

BACKGROUND

There is strong desire among our community of having a Sikh-centric digital media, where our stories can be told by our own future Sikh story tellers. Sikhs currently have minimal or no representation in American main-stream digital media or journalism. There is a dire need for our youth to learn Sikh history and become the Next Generation Sikh Story Tellers.

Sri Hemkunt Foundation, SHF (<http://www.hemkunt2.org/>) over the years has done a tremendous job in bringing our youth close to the high ideals of Sikhism and disseminating the spiritual, moral and religious teachings of Sikhism among the children, as well as creating great orators and debaters of tomorrow.

Sikh Arts and Film Festival (SAFF/Sikhlens) (<http://www.sikhlens.com/>) over the past years has presented Sikh-centric social issues, showcased films of varied genres and recognized talents. Today it serves as the largest central setting for Sikh artists to showcase and share the Sikh heritage and culture through the mediums of films, art, books and music.

SHF and Sikhlens share the common vision, “Inspiring the next generation of Sikhs”. To further this vision in the 21st century of digital media, Sri Hemkunt Foundation and Sikhlens are collaborating and tapping into their existing talent to create the Next Generation Sikh Story Tellers, by introducing the “**Panthic Digital Voice**” program. (**Sikh-Centric films**)

OBJECTIVE

The lack of Sikh story tellers in entertainment media, journalism and digital world, and along with no representation of Sikhs to tell our stories has created a void, which needs to be filled up at the earliest. Panthic Digital Voice program would tap on the students at an early age and infuse them with the interest of digital media and giving them the tools to decide, if they want to pursue it as a hobby or as their future professional career. This wouldn’t have been possible about 6 years ago, as the editing and associated software/equipment was very expensive. Today this technology exists on home computers and smart phones, is free and accessible to all, thus allowing this program to be introduced in the regular curriculum of the schools, where students are creating short films on various subjects.

PROCESS (Proposed)

A *Team* of children (1 to 3) register themselves with the registration form, receive a Sikh-centric topic in order to create a film of a given time duration for their category. After the film is completed, they are to upload their Video on Vimeo/private *Youtube* channel (as per the instructions given) for Judging. The scoring can be either a closed judging or scoring can be split between the Community and Judges. Judging criterion will be based on Originality, Creativity, Editing and following the Sikh Ethos.

Winners as well as all participating children will be honored with appropriate awards. Winning films will be showcased at the Kids night at the SHF International Symposium, as well as they will be showcased at the Sikh Oscar Night at Sikhlens Film Festivals around the globe.

ORGANIZATION (Proposed)

Children register for the Panthic Digital Voice program in a Digital area/region called the Digital Cluster (coordinated by Digital Zone Conveners). An approximate group of 10 teams from Digital Centers (10 Sikh-centric films) make a Cluster.

Each year, the Pilot PDV program is introduced in a new area/region/Digital Cluster for two years, and in the 3rd year, it joins the other Digital Clusters for the competition. The selected films are showcased at the International Hemkunt Symposium, Sikhlens in Los Angeles, as well as other film festivals.

WORKSHOP

An online or a physical workshop will be provided to all the registered participants to show them the process of creating the video/film. Software and technical specifications, in addition to criterion for judging will also be reviewed.

TOPICS

Each year a different Sikh-Centric Topic like Chardikala, Nirbhav Nirvaar, Daswanth, Sewa, Wand Chako, Seva, Who am I, I’m a Sikh, My Sikh Role Model, Kirat Karo etc. will be prescribed so that over the course of the entire program, a child gets a comprehensive knowledge of Sikhi Ethos and basic pillars of Sikhism.

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 **SIKH***lens*

***Panthic Digital Voice
(Sikh-Centric Films)***

***Collaboration of:
Sri Hemkunt Foundation Inc. &
Sikh Arts and Film Festival.***