

**Mission:**

Durango Film brings a community together with independent filmmakers for the unique opportunity to experience and discuss global, innovative, and diverse films.

## Filmmaker Perspectives

*"We planned on staying for two days...but ended up staying the whole time! From the minute we stepped into the Rochester [Hotel], we were welcomed into this town and festival like no other...we couldn't not stay till the very end."*

- Erik Nachtrieb & Vivienne Smith, *Altai Frontier*

*"First off...congrats on what's been the most hospitable and fun festival of our lives. The people, the filmmakers, and the support has been nothing short of amazing! We will be back...your new family."*

- Manny & Lisa Rodriguez, *Butterfly Caught*

*"Thank you for all your gracious hospitality. It was both a pleasure and an honor to be selected for the festival. Your efforts to bring film to the youth of Durango are so commendable. Thank you for supporting the next generation of filmmakers. - Alexis Patton, *Angels in Disguise**

## A Message from the Executive Director

Our 13th annual festival was an exciting one featuring 99 films over 5 days. Mackenzie Astin attended the festival as our special guest to represent the film, *Welcome to the Men's Group*. This year, seven of the narrative feature films had representation. Local John Rubano and writing partner Charlie Hartsock presented a live reading of their latest screenplay, *The Ride*. After meeting at Chicago's Second City, they have penned several scripts. Actors from the local theatre group, The Merely Players, also participated in the reading. In all, over 40 filmmakers and industry personnel attended the festival (not including their guests).

In accordance with our mission statement, we are committed to connecting our audience with global filmmakers and their works of art. Film offerings included narrative features, documentaries, shorts, outdoor adventure, Native American and a family program on the weekend. Every year filmmakers tell us how much they appreciate our audiences, sponsors and volunteers. THANK YOU for making them feel welcome. Our desire is that audiences connect with new friends and filmmakers during the festival and have FUN in the process.



Photo by Nic Hassinger

I hope you will become a part of Durango Film. Please take a look at the following articles to find out about our 2018 programs and accomplishments. There is more background information and a link to receive our email newsletter on our website at [durangofilm.org](http://durangofilm.org). We invite you to join us!



## The Reel Learning School Program

A free program of compelling films and direct Q&A with the filmmakers

2018 marked our 13<sup>th</sup> year of bringing Reel Learning to La Plata County students. Classes are invited subject to the age-appropriateness of the movies selected by a screening committee of educators with strong film backgrounds. Reel Learning seeks to improve the students' capacity to judge media messages with highly creative films that are full of new ideas and unique viewpoints leading to engaging and intriguing discussion. 1,116 students and teachers from Ignacio and Durango participated in the program. Mackenzie Astin made an impact by going to Animas High School and giving a presentation and Q&A session with two classes. Mackenzie, director John Serpe, and actor/teacher Shane Nelson gave students an opportunity to direct and produce a skit, providing the students only 15 minutes to create a storyline. The students then filmed the skit, directing the visiting actors. Two filmmakers attended the programs: Animas High School student, Noelle John, presented her film, *The Life of the Navajo*, and Alexis Patton presented her film, *Angels in Disguise*. They both conducted insightful Q&A sessions with students following their screenings. Alpine Bank generously donated media literacy materials to participating school libraries.

### Participating Schools

- Primary:  
(Grades K-2)  
Ignacio 11-JT,  
Durango 9-R
- Elementary:  
(Grades 3-5)  
Ignacio 11-JT,  
Durango 9-R
- Middle School:  
Ignacio 11-JT,  
Durango 9-R  
Shared School
- High School:  
Animas High

Durango Film featured a public screening of some of the Reel Learning Films at the Durango Independent Film Festival, so that our festival audience could have the Reel Learning experience, too.

*"This makes me wish I was more involved in my Southern Ute culture because we are definitely losing our ways and our language." High School student responding to the film, The Life of the Navajo*

*"Great set of movies. Better than the previous year. Got me thinking and I'm sure it did the same for the students." Teacher responding to the films in the 3-5 grade program*



Photo by Brooke Henderson

The 2018 Reel Learning school program was sponsored by Alpine Bank and La Plata Electric Association, Inc.



## Native Cinema Program

### A Showcase for Indigenous People from Around the World

This program grows stronger and more popular each year. The festival spotlighted three programs featuring ten films from Canada and the United States. A Native Cinema Reception was held at Sorrel Sky Gallery giving community members a chance to connect with filmmakers from the program.



## Other Festival News

**Panels and Workshops** were free to the public and offered community members opportunities to connect with filmmakers and film industry representatives. The Art of No-Budget Filmmaking workshop was presented by Mark Stolaroff, founder of No Budget Film School. He revealed the key principles that will enable you to make a film for nearly nothing. Four Corners Film Office presented a Women in Film -The Reality of Being Female in the Film Industry panel. This panel explored the true reality women face working in the film industry. With the recent #Time'sUp and #MeToo movements, the landscape of working in film is rapidly changing and the women on the panel provided insights in how they navigate the changing landscape.

### FESTIVAL FACTS:

- **6,410 seats** were filled in festival films, filmmaker panels, coffee talk with filmmakers, and students and teachers participating in the REEL Learning School Program.
- **200+ room nights** were booked through Durango Film in Durango hotels and vacation rentals for filmmakers, staff, and VIPs (rooms booked by attendees are not included.)
- **Two nights' lodging for filmmakers** was provided by the festival thanks to our wonderful hotel and lodging sponsors.
- **Volunteers**, who fuel the festival machine, logged over 8,000 hours throughout the year.

**Coffee Talk with Filmmakers** is a new free program providing even more opportunities to connect with visiting filmmakers. The talks took place two mornings during the festival at R Space at the Rochester Hotel. Funding for the special programs was provided by the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media and Colorado Creative Industries. In-kind support was provided by: Four Leaves Winery, Four Corners Film Office, and R Space at the Rochester Hotel.



**Funding** for the special programs was provided by the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media and Colorado Creative Industries. In-kind support was provided by: Four Leaves Winery, Four Corners Film Office, and R Space at the Rochester Hotel.

# Financial News

Durango Film leverages in-kind contributions so that our cash resources can be used as efficiently as possible. The 2018 festival received a value of **\$64,679.06** of in-kind support for advertising and media placements, lodging for filmmakers, party venues, food and beverage, and filmmaker gift bag donations. Cash sponsorships totaled **\$31,900.00**, grants totaled **37,034.36**, and community members donated **\$11,447.82**. All these ways to support Durango Film are essential to our financial stability. Did you know that ticket and pass sales bring in only 25% of our cash budget?

## Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity: Fiscal Year 2017-2018\*

ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Checking Account	\$ 34,959.20	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Endowment Fund/CD	\$ 2,986.48	Deferred Revenue	\$ 8,500.00
Drawer Cash	\$ 100.00	EQUITY:	
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,900.00	Retained Earnings	\$ 27,983.97
Fixed and Other Assets	\$ 1,929.34	Net Revenue	\$ 5,391.05
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$41,875.02</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 41,875.02</b>

\*Unaudited numbers

*“Film is one of the three universal languages.  
The other two: mathematics and music.” Frank Capra*



Photo by Nic Hassinger



Photo by Evan Smith

### FESTIVAL GRANTORS

Jonathan and Devon Wayne Family Foundation  
 Colorado Creative Industries  
 Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado  
 El Pomar Foundation  
 Mukul Gadde | Tom & Mary Orsini | Norman Broad & Carol Salomon

### Board of Directors

Carla Finlay, President  
 Aimee Martin, Vice President  
 Sharon Claiborn, Treasurer  
 Members: David Jeffers,  
 Dwayne Baker, Dean Fagner,  
 Barbara Noseworthy

### Durango Film's Goals

1. *Inspire and educate audiences with independent film; increase access to the art of independent film in our community.*
2. *Improve the local economy by drawing visitors and filmmakers.*
3. *Support the art of independent filmmakers by providing them with a creative and supporting format to discuss and showcase their work while networking with their peers.*