

New York by the Numbers

Economic snapshots of the five boroughs

Center for an
Urban
Future
www.nycfuture.org

February 2012

Volume 5 • Issue 1

This New York by the Numbers was researched and written by Ada Welch, Jonathan Bowles and Lucia Candu, and designed by Alison Steele.

The Center for an Urban Future is a New York City-based think tank dedicated to independent, fact-based research about critical issues affecting New York's future, including economic development, workforce development, higher education and the arts. For more information or to sign up for our monthly e-mail bulletin, visit www.nycfuture.org.

General operating support for City Future has been provided by Bernard F. and Rita B. Gimbel Foundation, Fund for the City of New York, Salsburg Foundation, and Urban League University Youth Program at Shalom Rock.

New York's Oscar Party

When it comes to documentary films, NYC-based directors and producers are always in the spotlight at the Academy Awards.

The Academy Awards ceremony is more often than not a showcase for Hollywood's film industry. But year after year, New York City—not Hollywood—is the unrivaled star performer in one key Oscar category: documentary film.

Of the 76 films nominated in the two documentary film categories (Short and Feature) between 2005 and 2012, 32 had a New York City-based director, and 35 had a producer based in the Big Apple. In contrast, the Los Angeles area was home to just 15 producers and 14 directors that were nominated for an Oscar during this period. The San Francisco Bay Area had 8 nominated producers and 6 directors.

This year, New York directors claim 5 out of the 10 documentary nominations (three in Documentary Feature and two in Documentary Short). Meanwhile, 4 of the 10 films nominated this year had New York-based producers (two in each category).

In some years, New York is virtually a shoo-in for the golden statuette. Last year, for instance, all but one of the Documentary Short films nominated were directed and produced by New Yorkers. Even in years when the odds were not as good, New York has cleaned up. Directors from the five boroughs have taken home 7 of the 14 Oscars given out for documentary films between 2005 and 2011. New York producers have won 10 of 14.

Oscar Nominated Documentaries
2005-2012: Home Base for Directors
& Production Companies



84th Annual Oscars (2012):
Nominated Documentaries by Location
of Director and Production Company



Report - February 2012

New York's Oscar Party

This edition of New York by the Numbers reveals that when it comes to documentary films, NYC-based directors and producers are always in the spotlight at the Academy Awards.

by Ada Welch, Jonathan Bowles and Lucia Candu

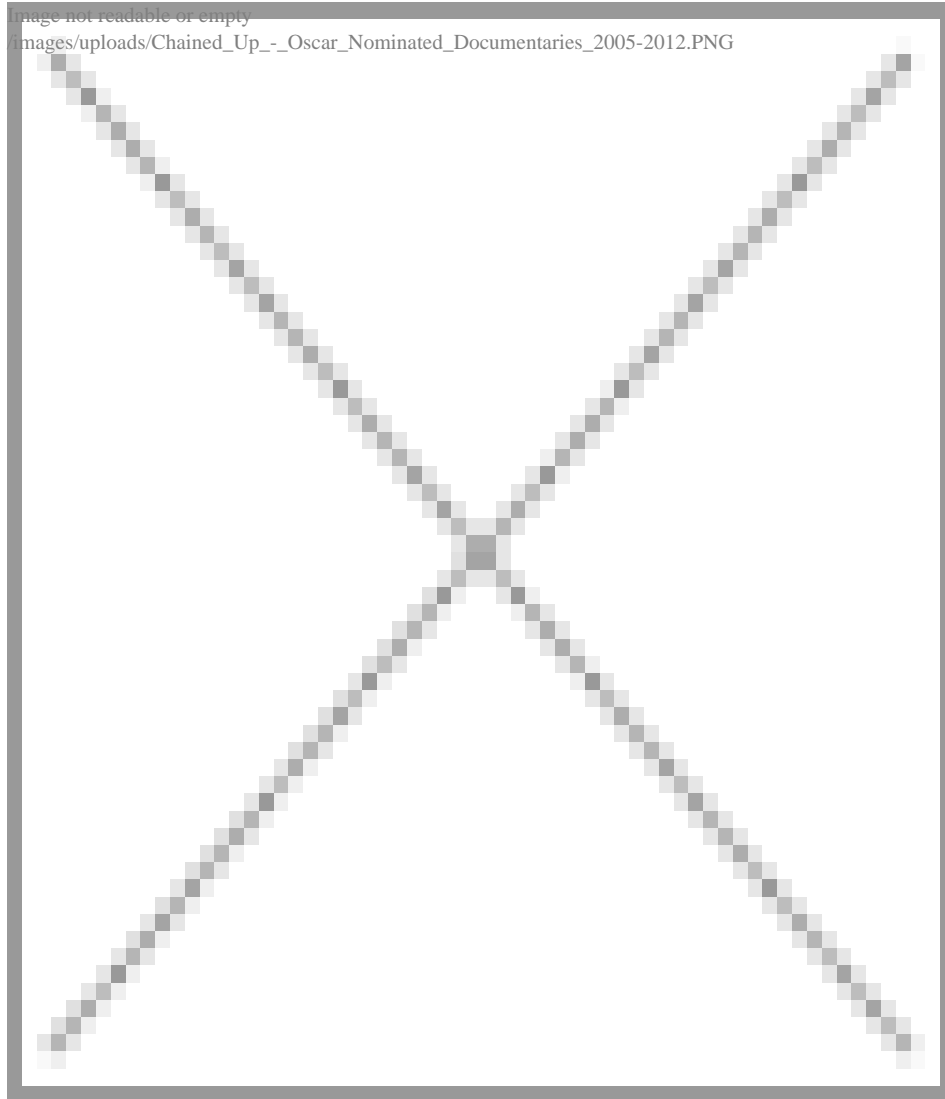
This is an excerpt. [Click here to read the full report \(PDF\).](#)

The Academy Awards ceremony is more often than not a showcase for Hollywood's film industry. But year after year, New York City—not Hollywood—is the unrivaled star performer in one key Oscar category: documentary film.

Of the 76 films nominated in the two documentary film categories (Short and Feature) between 2005 and 2012, 32 had a New York City-based director, and 35 had a producer based in the Big Apple. In contrast, the Los Angeles area was home to just 15 producers and 14 directors that were nominated for an Oscar during this period. The San Francisco Bay Area had 6 nominated producers and 8 directors.

This year, New York directors claim 5 out of the 10 documentary nominations (three in Documentary Feature and two in Documentary Short). Meanwhile, 4 of the 10 films nominated this year had New York-based producers (two in each category).

In some years, New York is virtually a shoo-in for the golden statuette. Last year, for instance, all but one of the Documentary Short films nominated were directed and produced by New Yorkers. Even in years when the odds were not as good, New York has cleaned up. Directors from the five boroughs have taken home 7 of the 14 Oscars given out for documentary films between 2005 and 2011. New York producers have won 10 of 14.



RELATED PRESS

[NYC Leads in Oscar Documentary Film Category](#)

The Epoch Times, by Tara MacIsaac, February 22, 2012

[Documentary City: New York's Favorite Oscar](#)

Wall Street Journal, by Michael Howerton, February 22, 2012

[In Documentaries, New York City Trumps Hollywood, Report Finds](#)

Village Voice, by Sam Levin, February 22, 2012

[Why Oscars for documentaries end up in NYC](#)

Crain's New York Business, by Ali Elkin, February 22, 2012

[NYC Filmmakers Dominate Oscar Doc Nominees](#)



CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

120 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10005

cuf@nycfuture.org © All Rights Reserved.