



June 21, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support to assist Sher Vancouver and Alex Sangha with their funding applications for their second film project which is tentatively titled, "*Emergence*."

Emergence is about the strengths and struggles of LGBTQ South Asian people in Metro Vancouver reflecting on their coming out journey and the reactions of their parents. This film will be a valuable educational tool with the potential to help many people. It is poignant and enlightening to hear from the parents whose acceptance LGBTQ children seek. For the parents, it is so difficult when teachings or loyalties are split between love for their children and what they may have "known" deeply to be right or moral all their lives.

Surrey Libraries was proud to be an official sponsor of Alex's first film project, *My Name Was January*, which was about a local trans woman who was brutally murdered. The film went on to win multiple international awards including Best LGBTQ Film at the Los Angeles Film Awards and Best Short Documentary at the Emerging Lens Cultural Film Festival in Halifax.

As Chief Librarian, I publicly endorsed *My Name Was January*. Surrey Libraries also held the official pre-screening of the film at our main branch. The event was well-planned and well-received. A double screening of *My Name Was January* at our library is further scheduled for September 2019.

Alex is a true professional to work with. He has a track record of being organized and successfully delivering on his commitments. The critical acclaim of *My Name Was January* is a testament to his hard work and effort and belief in sharing compelling social justice stories. I have full confidence in Alex's abilities, both administrative and creative.

The potential market for this movie is huge. There are over 164,000 South Asians in Surrey, BC. In Metro Vancouver their numbers are 291,000. And in Canada, South Asians are the largest visible minority in Canada. Once taboo, the topic of LGBTQ is now on the radar for South Asians, spurred partly by India's landmark supreme court ruling last year to decriminalise homosexuality. The conversation has started, and the climate is ripe for this movie. This movie needs to be made!

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further details.

Sincerely,

Surinder Bhogal
Chief Librarian
Surrey Libraries