



WHY VALLEY? - *Shoshana Brand is making a documentary intended to show the reasons youth and adults choose to live in the Antelope Valley.*

GENE BRECKNER/Valley Press

Documentary: What makes Valley home?

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Attempting to bridge the gap between two generations, Shoshana Brand is exploring the idea of what different people consider to be a home in the Antelope Valley.

With her new documentary, Brand follows eight teenagers and five adults who share their stories.

The title is "Building a Home in the Antelope Valley: What is home? Where is home?" Brand wanted to understand what makes a home for certain people, along with why they chose the Antelope Valley as their home.

"I had the idea to offer more than just a written story but a visual documentary," she said. "I want to bridge the gap between the younger and older generation. I wanted to create a dialogue with teenagers on how they like living here."

Prior to moving to the Valley, Brand resided in China, which she said was very crowded.

"I wanted to find a home where it was somewhat secluded, the very opposite of how it was in China," Brand said. "When I moved to the Antelope Valley over two years ago, I knew from the moment I got here I wanted to make a film here. I am very interested in knowing what makes a home to people, why they live here and not somewhere else. Everyone has a different outlook on what a home is to them."

Brand sees herself as more than just a writer, dancer or painter, but as an all-around creator.

"It does not matter what I create or in what area I create it. I love to create," Brand said.

Brand applied for state grants to help fund her project, which is still months away from completion.

The California Story Fund, known to be a difficult grant to obtain, is a program that funds unique story projects regarding communities throughout the evolving state.

Brand received a \$10,000 grant but is afraid it may not be enough.

"More people, private donations, whatever we can get to help fund this project we will put straight into the documentary," Brand said.

With the adult interviews completed, Brand is focusing on completing the youths' interviews and creative projects they are required to do.

"The teens are creating projects that symbolize what a home is to them, and I will document them in their process of making it," she said.

Some of the projects will be displayed at the screening of the documentary, while others will be seen upon completion.

"I hope to be done filming by September so that I can begin editing and preparing for my screening."

Brand expects to have the screening in April at several sites throughout Los Angeles County.

"The screening I do in the Antelope Valley will be the 'big one,' and I am still searching for the right location," Brand said.

The documentary will be put onto 100 DVDs and distributed to libraries and possibly schools throughout the county, Brand said.

"I am excited and can't wait to get this project out there," Brand said. "I spoke to many people who have interesting stories, and their stories will hopefully inspire you."

Brand said this isn't the only thing she has up her sleeve.

"I never work on only one project a time. I always have many things going on," Brand said.

Brand completed a video festival in June and is working on an international project with 12 other artists. When she isn't collaborating with other artists or doing one of her many video festivals, Brand is the director of a nonprofit organization called Contemporary Modern Art Projects.

The organization offers after-school programs for youth, as well as the opportunity to participate in video festivals and create art projects.

"My organization really teaches the youth self-expression," she said. "It gets them out of the house and allows them to be creative using their thoughts, feelings, culture and family. Their projects are always about them, and that is what I love about it. It is what I love about creating in general. It is all about you and your ideas."

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