

THE
BETTER ANGELS
SOCIETY



2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TELLING AMERICA'S STORIES



Muhammad Ali leans on the ropes after successfully defending his title against Earnie Shavers. Madison Square Garden, New York. September 29, 1977.

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Our Mission

The Better Angels Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating Americans about their history through documentary film.

Dear Better Angels and Friends,

As we emerge from the past year, many of us are grappling with newfound realizations and increased curiosity about ourselves, our nation, and our world. We believe the road ahead is full of new opportunities and exciting possibilities.

Through your support, we have been able to explore new projects and endeavors in alignment with our mission: educating Americans about their history through documentary film. This past year we marveled at the continued and robust streaming of the film *Country Music*, witnessed unprecedented use of our supported educational resources on PBS, expanded the scope and breadth of our Untold Stories Initiative, and celebrated the second year of the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film.

In 2021, Ken Burns and his team created for PBS two extraordinary films on two American cultural titans—*Hemingway* and *Ali*. Each offers an in-depth, intimate portrait of these iconic figures, highlighting the importance of nuance in dissecting our shared history. Thanks, in part, to the support of our donors, PBS is able to host virtual conversations around each film, creating a national conversation and connecting audience members across geographic boundaries.

Our Board explored and selected new, relevant projects for our Untold Stories Initiative through the PBS programs American Experience and American Masters, allowing us to support new film projects on iconic figures and moments in American history. We are able to do this work through the wonderful generosity of longtime Better Angels John and Jessica Fullerton, whose generosity also secures the immediate future of the Next Generation Angels Awards and the upcoming films on *Crime and Punishment in America* and *Emancipation to Exodus*.

This year's Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film saw one of the most robust and diverse selections of submissions yet, with films highlighting a broad range of American stories. We also witnessed the first year of the newly established Better Angels Lavine Fellowship program, with Fellows receiving mentorship, support, and professional development from a range of expert advisors.

Finally, The Better Angels Society is dedicated more than ever to leveraging and maximizing the educational potential of historical documentary film. We are so pleased and honored to partner with the Bezos Family Foundation, which has generously opted to develop innovative educational materials for the upcoming film on one of America's greatest innovators, Benjamin Franklin.

We hope that as you read the following pages, you feel the same pride we do about the amount of work being done in the name of The Better Angels Society. It is because of your dedication to American history education that we are able to expand our scope in telling America's stories.



Amy Margerum Berg
President



Bobby Stein
Chair



Courtney Chapin
Executive Director



Left: Filming on location for *The American Buffalo* at the National Bison Range.

Right: Jewish refugee children, en route to Philadelphia aboard the liner *President Harding*, waving at the Statue of Liberty, 1939.

Board of Directors

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*DENOTES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**DENOTES EX-OFFICIO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

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ALEXA VON TOBEL

In Remembrance of Michelle Smith



A core member of The Better Angels Society's board of directors, joining in 2016, Michelle Smith quickly became one of our strongest advocates, tirelessly working to support our efforts to raise funds to produce the American history documentaries of Ken Burns and of others "Telling America's Stories" through the medium of film. Michelle's commitment to excellence, her enthusiasm and faith in our expansion and growth, and her dedication to education through understanding history guides us today and into the future.

2021 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film

Through the generosity of Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine, and our partners at The Library of Congress, The Better Angels Society has nearly concluded the third year of its newly established major program, the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film. The 2021 contest attracted a robust pool of submissions on a diversity of topics in American history. These films were reviewed through the summer by Library of Congress film experts, nationally recognized documentary filmmakers, and some of our nation's most prominent historians.

The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film is a \$200,000 cash award made possible by the Lavines' generous endowment and presented annually to one exemplary American history documentary film for post-production and finishing costs, including outreach and marketing. The prize is designed to advance and elevate feature-length US historical documentary filmmaking in the tradition of Ken Burns, and encourage a growing community of history documentary filmmakers working on bringing America's stories to light. Supplemental prizes of \$50,000 (awarded to the runner-up) and \$25,000 (awarded to four finalists) are provided by The Better Angels Society.



The 2021 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film will be awarded in a virtual ceremony this fall. The announcement will be followed by a roundtable discussion focusing on the acclaimed documentary, *John Lewis: Good Trouble*, featuring its director, Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns National Jury member and award-winning filmmaker Dawn Porter, in conversation with Ken Burns, Dr. Hayden, and moderator Yamiche Alcindor of PBS NewsHour.

As a result of the 2020 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film awards, last year's runner-up *CURED*, directed by Patrick Sammon and Bennett Singer, will make its broadcast debut this fall on PBS's Independent Lens. Last spring, another finalist, *Beethoven in Beijing*, directed by Jennifer Lin and Sharon Mullally, premiered on PBS's Great Performances. Additionally, *Mr. Soull*, a 2019 finalist directed by Melissa Haizlip, made its debut on HBO Max this year and is now available for streaming.

The Better Angels Society is proud to have established this official partnership with the Library of Congress which, through the Lavines' funding, ensures that more carefully researched, compelling histories will find their way onto America's screens and laptops, and into the national conversation.

2021 Prize Jury



Edward Ayers



Andrew Delbanco



Dawn Porter



Sam Pollard



Sally Rosenthal

A Note from Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine

When we set out to establish an award for great American history documentaries, one of our goals was to form and foster a community of filmmakers and fans. Despite a year marked by so much loss and many challenges, it has been particularly inspiring to witness the tremendous growth and development of our Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film community.

This year has seen the debut of the Better Angels Lavine Fellowship, a program designed to uplift untold stories and support storytellers seeking to hone their filmmaking and archival research skills. Fellows received mentorship from previous honorees, and connected with industry professionals for expert consultation. The Better Angels Society received a robust pool of submissions for the 2021 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film, and attracted a host of history films that promise us all greater understanding around issues of import to the national conversation today. As we continue to expand, we look



Jonathan Lavine, Dr. Carla Hayden, Ken Burns, and Jeannie Lavine

forward to the continued success and growth of everyone involved in this tight-knit family.

We are so proud of our partnership with the Library of Congress and grateful to The Better Angels Society, and we look forward to another year of celebrating excellence in American historical documentary filmmaking as well as the enduring legacy of Ken Burns.

About the Crimson Lion/Lavine Family Foundation

Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine established the Crimson Lion/Lavine Family Foundation to focus a significant portion of their philanthropic efforts toward leveling the playing field for individuals and families. The Foundation works to address pressing social challenges in the areas of education, community and public service, health and welfare, and discrimination and poverty.

The Foundation supports the multidisciplinary efforts of organizations that serve to strengthen society

through research, innovation, public policy, direct service, and advocacy.



Other projects supported by Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine include *Defying the Nazis: The Sharp's War* (2016), *The Vietnam War* (2017), *The Holocaust & the United States* (2021), *Benjamin Franklin* (2022), *The American Revolution* (2025), and *LBJ & the Great Society* (2027).

For more information on these films, visit

www.thebetterangelsociety.org/we-support/films

2021 Next Generation Angels Awards

The Better Angels Society's Next Generation Angels Awards are presented annually to the middle and high school students who place first, second, and third in the Senior and Junior divisions of National History Day's Individual History Documentary Film national contest. Student filmmakers begin their journey with National History Day at the local level by screening their own American history documentary films—made in the mold of Ken Burns—in their own classrooms and schools. They then progress to regional and ultimately a national competition, which attracts thousands of middle and high school students from every state and U.S. State and territory as well as international schools all over the world.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Better Angels Society has moved from sponsoring in-person events to a virtual program for the Next Generation Angels Awards. This program still honors and promotes the student winners' exceptional history documentaries while using the move to a virtual space to reach a larger audience than ever before. The 2021 Next Generation Angels Awards will include a virtual film festival, the third annual Student History Film Festival, reaching thousands of teachers and homeschooled students who will participate from their schools via a nationwide live-streamed event. Additional programming will include a copyright presentation ceremony where the students will receive official copyrights from the Library of Congress, as well as exclusive mentorship sessions with Ken Burns and filmmakers who have been honored with The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film. Additionally, this year's winning films will be featured alongside all previous Next Generation Angels Awards winners and numerous Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize films in a showcase hosted on the Library of Congress website.

Over the course of a year spent researching their topics, the Next Generation Angels Awards winners delve deeply into archival collections of historical film footage, photographs,

"I am also so impressed with The Better Angels Society and everything they do. These past few weeks have inspired me greatly and actually helped me realize that I want to pursue film in some way in the future!"

— GIULIANA ALLEVA
3RD PLACE SENIOR INDIVIDUAL
DOCUMENTARY, 2020

sound recordings, and documents. They study the films of Ken Burns and conduct interviews in his style, all while writing and recording the narration that knits their stories together. The Better Angels Society is proud to recognize and honor these students, who are the next generation of American history lovers and historians. These emerging filmmakers serve as an inspiration to their fellow students and to us all, reminding us how powerful history is as a tool for academic growth, empowerment, and civic discourse.

The Next Generation Angels Awards are funded thanks to the generosity of John and Jessica Fullerton, who have pledged to support and secure this essential program for the next 10 years. These awards were established and funded by The Better Angels Society as a youth complement to The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film in 2019.



"Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I decided to turn my attention to mentoring the next generation of students at my school."

— SUMMER ROYAL
1ST PLACE SENIOR INDIVIDUAL
DOCUMENTARY, 2020

Announcing the 2021 Next Generation Angels Awards Winners

Award winners' videos are hosted at www.thebetterangelsociety.org/we-support/next-generation

Middle School Division



Actor Mike Connors watching as Norman Rockwell paints his portrait on the set of Stagecoach (1966)

FIRST PLACE

Claire Flynn | Connecticut

Film Title: *Clearing the Air: How John Hersey Communicated Hiroshima Survivors' Stories to the World and Changed the Global Perspective on Nuclear Weapons*

SECOND PLACE

Madeline Rong | New York

Film Title: *Norman Rockwell: Communicating Racial Inequality through Art*

THIRD PLACE

Luke Morris | North Carolina

Film Title: *Hetch Hetchy: Constructing the Framework for Modern Environmentalism*

High School Division



Scene from Theatre Guild production of Oklahoma (1943-1944)

FIRST PLACE THE ANNE HARRINGTON AWARD

Sasha Allen | Minnesota

Film Title: *Don't Believe Your Eyes: How Falsified Visual Media Built the Cult of Stalin*

SECOND PLACE

Ryan Seun Woo Kwon | Korea

Film Title: *The Korean Diaspora: Reunion of Separated Families through Media Communication*

THIRD PLACE

Melinda Chen | New Jersey

Film Title: *Oklahoma! The Dawn of a Beautiful Morning for Storytelling in Musical Theatre*



John and Leslie McQuown, *Better Angels* and Hemingway donors

A Modern Look at Hemingway

The McQuowns and Their Impact

The premiere of *Hemingway* in April 2020 was a resounding success, generating 105,000 total streams the day of its premiere and edging out *Country Music* to claim a new streaming record for Ken Burns. As of June 2021, the film stands as PBS's most-streamed documentary film of 2021, generating over 2.6 million total streams across PBS.org and the PBS Video App. Conversations on Hemingway, a nine-part digital conversation series in the weeks leading up to the film's release, also garnered significant engagement. The final event (Hemingway and Women), presented in partnership between The Better Angels Society and The New York Review of Books, attracted a national audience for a fascinating conversation between the filmmakers and authors Joyce Carol Oates, Francine Prose, and Edward Mendelson.

The Better Angels Society brought together a dedicated, enthusiastic, and impassioned group of philanthropists to support the production and educational resources of this groundbreaking film on one of America's most revered and complicated literary giants. Longtime Better Angels John and Leslie McQuown chose to support the work of The Better Angels Society due to their belief in the power of documentary storytelling about America's history. In addition to supporting several other films by Ken Burns, John and Leslie got involved in *Hemingway* due to their interest in the legacy of such a complicated and beloved American figure.

“Nearly every American touches Hemingway at some point in their lives, often beginning in the classroom. Many readers continually return to his works throughout life, finding meaning and purpose in his spare, nuanced prose. As fans of Hemingway, however, we realized that we knew little about the man behind the legend.”

“In an age where historical and personal context are more important than ever, we wanted to stand behind Ken's idea of creating a new documentary on one of America's most iconic writers—one with full honesty and transparency. Ken, Lynn, and their team have done just that, capturing the complexity of a man whose views on gender, religion, politics, and the human experience are actually quite different than we all believed them to be. We are so proud to be part of a project that will undoubtedly endure for generations to come, and we applaud Ken, Lynn, and the team at Florentine Films for delving deeper into the essence of Hemingway.”

— JOHN “MAC” AND LESLIE MCQUOWN

Donor Spotlight: John and Jessica Fullerton, Better Angels and Untold Stories Initiative Donors

John and Jessica Fullerton have pledged a second \$5 million gift to The Better Angels Society through 2030. We are eternally grateful to them for believing in our work and humbled by their generosity, so we are excited to share with you how their gift will strengthen our democracy by supporting documentary films that are telling America's stories

The Fullertons' gift includes \$3 million set aside for upcoming films supported by The Better Angels Society. A portion of these funds will be allocated to Ken Burns's upcoming project *Emancipation to Exodus*, an eight-part series for PBS that will chronicle the experience of Black Americans from the Emancipation Proclamation through the Great Migration. Additionally, a portion of the gift will help support Lynn Novick and Laurens Grant's upcoming PBS documentary, *Crime and Punishment in America*, an eight-part series executive produced by Ken Burns, which will explore the history and development of the American criminal justice system.

The Fullertons will also support American history documentary films through PBS's American Masters and American Experience programs. This is part of The Better Angels Society's Untold Stories Initiative, which seeks to expand the scope of PBS's American history documentary content by lifting up under-recognized voices and shedding light on lesser-known but equally important moments in American history.

Finally, the gift also secures The Better Angels Society's youth program—the Next Generation Angels Awards—for the next 10 years, ensuring that Ken's legacy can continue to inspire and empower young history lovers, researchers, and filmmakers for years to come. We are thrilled to be able to continue our partnership with National History Day, and we look forward to helping inspire the next generation of historical documentary filmmakers.



John and Jessica Fullerton

“We support The Better Angels Society because of our desire to help students of history such as Ken Burns tell the American story through documentaries that reach large audiences. We believe that telling those stories accurately and well is particularly important today. Providing our fellow citizens an understanding of our shared past offers hope for our shared future. We are particularly excited to support new films that are part of the Better Angels’s Untold Stories Initiative and we look forward to helping those filmmakers make strides in painting a more diverse, complete picture of American history.”

– JOHN AND JESSICA FULLERTON



“It’s part of this new conversation. We’re tapping into the brains of a whole new generation of scholars.”

– LAURENS GRANT

Laurens Grant interviewing Damion Thomas of the Smithsonian for *Black in Space: Breaking the Color Barrier*. Grant is partnering with Ken Burns’s longtime collaborator Lynn Novick on an upcoming series on crime and punishment in America.

Interview with Filmmaker Laurens Grant

Deep human curiosity. If you had to sum up Laurens Grant’s multi-decade, award-winning career in filmmaking, it might be in those three words. Grant’s work has taken her on a journey across American history, exploring systemic oppression, human achievement, and groundbreaking activism. Partnering with director Lynn Novick (*Ernest Hemingway*, *The Vietnam War*), Grant is gearing up to tackle a new project: the over 400-year history of crime and punishment in America.

Trained as a journalist, Grant practices what she calls “360 degree storytelling.” Her work is marked by an unparalleled dedication to seeking out every source she can find. “As a writer, you’ve got to have a story,” says Grant. “You can’t come back with some excuse that you’ve missed your deadline. I think that sort of training helped prepare me for working on especially challenging topics.”

Grant and Novick started collaborating on *Crime and Punishment in America* in late 2019. This accomplished duo has taken on the grand task of dissecting a facet of American history that goes back to our nation’s founding, tackling two important questions: Why does the United States today have the largest prison population on Earth? And why are roughly six out of 10 of those behind bars black and brown?

COVID-19 has certainly posed a challenge for the *Crime and Punishment in America* team, pushing back production

timelines alongside filmmakers across the globe. Additionally the rise of the “No Justice, No Peace” movement, spurred by the killing of George Floyd in May 2020, has brought the topics of policing and the American justice system to the forefront of the American conversation today. Through all this, Grant has maintained a steady resolve in her research and has continued to delve even deeper into the subject.



Laurens Grant

*“What’s really exciting and also difficult about *Crime and Punishment in America* is showing how this topic is woven into the fabric of our nation. Crime and punishment, for whatever reason, is really part of our cultural and carceral DNA. I mean, the fact that we have prisons that are on top of former plantations—to me, that’s just mind-blowing. Hopefully, this film can help viewers look at who we consider criminals and who we don’t.”*

Grant is no stranger to seeking out historical eyewitnesses. While working on her three-time Emmy-winning film *Freedom Riders*, she interviewed several Civil Rights giants, including the late Congressman John Lewis. For *Crime and Punishment in America*, she and Novick have already pulled together a stellar team of expert advisors. “It’s part of this new conversation,” Grant says. “We’re tapping into the brains of a whole new generation of scholars.”

Crime and Punishment in America is currently slated for release in 2025.

The Holocaust and the United States

The Holocaust and the United States tells the story of how the American people grappled with one of the greatest humanitarian crises of the 20th century, and how this struggle tested the ideals of our democracy. This standalone film, which is being made in conjunction with a groundbreaking exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, asks three essential questions: What did we know? When did we know it? What did we do about it?

The responses of many Americans are fraught with misconceptions. On the one side: Americans knew nothing about the Holocaust until it was too late to act. On the other: Americans “turned our backs” on the Jews, and most Jews in Europe could have been saved, if not for antisemites in the State Department and elsewhere. In reality, the truth lies between these simplified positions. Our film will examine the complex challenges—ranging from isolationism and xenophobia to outright antisemitism—that prevented our country from rising to its stated ideals and rescuing a people at their time of greatest need.

As Hitler expanded his power throughout the 1930s, Jews in Germany—and eventually throughout Europe—saw their lives increasingly under threat and hundreds of thousands began to look for a way out. But the United States—mired in the Great Depression, wary of a new war and divided over its responsibilities to a persecuted people abroad—responded by tightening, not opening, its borders to immigrants and refugees. As a result, hundreds of thousands who sought entry and protection were turned away.

By examining the events of this period and the difficult choices they presented, *The Holocaust and the United States* raises a multitude of questions that are as relevant today as they were in the 1930s and 1940s. What is America’s role



Marchers carrying signs urge US boycott of German goods, 1938.

as a land of immigrants? What are the responsibilities of a nation to intervene in humanitarian crises? What should our leaders and the press do to shape public opinion? What can individuals do when governments fail to act?

Americans today have a deeper understanding of what is at stake: Before the Holocaust, the word “genocide” did not exist; there was no accepted concept of a humanitarian war. Yet, our record in response to subsequent instances of mass murder suggests we still have much to learn from our past experiences. The journalist Freda Kirchwey reflected on our failures in responding to the moral challenges of the Holocaust: “We had it in our power to rescue this doomed people and we did not lift a hand to do it—or perhaps it would be fairer to say that we lifted just one cautious hand, encased in a tight-fitting glove of quotas and visas and affidavits, and a thick layer of prejudice.”

“Our film explores how the United States grappled with one of the greatest humanitarian crises of the 20th century, and how that struggle tested the ideals of American democracy. The story of what we did and did not do in response to the rise of Nazism and the Holocaust is deeply important to how we consider similar questions today.”

— SARAH BOTSTEIN | CO-PRODUCER/CO-DIRECTOR

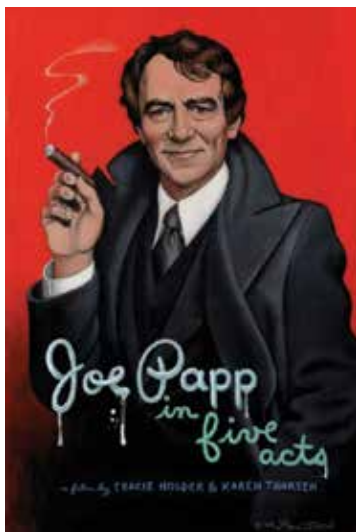
Film Pipeline

- **Muhammad Ali** | Sept. 19-22, 2021
- **Benjamin Franklin** | Spring 2022
- **The Holocaust and the United States** | Fall 2023
- **The American Buffalo** | 2024
- **Leonardo da Vinci** | 2024
- **Crime and Punishment in America** | 2024/25
- **American Revolution** | 2025
- **Emancipation to Exodus** | 2026
- **LBJ and the Great Society** | 2027

As part of Ken Burns's continuing legacy, The Better Angels Society has established the Untold Stories Initiative to support other PBS series and filmmakers presenting historical documentary films on public television. We are proud to partner with **WNET's American Masters** and **GBH's American Experience** to support films on historical subjects that often go overlooked in traditional history classes.

JOE PAPP IN FIVE ACTS (American Experience)

This feature-length documentary film tells the story of New York's indomitable champion of the arts who introduced interracial casting to the American stage and created free Shakespeare in the Park, *Hair*, and *A Chorus Line*. For Joe Papp, the arts were a bridge, crossing boundaries of race, class, and ethnicity. His goal was a "theater of inclusion": on-stage, backstage, and in the audience. The story of Papp's great accomplishments and his own often complicated personal history is told by the artists he helped create—and, in some cases, tried to destroy.



Joe Papp in Five Acts poster

TERROR IN OSAGE COUNTY (American Masters)

In the 1920's, the Osage Indians of Oklahoma were the richest people in the world thanks to the vast oil reserves on their tribal lands. Then, one by one, tribe members began to be murdered, all part of a vast conspiracy in what became known as the Osage Reign of Terror. The ensuing FBI investigation would unearth an expansive web of conspiracy. *Terror in Osage County* will shed light on this reign of terror, one of the most brazen, calculated acts of genocide in American history.



Terror In Osage County



"The stories we bring to life on American Experience are as much about today as they are about our past. We are so thrilled to be working with The Better Angels Society, because their support ensures that we can bring even more exciting American stories to audiences today."

— CAMEO GEORGE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE



"American Masters is deeply appreciative of the interest and support of The Better Angels Society. We share a common reverence for how powerful the stories of influential Americans are in celebrating our diversity."

— MICHAEL KANTOR
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, AMERICAN MASTERS

TBAS is still raising money for these films:

- **Plague at the Golden Gate**
American Experience
- **Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands**
American Masters
- **Becoming Helen Keller**
American Masters
- **W. E. B. DuBois**
American Masters
- **CURED**
Independent Lens

The Bezos Family Foundation and *Benjamin Franklin*



During the nation's transition to remote learning, Ken Burns, PBS, and The Better Angels Society have actively supported educators, parents, and students in pivoting to new methods of teaching and learning about American history.

As a response to the pandemic, The Better Angels Society provided a grant to PBS LearningMedia to expand and accelerate educational resources related to Ken Burns in the Classroom, a website that provides free access for teachers and students across the country to Ken Burns film clips and offers discussion themes and lesson plans that support social studies and history curricular standards. Over one million people visited Ken Burns in the Classroom in the first half of 2020, and user traffic increased by 79 percent.

The Ken Burns UNUM platform, a PBS website made possible by a generous gift from Better Angel David Rubenstein, is now in its fifth year.

Ken Burns's UNUM allows armchair historians, teachers, and students the opportunity to create video playlists from across Ken Burns's filmography. With increasing relevance in the formal educational space, UNUM curates playlists from Ken's films to support the Advanced Placement United States History curriculum and coordinates with National History Day to help students use the work of Ken Burns and Florentine Films for inspiration when deciding on the topics of their own American history documentaries.

The Better Angels Society is thrilled to announce our official partnership with the Bezos Family Foundation on the development of educational materials for Ken Burns's upcoming film on Benjamin Franklin.

The Bezos Family Foundation has made a generous donation through The Better Angels Society to support PBS LearningMedia. This grant will aid in the creation of antiracist educational materials about Ben Franklin and the Revolutionary War period.

The Bezos Family Foundation will support the work of an educational consultant with specific expertise in creating inclusive teacher resources, who will develop materials that will highlight the many social, political, and technological contributions from diverse groups and individuals during this era. This project will work directly with focus groups of educators to understand existing practices and to work on ways to improve and add new information to social studies curricula.

This donation supports PBS LearningMedia in developing educational resources that will enhance student understanding around Ben Franklin's legacy in innovation and science. It will also help PBS evaluate how the Colonial and Revolutionary eras are currently taught in schools and assess how outdated perceptions of Ben Franklin and his world have lingering effects to this day. The development of these resources will begin after a research phase early next year, in preparation for the film's release in 2022.

"The Bezos Family Foundation is pleased to support this important initiative to engage Americans in thoughtful discussion about our history and the development of educational materials. This type of conversation is vital to understanding the nature of our democracy and addressing the present-day impact of historical inequalities."

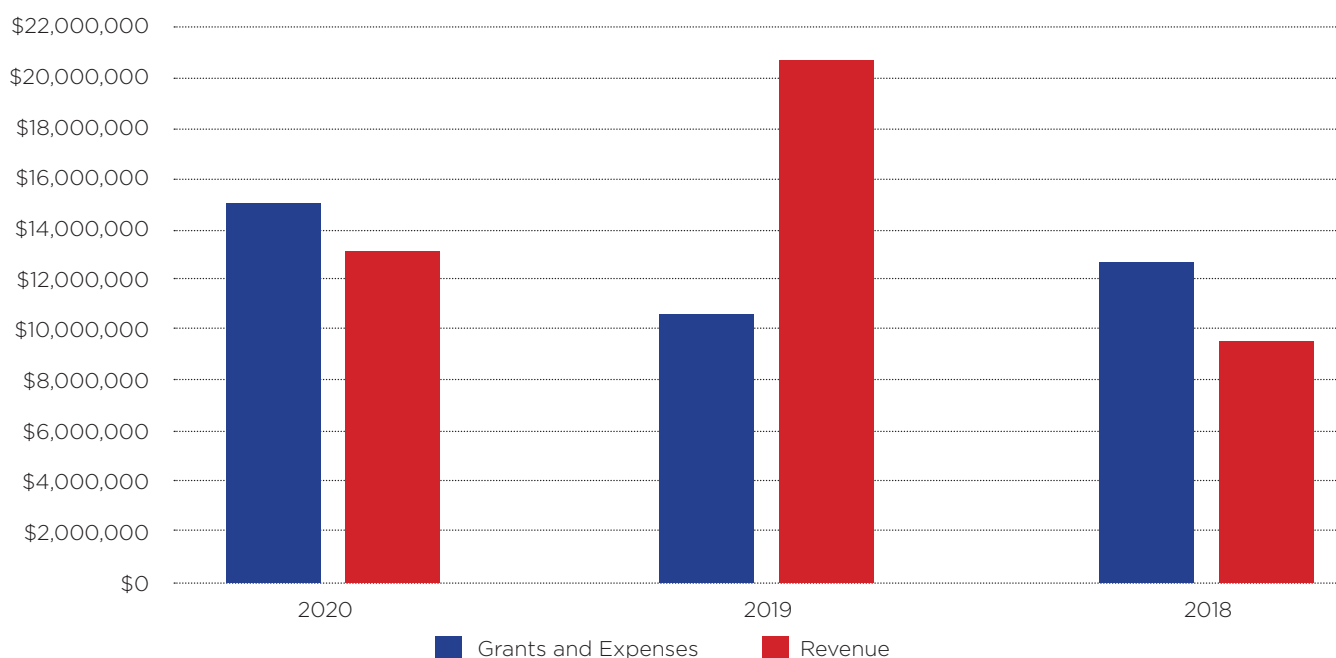
— CHRIS PLUTTE
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE
BEZOS FAMILY FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL DATA BASED ON AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018-2020

	2020	2019	2018
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,200,910	\$20,453,427	\$9,562,659
EXPENSES			
Program	\$13,520,579	\$9,232,708	\$11,864,006
Administration	\$712,586	\$954,086	\$391,445
Fundraising	\$220,591	\$197,126	\$216,319
TOTAL	\$14,453,756	\$10,383,920	\$12,471,770
OTHER ACTIVITIES			
Return of Contributions	—	(\$1,307,650)	—
Change in net assets	(\$1,173,102)	\$8,761,857	\$(2,909,458)
Net assets, beginning of year	\$30,477,727	\$21,715,870	\$24,625,328
Net assets, end of year	\$29,304,625	\$30,477,727	\$21,715,870
TOTAL ASSETS	\$29,324,402	\$30,477,727	\$21,748,016
LIABILITIES	\$19,777	\$158,188	\$32,146
NET ASSETS			
Without Donor Restrictions	\$9,395,935	\$8,660,660	\$8,810,346
With Donor Restrictions	\$19,908,690	\$21,817,067	\$12,905,524
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$29,304,625	\$30,477,727	\$21,715,870
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$29,324,402	\$30,635,915	\$21,748,016

In 2020, TBAS raised \$12.9 million in contributions and regranted \$13 million of both current and prior years' donations. Over the past five years, the Society has raised over \$64 million and has made grants to support documentary film and education totaling \$42 million. The 2018-2020 financial statements of The Better Angels Society were audited by Marcum LLP (formerly Raffa, Inc.).

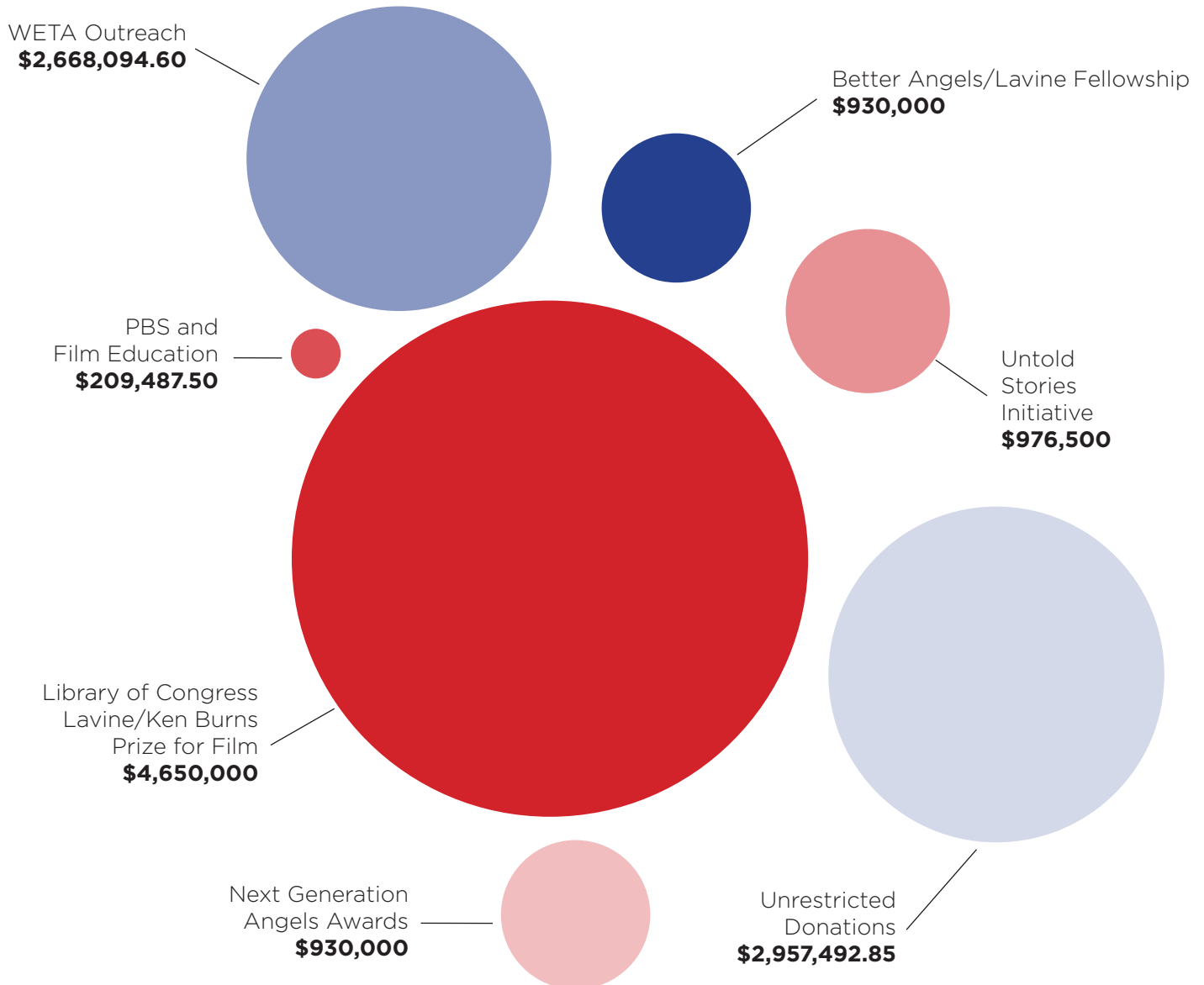
2020, 2019, AND 2018 TOTAL REVENUE AND TOTAL GRANTS AND EXPENSES



Expanding Our Scope

In recent years, as The Better Angels Society enters its second decade, it has expanded its work to support a host of programs that build upon the work of Ken Burns and support history documentary filmmaking and education. These new programs are summarized below.

PROGRAM DIVERSIFICATION BY REVENUE JANUARY 2019-APRIL 2021*



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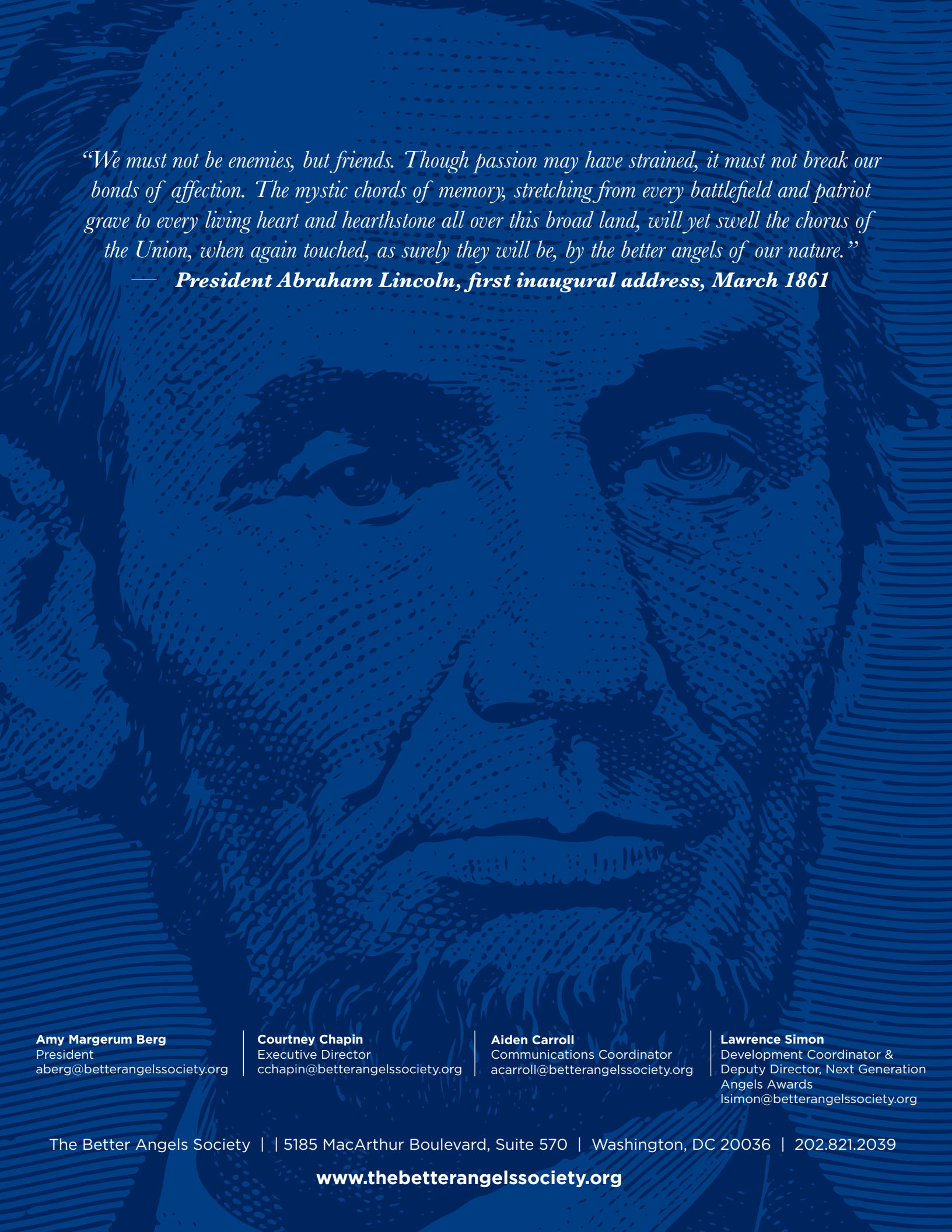
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— **President Abraham Lincoln, first inaugural address, March 1861**

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aberg@betterangelsociety.org

Courtney Chapin
Executive Director
cchapin@betterangelsociety.org

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acarroll@betterangelsociety.org

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