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## **Jackson Wild and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Announce Final Cohort for Latinx Film Lab To Be Held at San Diego Zoo Safari Park**

**JACKSON, Wyo. / SAN DIEGO, Ca.** – Jackson Wild and [San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance](#) are proud to announce the individuals selected as Fellows for the 2023 Latinx Film Lab, a week-long intensive program for mid-career Latinx filmmakers based in the Southern California and Baja California, Mexico area.

“Jackson Wild is a catalyst for leadership and mentorship empowering the next generation of scientists and creators to push the boundaries of how we understand our relationship with nature. We are thrilled to welcome this group of nine individuals, and look forward to supporting them as they hone their storytelling skills,” said Jackson Wild Executive Director Lisa Samford.

The selection committee was deeply impressed by the passion, curiosity, and perspective shared in the applications for this program. Nine individuals were accepted into this rigorous filmmaking fellowship, an experience designed to help scientists and media creators develop their skills to communicate about science, nature, and conservation with diverse audiences across the world’s evolving media platforms. The complete list of Fellows, along with their biographies, can be found [here](#).

“Conservation starts with people, and filmmaking is a powerful way to speak to the hearts of millions so they, too, can be inspired to protect wildlife. We are honored to have this talented group of filmmakers with us and have them share their unique perspectives on the life-changing moments that happen every day at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.” said Paul Baribault, President and Chief Executive Officer for San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance.

The Latinx Film Lab will take place from June 2 - June 9, 2023, at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. During this time, nine fellows will work in teams of three, creating short films that highlight the Zoo's unique stories. Fellows will work closely with Zoo staff to uncover narratives around conservation efforts and the animals that reside at the zoo. The participants will learn from well-known natural history filmmakers about how their experience in a different genre can be adapted to tell engaging and intimate natural history and science stories.

All camera equipment is generously provided by our partners at [RED Digital Cinema](#), [ARRI](#), [Canon](#), [OConnor](#), [Sachtler](#), [LowePro](#), [Manfrotto](#), [LensRentals](#) and [Videndum](#). Production support is provided by [cWave Labs](#).

The program will be led by instructor [Federico Pardo](#), a Colombian biologist, photographer, and documentary filmmaker. Federico specializes in natural history, environmental and human stories. His clients include National Geographic, Univision, All Rise Films, DDC International, Where Next, Plimsoll Productions, Terra Incognita Docs, The Field Museum and Humboldt Institute among others. Federico has received two Emmy Awards (2013, 2017) and has experience working in most Latin American countries.

The Latinx Film Lab is produced by Mac Cardona, founder of [cWave Labs](#), a collective of designers, artists, and scientists that help their partners engage and support communities through immersive storytelling, creative strategy and state-of-the-art virtual tech. Mac works in advocacy and program development to help increase Latinx representation in all kinds of storytelling which includes currently serving as a member of the Jackson Wild Advisory Council. With her background in wildlife biology (B.S. in Wildlife Biology, HSU), science and nature storytelling (M.S. Biology, HSU), and Latinx community engagement, Mac is passionate about engaging communities with science and nature, especially those that are still underrepresented in the sciences.

For more information, visit [jacksonwild.org/latinx-film-lab](http://jacksonwild.org/latinx-film-lab).

### **About Jackson Wild**

For over 30 years, Jackson Wild has been a catalyst for accelerating and elevating impactful storytelling at the nexus of nature, science, and conservation. Through innovative and collaborative community gatherings, skill-building initiatives, and mentorship programs, Jackson Wild creates an inclusive forum for storytellers to more deeply illuminate connections to the natural world and our collective responsibility to the wild.

Jackson Wild's international board members include: African Wildlife Foundation, ARRI, ARTE France, BBC Studios, Blue Ant Media / Love Nature, Conservation International, Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund, Doclights, GBH, Gorongosa Restoration Project, HHMI Tangled Bank Studios, Humane Society International, International Fund for Animal Welfare, National Geographic Content, National Geographic Society, Nature/WNET, Netflix, NEWF (Nature, Environment, Wildlife, Filmmaking), Off the Fence Productions, ORF Universum, PBS, RED Digital Cinema, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Smithsonian Channel/Paramount, Sony Electronics, The Nature Conservancy, Terra Mater Studios, Wanda Films, Wildstar Films, and World Wildlife Fund US.

### **About San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance**

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is a nonprofit international conservation leader, committed to inspiring a passion for nature and working toward a world where all life thrives. The Alliance empowers people from around the globe to support their mission to conserve wildlife through innovation and partnerships. San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance supports cutting-edge conservation and brings the stories of their work back to the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park—giving millions of guests, in person and virtually, the opportunity to experience conservation in action. The work of San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance extends from San Diego to eco-regional conservation “hubs” across the globe, where their expertise and assets—including the renowned Wildlife Biodiversity Bank—are able to effectively align with hundreds of regional partners to improve outcomes for wildlife in more coordinated efforts. By leveraging these skills in wildlife care and conservation science, and through collaboration with hundreds of partners, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance has reintroduced more than 44 endangered species to native habitats. Each year, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance's work reaches over 1 billion people in 150 countries via news media, social media, their websites, educational resources and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Explorers television programming, which is in children's hospitals in 13 countries. Success is made possible by the support of

members, donors and guests to the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park, who are Wildlife Allies committed to ensuring all life thrives.

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