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Exceptional Minds Receives Grant During One of Hollywood's Biggest Charitable Events of the Year



This year's HFPA Grants Banquet is number four for Exceptional Minds, which prepares young adults with autism for careers in visual effects and animation.

Sherman Oaks, California – August 13, 2018 – [Exceptional Minds](#) was among the 80 nonprofit recipients awarded a grant during one of Hollywood's biggest charitable events of the year, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's (HFPA) annual Grants Banquet held at The Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The HFPA, which hosts the annual Golden Globe® Awards, presented \$3.25 million to entertainment-related nonprofit organizations, academic programs and humanitarian efforts on August 9. This year's HFPA grant was number four for Exceptional Minds, the industry's only school and working studio for young adults with autism pursuing careers in the digital arts. The \$25,000 HFPA grant will aid in the creation and construction of Exceptional Minds' new animation studio and apprenticeship facilities.

Previous graduates of the Exceptional Minds three-year vocational program have gone on to work on visual effects for more than 50 movies, including *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* and *Black Panther*.

“We owe our success to the support we receive from the industry and especially our friends at the HFPA,” said Lupe Ramos-Silva, Development Director for Exceptional Minds, located in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

More than 500,000 U.S. children impacted by autism will enter adulthood during this decade, with one in 59 children to follow. The vast majority of adults with autism are unemployed or underemployed. Young adults with autism have the lowest employment rate of anyone with disabilities.

For 75 years the Association’s mandate has been to give back. The HFPA has donated over \$33 million to entertainment related charities, scholarship programs and humanitarian efforts. Licensing fees obtained from the annual Awards show has allowed the HFPA to support over 80 nonprofits. These charities focused on education in film and television, film preservation, journalistic organizations committed to freedom of speech, as well as organizations that support natural disaster relief and other international and humanitarian crises such as the International Rescue Committee (IRC), FilmAid International, The Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation, and Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES).

Exceptional Minds is the only vocational school and working studio to prepare and successfully place young men and women with autism in careers in the fields of animation and visual effects.

About Exceptional Minds (<http://www.exceptionalmindsstudio.org>): Exceptional Minds is a nonprofit vocational center and working production studio for young adults on the autism spectrum. Exceptional Minds offers technical proficiency and work-readiness training that prepares students for careers in graphic arts, animation, web design and visual effects.

About the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA): The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) was founded in 1943 as the Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association (HFCA) by a group of entertainment journalists representing world media in Hollywood, who realized the need to unite and organize to gain the recognition and access to studios and talent accorded to the domestic press. All qualified journalists were accepted, with the bold goal of “Unity Without Discrimination of Religion or Race.” A year later, the HFCA created the Golden Globe Awards which, to this day, the entire membership selects, votes on and awards every year for outstanding achievements in motion pictures and television. This year marked the 75th anniversary of the Golden Globe Awards. Members of the HFPA represent 56 countries with a combined readership of 250 million in some of the world’s most respected publications. Each year, the organization holds the third most watched awards show on television, the Golden Globe® Awards, which has enabled the organization to donate more than \$33 million to 80 entertainment-related charities, scholarship programs and humanitarian efforts over the last 25 years. For more information, please visit www.GoldenGlobes.com and follow us on Twitter (@GoldenGlobes), Instagram (@GoldenGlobes), and Facebook (www.facebook.com/GoldenGlobes).

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