

Surf Soup® Buttons Completes Oscar-Qualifying Run, Kickstarter Funded, and New Projects Bloom in the Surf Soup® Universe

Emmy-Honored Animator Donna Kay Lau celebrates milestone with Oscar submission, newly finished cartoon music album, and upcoming book releases

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Surf Soup® Buttons Completes Oscar-Qualifying Run, Kickstarter Funded, and New Projects Bloom in the Surf Soup® Universe Hollywood, California— September 14, 2025— Independent filmmaker, author, and Emmy-honored animator Donna Kay Lau proudly announces that her hand-drawn animated short film Surf Soup® Buttons has successfully completed its Oscar-qualifying theatrical run, supported by a fully funded Kickstarter campaign. The milestone now allows Lau to officially submit the film for Academy Award® consideration. “This journey has been fueled entirely by community support,” said Lau. “From Kickstarter backers to audiences who showed up in theaters, Surf Soup Buttons exists because of you. I am beyond grateful.” Alongside this achievement, Lau just finished producing the original music album for the Surf Soup® cartoon, further expanding the whimsical, heartfelt world of Surf Soup Island. She also has three brand-new children’s books in studio production: Surf Soup: Plastic Soup, Surf Soup: Hot and Sour Soup, and Surf Soup: Mom is WOW (Upside Down!). These projects continue Lau’s mission of creating independent, culturally rooted stories that inspire children through art, imagination, and resilience.

About

About Donna Kay Lau & Surf Soup® Donna Kay Lau is an Emmy-honored TV animator, producer, fitness trainer, caregiver, and author/illustrator of over 100 books in the Surf Soup® series. Her Oscar-qualifying short film Surf Soup® Buttons is inspired by her Chinese American heritage and her family’s history during the Chinese Exclusion Act, told through the imaginative lens of Surf Soup Island. The Surf Soup® universe spans books, music, cartoons, and films, all designed to spark creativity, kindness, and connection. Learn more at <https://Surfsoup.tv>