

ABOUT A HOME FEATURING & FILMED BY PRECIOUS SARRIA EMERICKA SARRIA ERVIANNA SARRIA ERVIN JR. SARRIA ERVIN ANTONIO SARRIA  
DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY DANIEL CHEIN ELIABETH LO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PAULA SMITH ARRIGONI NICO OPPER PRODUCER FOR HAMILTON FAMILIES CORY WINTER  
EDITOR BLAIR MCCLENDON COMPOSER CYRUS YOSHI TABAR COLORIST ANDRES GALLEGOS SOUND MIX DAN OLMSTED

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# ABOUT A HOME

A FILM BY  
DANIEL CHEIN & ELIZABETH LO



## Synopsis

Precious Sarria and her family experienced housing insecurity for over two years. After transitioning into housing with the help of Hamilton Families, they documented their lives to raise awareness for the rising homelessness in the Bay Area.

## Bios

[Daniel Chein](#) is an independent filmmaker based in Oakland, CA whose work explores transculturalism and expressions of identity in the performative. His short film *Basha Man* premiered at CAAMFest2017, where it won the AT&T Film Award. His feature documentary in production, *Sonsplitter*, profiles a German Turk dancer for the internationally renowned Tanztheater Wuppertal Pina Bausch confronting traumatic silence within his family. Daniel has collaborated with other filmmakers as an editor on *Objector* (Jury Award & Centerpiece Film, Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival) and *Changa Revisited* (Best International Documentary, Astra Film Festival); an associate producer on *Our Time Machine* (Best Cinematography & World Premiere, Tribeca Film Festival); and co-director/co-producer on *Hoodie* (WIP). Recently, Daniel was a 2019 Flaherty Seminar Fellow, and his work has received support from Sundance Film Institute, ITVS, IFP/HBO, the Princess Grace Foundation, Catapult Film Fund, BAVC, the Points North Institute, SFFILM, and Berkeley Film Foundation. Daniel is a lecturer in the School of Cinema at San Francisco State University, where he also received a BA in Anthropology and an MFA in Cinema. Daniel is a member of A-Doc and a board member of the Global Lives Project.



[Elizabeth Lo](#) is an award-winning filmmaker who is interested in finding new, aesthetic ways of exploring the boundaries between species, class, and unequal states of personhood. Her work has been broadcast and showcased internationally, including at Sundance, MoMA Museum of Modern Art, SXSW, IDFA, True/False, Tribeca, Hot Docs, New York Times Op-Docs, Field of Vision, and PBS' POV. Elizabeth has been featured in *Filmmaker Magazine's 25 New Faces of Independent Film*, *DOC NYC's 40 Under 40 List*, *Cannes Lions' New Directors Showcase*, and the artist academics of Locarno Film Festival and New York Film Festival.



Her debut feature, *STRAY*, won the Top Jury Prize at Hot Docs and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, a Critics Choice Award, and two Cinema Eye Honors after premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2020. *Stray* will be released theatrically by Magnolia Pictures and Dogwoof in 2021. Elizabeth's award-winning short films - including *Hotel 22*, *Bisonhead*, *Mother's Day*, *The Disclosure President*, *Last Stop in Santa Rosa*, *Treasure Island*, *Notes from Buena Vista* - have been released for distribution to educational institutions and libraries around the world. Elizabeth was born and raised in Hong Kong and holds a B.F.A. from NYU Tisch School of the Arts and an M.F.A. from Stanford University. Elizabeth is currently in development on her second feature-length film under the mentorship of the Concordia Studio Fellowship.



## Filmmakers' Note

In the spring of 2020, we collaborated with Precious Sarria to document her family's transition into housing after experiencing years of housing insecurity. As filmmakers, we've witnessed firsthand how the burgeoning tech industry has displaced many who call the Bay Area home. We also recognize how the process of documentary filmmaking can often be intrusive and obtuse. In order to lessen the risk posed to Precious' family by filming during a pandemic and portray a divisive issue from a unique point of view, we gave her family a camera phone – to empower each family member to represent and frame their own lives as they saw fit.

[ABOUT A HOME](#) unfolds as slices of everyday life through the eyes and ears of the Sarrias taking turns recording with an ordinary smartphone. Humanizing the family remains our foremost concern – the perceived normalcy of their lives prior to revealing the precarity of their situation disrupts misconceptions and stigma about individuals affected by homelessness. In the quiet moments where a mother films her sleeping children, we hope audiences will reflect on the housing rights that continue to elude many families, and how that place we call home can help keep us rooted in the face of change.



## About BAVC

BAVC is a community hub and resource for media makers in the Bay Area and across the country, serving over 7,500 freelancers, filmmakers, job-seekers, activists, and artists every year. BAVC provides access to media making technology, storytelling workshops, a diverse and engaged community of makers and producers, services and resources. BAVC advocates for those whose stories aren't being told, and provides the resources for anyone to create and share, and amplify their stories and those of their communities. BAVC's diverse, innovative programs lead the field in media training for youth and educators, technology and multimedia focused workforce development, visually-driven new media storytelling and audio-visual preservation. Visit [bavc.org](http://bavc.org).

## About Hamilton Families

Hamilton Families is San Francisco's leading service provider to families experiencing homelessness, with carefully designed programs to prevent homelessness, provide shelter and stability, return families to permanent housing and support the well-being of children experiencing homelessness. To help end family homelessness, visit [hamiltonfamilies.org](http://hamiltonfamilies.org).



[hamiltonfamilies.org/about-a-home](http://hamiltonfamilies.org/about-a-home)