply committed to promoting inclusiveness and equal opportunity in our society. Our journey as business people and entrepreneurs has instilled in us the belief that bringing stories like ours and countless other minority stories to the forefront is not just important; it's imperative for inspiring the next generation of leaders and fostering a more inclusive world.

## **A Journey Shaped by Entrepreneurship**

Our experience as business people and entrepreneurs has been a journey of perseverance, innovation, and learning. These experiences have shaped our perspective and reinforced the importance of diversity and inclusion in our society. They have taught us that every unique story has

the potential to inspire, challenge, and catalyze positive change.

## **The Power of Unique Stories**

At the Sims Initiative, we believe in the transformative power of unique stories. Our goal is to provide a platform for narratives that may have remained untold, narratives that hold the potential to inspire, resonate, and connect with audiences on a profound level. These stories are not just about celebrating diversity; they are about sharing the human experience in all its complexity.

## **Why Your Support Matters**

The success of the Sims Initiative depends on the support of individuals and organizations who share our vision. Your contribution and support are pivotal in bringing these important stories to life. By partnering with us, you become a part of a

movement to inspire the next generation of leaders, promote inclusiveness, and foster equal opportunity.

## **Get Involved**

We invite you to join us on this transformative journey. Together, we can be a driving force for change, promoting inclusiveness and equal opportunity through the medium of film and television. Your support can help us make a meaningful impact on our society.

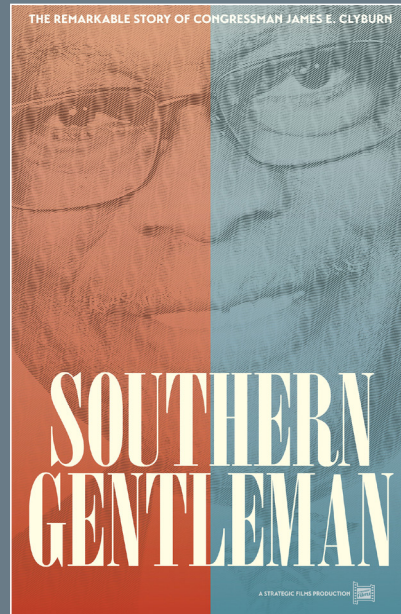
Thank you for considering our initiative. Together, we can inspire, empower, and create lasting change.

Warm regards,

**Herbert and Sandra Sims**  
*Founders, MFI Sims Initiative*



# MFI SIMS INITIATIVE CURRENT PROJECTS



## **Southern Gentleman - Documentary**

Over the past 30 years, few individuals have had a more significant impact than South Carolina's 6th District than James E. Clyburn. The son of an AME Minister with a passion for activism and trailblazing entrepreneurial-minded beautician, Clyburn rose from humble beginnings to become one of America's most consequential lawmakers over the past 50 years. Southern Gentleman explores Clyburn's journey from rural South Carolina to the second phase of the American Civil Rights Movement. It follows his election in 1993 and his rise to become one of America's most trusted, recognized, and celebrated leaders.

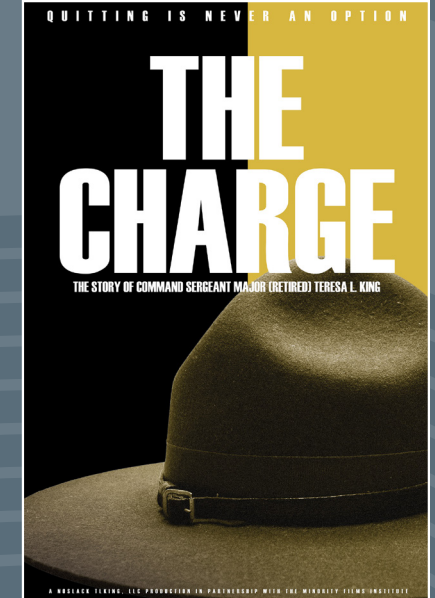
*We are proud to include "Southern Gentleman: The Remarkable Story of Congressman James E. Clyburn" in the Sims Initiative because it beautifully captures*

*the essence of a true American trailblazer. Congressman Clyburn's journey from humble beginnings to his influential role in American politics is a reminder that all of us, regardless of our background, can make a lasting impact on our society through dedication and unwavering commitment to positive change.*

## **The Charge - Documentary**

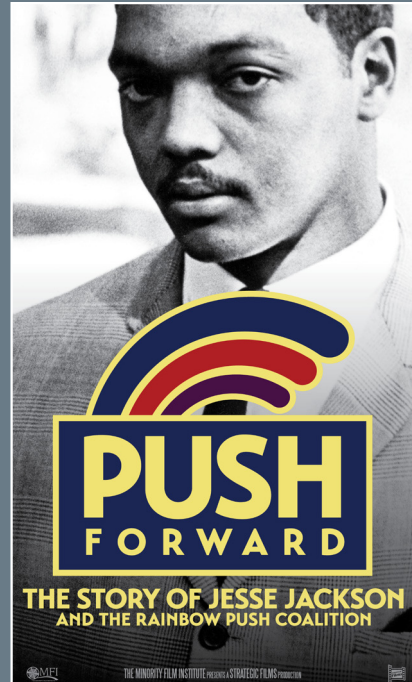
The Charge tells the remarkable story of one of the most decorated enlisted soldiers in US military history, Command Sergeant Major Teresa King, the first female African American Commandant of the US Army Drill Sergeant School. Through interviews and reenactments, the documentary chronicles CMS King's glass ceiling-breaking career, as well as the unwarranted suspension that forced her early retirement and her quest for a complete public vindication of her name. The Charge is a documentary-drama that will educate, motivate and inspire.

*We are honored to include "The Charge: The Story of Command Sergeant Major Teresa L. King" in the Sims Initiative because it showcases the remarkable journey of a true trailblazer. Command Sergeant Major Teresa King's story, from breaking through barriers to her unwavering commitment to vindication and redemption, inspires us all. This documentary-drama educates, motivates, and reminds us of the resilience and determination that can lead to enduring success and overcoming obstacles in any field.*





# MFI SIMS INITIATIVE CURRENT PROJECTS



## **PUSH FORWARD: The Story of Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition** – Documentary

As a force for change and progress, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition has become an iconic symbol of fairness, justice, and the pursuit of the American Dream. Rainbow PUSH was founded by Rev. Jesse Jackson who, at a young age, worked beside American icons like King, Young, and Lowery. This multi-part documentary film tells the story of Jackson, as well as the impact of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, an impact felt from Wall Street to Main Street and around the world.

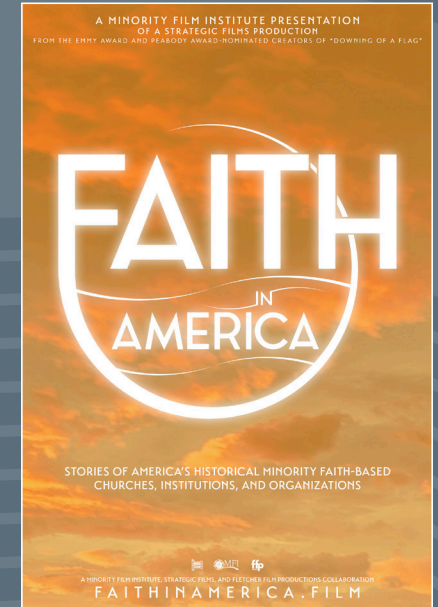
*We are honored to include "PUSH Forward: The Story of Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition" in the Sims Initiative because it vividly portrays the incredible impact of one man's lifelong commitment to justice and equality. Reverend Jesse Jackson's*

*journey educates and inspires us with its portrayal of how one individual's work can resonate from local communities to the global stage. Rev. Jackson is an iconic example of the American Dream.*

## **Faith in America** – Documentary series

Stories of America's historical minority faith-based churches, institutions, and organizations. Episode 1: The Beacon of Old Town: The Story of Alfred Street Baptist Church

*We are thrilled to include "Stories of America's historical minority faith-based churches, institutions, and organizations" in the Sims Initiative, starting with Episode 1: "The Beacon of Old Town: The Story of Alfred Street Baptist Church." These stories hold a special place in our history, embodying the resilience, community, and faith that have been foundational for minority communities in America. By highlighting the rich heritage of these institutions, we aim to celebrate their contributions to our society, inspire future generations, and foster a deeper appreciation for the diverse tapestry of faith and culture in our nation.*





# MFI SIMS INITIATIVE CURRENT PROJECTS

A STRATEGIC FILMS AND COPPER DOME IMAGES DOCUMENTARY  
PRODUCED IN COOPERATION WITH FLETCHER FILM  
PRODUCTIONS AND THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE



THE  
GOVERNORS  
A SOUTH CAROLINA GUBERNATORIAL RETROSPECTIVE 1979-2025

## **The Governors– Documentary series**

"The Governors" is a compelling documentary series that delves into the lives and legacies of South Carolina's living governors as of 2025. Inspired by a poignant photograph captured by celebrated Statehouse Photographer Sam Holland, the series uses this single image as a gateway to explore four decades of leadership in the Palmetto State. Through in-depth interviews, archival footage, and personal anecdotes, each episode unveils the journey of a governor—from their early life and political ascent to their gubernatorial achievements and post-office endeavors. This series offers an intimate look at how these leaders have shaped South Carolina's past, influenced its

present, and continue to impact its future.

*We support The Governors television series because we believe in the power of storytelling through film and television to complement the teaching of history. As education curricula evolve, more responsibility for preserving and sharing our state's history has shifted outside of the classroom. This series helps fill that gap by bringing to life the stories of South Carolina's modern living governors—leaders who have shaped the state's policies, culture, and future. Through their experiences, The Governors offer a valuable educational resource that not only informs but also inspires the next generation of leaders in South Carolina and beyond.*

## **Eye on Public Schools (E.P.S.) – Television series**

Eye on Public Schools (E.P.S.) is a powerful television series that explores the current state of public education in South Carolina. Through compelling storytelling, interviews, and expert insights, the series examines the financial, social, and academic forces shaping school districts across the state. Each episode highlights the roles of educators, leaders, and communities in supporting students and addresses the shared responsibility we all have in ensuring strong public schools. E.P.S. offers a clear and thoughtful look at the challenges and opportunities facing South Carolina's public education system today.

*We support Eye on Public Schools because of the vital role education has played in our own success. This compelling television series examines the current state of South Carolina's public schools, offering a powerful lens through which to understand the challenges and opportunities facing students, educators, and communities today. At its core, Eye on Public Schools underscores the critical importance of public education—highlighting how past and present policies have shaped our school system and its outcomes. By fostering a deeper understanding of these issues, the series invites all South Carolinians to reflect on the needs of our students and the shared responsibility we hold in securing a brighter future for public education across the state.*





# MFI SIMS INITIATIVE FROM MALIK YOBA

## Statement of Support from Malik Yoba Highly acclaimed and award-winning industry professional



“Mentoring (for me) is a lifestyle – I think we have to lift as we climb. It’s important to shepherd ... you have to be present.”

I write this message to support the Minority Film Institute’s Sims Initiative, a groundbreaking effort to bring essential minority stories to the forefront. I am thrilled to be an Executive Producer on several projects chosen as part of this necessary initiative.

Additionally, I applaud MFI’s efforts to provide educational opportunities, work experiences, and more for minorities in front of and behind the camera. With over three decades in the industry, I know firsthand the journey and difficulties minorities face and how access to resources, opportunities, and guidance can be challenging to obtain. I applaud their efforts to help balance the scales and work to close gaps to nurture talent, foster growth, and be a resource for the underrepresented voices in the industry.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read "Malik Yoba".

– Malik Yoba





# THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE

## A NEW VISION FOR FILM

### MFI purpose

MFI, the Minority Film Institute, is akin to institutions like the Georgia Film Academy and New York Film Academy. However, MFI's purpose focuses on providing valuable educational opportunities, real-life work experiences, apprenticeships, and employment prospects for minorities in front of and behind the camera.

The journey of minorities in the American film and cinema industry is nothing short of remarkable. Despite being ignored and marginalized for many years, their contributions have shaped the industry's landscape. From pioneers who battled Jim Crow and racial discrimination in the early days of American film to the influential producers and actors driving today's cinema, minorities are integral to the modern film community.

Yet, despite the progress, challenges persist for aspiring minorities seeking a career in the industry. Access to resources, opportunities, and expert guidance remains elusive, particularly for those outside major city markets.

The Minority Film Institute was born with the mission of closing these gaps. We are dedicated to nurturing talent, fostering growth, and ensuring that underrepresented voices have a platform in the industry. We aspire to become a leading resource, offering support and guidance to minorities pursuing their dreams in the world of film and television.

### MFI objectives

- Committed to serving as a comprehensive resource hub for minority filmmakers, actors, and industry professionals dedicated to creating socially conscious film and television content.
- Dedicated to identifying and connecting individuals with organizations and initiatives aimed at supporting career aspirations in the film and television industry.
- Aim to be your one-stop source, offering a curated collection of links to organizations and resources that focus on empowering minorities in the industry. We understand the challenges faced by minorities in accessing resources and opportunities, especially those outside major city markets.
- Ensuring that minorities within the industry are well-informed about the various opportunities and incentives provided by the government at federal, state, and local levels to support their production efforts.
- Providing a range of educational opportunities, including workshops, seminars, and events. These initiatives cover topics such as "How Government Can Assist Your Film Project" and are designed to equip minorities in the industry with valuable insights and skills to succeed in their careers.
- Offering real-life work experiences, apprenticeships, and opportunities for minorities interested in careers both in front of and behind the camera.

### MFI partners

**Strategic Films, LLC**

**Fletcher Film Productions**

**Susie Films**

**N Lite Media**

**Urban League of the Upstate**



Visit us online at  
**[minorityfilms.org](http://minorityfilms.org)**



# THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE

## PARTNERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

### SI/MFI PARTNERSHIP LEVELS

#### Executive Producer – \$750,000+ \*

- 60-second Executive Producer Partner video to accompany the designated film
- Executive Producer Credit for SI Projects
- Listed on all SI events and activities
- Listed on all MFI events and activities
- Invitations and tickets to all SI and MFI events

#### Producer – \$500,000+ \*

- 30-second Producer Partner video to accompany the designated film
- Producer Credit for SI Projects
- Listed on all SI events and activities
- Listed on all MFI events and activities
- Invitations and tickets to all SI and MFI events

#### SI Founders Partner – \$100,000+ \*

- 10-second SI Founders Partner video to accompany the designated film
- Listed on all SI events and activities
- Listed on all MFI events and activities
- Invitations and tickets to all SI and MFI events and activities

#### SI Partner – \$75,000 \*

- 5-second Institute Partner video to accompany the designated film
- Listed on all SI events and activities
- Invitations and tickets to all SI events and activities

#### MFI Partner – \$50,000 \*

- Special Thanks Recognition on designated SI Projects
- Listed on all SI events and activities
- Invitations and tickets to all SI events and activities

### INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP LEVELS

#### Directors – \$25,000+ \*

- Special Thanks Credit for the designated SI Project
- Listed on all SI events and activities
- Invitations and tickets to SI and MFI events and activities

#### Writers – \$15,000+ \*

- Special Thanks Credit for the designated SI Project
- Listed on all SI events and activities
- Invitations and tickets to SI events

#### Visual Partner – \$5,000+ \*

- Listed on selected SI activities
- Invitations and tickets to selected SI events and activities

#### Seed Partner – \$1,000+ \*

- Invitations and tickets to SI selected events and activities

\* **A pledge process** can be designed for pledged amounts to release over the production period.

### TAX DEDUCTION NOTES

- The Minority Film Institute is 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, private charitable organization. Donors can deduct contributions made under IRC Section 170. Upon receiving your donation, MFI will send an official Donor Acknowledgment Letter to serve as a receipt of your gift. Tax ID#: 85-3890261. A pledge system with installments is an available option.
- The reinstated IRS Code: Section 181 allows investors in a media production to expense all production costs when it is paid. This creates a loss for the production which creates an immediate tax benefit. US Tax law 168 is still in effect so you have a choice of using the reinstated section 181 or the 168. Contact MFI for additional information on these unique incentives. Source: <https://fromtheheartproductions.com/section-181-reinstated/>



# THE MINORITY FILM INSTITUTE **SHARING THE VISION**



**Thank you for considering  
a partnership with the Sims Initiative.**

**Together, we can bring important and compelling stories to life.**

For more information,  
email us at [info@minorityfilms.org](mailto:info@minorityfilms.org),  
or visit us at [MinorityFilms.org](http://MinorityFilms.org).