



DURANGO FILM

AN **INDEPENDENT** FILM FESTIVAL

Annual Report

Fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Annual Report

2014 - 2015

Executive Summary

We have a passion for independent film and a dedicated core of like minded volunteers, sponsors, donors, and grantors who drive our mission to connect filmmakers and their art to audiences. We think that watching a good independent movie with an audience in an intimate group setting is as satisfying as reading a good book. The film may be fiction or non-fiction animation or live-action, about different cultures, people we know or would like to know, political ideas, or a tour-de-force piece of cutting edge art.

As we look to the future we aspire to:

Present exceptional programs as forums for independent film that expand its audience while inspiring and educating;

Be a year-round educational resource for the art of filmmaking for adults and youth;

Maintain our unique, inviting, and intimate festival atmosphere; and

Be a major attraction that brings new visitors to the Durango area.

We hope you will become a part of Durango Film. Please take a look at these articles to find out about our 2015 programs and accomplishments.

Joanie Fraughton, Executive Director



Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad wins the 2015 Independent Spirit Award

The much-coveted Independent Spirit award was presented to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad at the 2015 sponsor party. They have been a strong supporter of the festival since our inception. Durango Film also recognizes their strong support of other non-profits and their commitment to community involvement.

Mission Statment

Durango Film is committed to developing film literacy and to being a welcoming, intimate, and unique film organization that screens global, innovative, and diverse films, connecting independent filmmakers, their artistic process and their vision to the community.

Native Cinema

Our Native American programing grows stronger and more popular each year. In 2015, eleven films were screened in three separate programs. Gary Farmer attended with a 20th anniversary screening of *Dead Man* followed by a discussion with moderator Rich Henrich. Native American filmmaker Chris Eyre also attended the festival.

THANK YOU!

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all our supporters for helping to make the 2015 festival truly one of our most memorable festivals yet. We would not be able to produce an event of this caliber without you! We are thrilled to partner with many of you, year after year, and were also thrilled to have added many new sponsors in 2015.

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Board of Directors

Carla Finlay, Board President
Aimee Martin, Vice-President
Judy Abercrombie, Treasurer

Members:

Jim Harper, David Jeffers, Bill Niblick

2014–2015 Grantors

Colorado Creative Industries
Durango Business Improvement District
El Pomar Foundation
Tom & Mary Orsini/Denver Foundation
Norman Broad & Carol Salomon
Jonathan & Devon Wayne Family Foundation

An Eventful Decade

Durango Film passed an important milestone when it opened its 10th anniversary film festival with the Festival Kick-Off Party, followed with Free Movie Night, giving community members of all economic means the opportunity to discover and explore the art of independent film. Over its 10-year history, Durango Film has screened films from the U.S and 77 other countries. Every year visiting filmmakers tell us how much they appreciate our audiences and their warm Durango welcome, and have shared their positive festival experience with the filmmaking community.

Festival facts

5700 seats were filled in festival films, filmmaker panels, and students and teachers participating in the Reel Learning School programs

187+ 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 in this figure.

92 films were screened (with 13 sell-outs)

49 filmmakers and industry personnel attended the festival

Approximately 24% of attendees were from out of state

Comcast Spotlight partnership resulted in 400+ festival on-air promo spots in the months leading up to the festival on cablevision stations in all of New Mexico, and southern Colorado. This is an important partnership which is key in bringing visitors from destination markets to Durango to boost the economy during the shoulder season.

Showcasing Films to Inspire Action

The films we share with the community can make a difference and impact lives. After the screening of *The Starfish Throwers*, an audience member felt inspired to not only grow additional produce in her personal garden for the Soup Kitchen, but also toured the community to see if there were areas that could potentially be turned into public gardens.

A visiting student filmmaker was able to share his film based upon his struggle with bi-polar disorder. This was his first opportunity to speak publicly about his condition and it was an emotional and empowering experience for him and the audience.

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2015 Panels

This year Durango Film's Panels & Workshops Coordinator, Rich Henrich, presented free filmmaker panels featuring a variety of subject matter and industry guests.

On Saturday, a **FILMMAKER'S PANEL** educated participants on what it takes to overcome obstacles to make a film. Visiting filmmakers, an FX network executive, and the Vice President of Programming for CBS presented their stories. Then talent agents and talent managers took the stage in **THE CASTING PANEL** to discuss how to be successful in auditions.

On Sunday, students from the Santa Fe University of Art & Design, who also had two films in the festival, presented the **STUDENTS OF THE SILVER SCREEN** panel. They shared their perspective on what it takes to pursue movie-making dreams and how they are preparing to be the next generation of mythmakers and creative innovators with high school students and community members.

THE WRITER'S BLOCK panel explored how the writer goes about creating stories for the screen, both large and small. This panel featured Emmy nominated writer Rich Henrich and Ava Leigh Stewart, an accomplished screenwriter, author, and director of the festival film *Paradise Garden*.

A Filmmaker's Perspective

“There are two things you have to have from festivals: access to other filmmakers for contacts, ideas, connections; and a solid audience to show your film to. Awards are nice to have, and everyone wants them, but the real reason to go is to meet people and show your film to as many people as possible. Durango Film definitely did that.”

Reel Learning School Program



The Reel Learning program brings compelling films to local students with visits by filmmakers for direct Q&A. Our goal is to improve students' capacity to judge media messages using highly creative films with new ideas and unique viewpoints, and to provoke thought and engage students in intriguing discussions.

Reel Learning introduced students to a new level of media experience and art appreciation by featuring a total of 9 age-appropriate films for K-12 students in Ignacio and Durango. A record 980 students and teachers participated in the 2015 program. This is compared to 655 students and teachers reached through the 2014 program. Three filmmakers attended the program, giving students the opportunity to interact with them following the screenings.

We held a public screening of the normally private Reel Learning program so that anyone could see a selection of the movies enjoyed by the students.

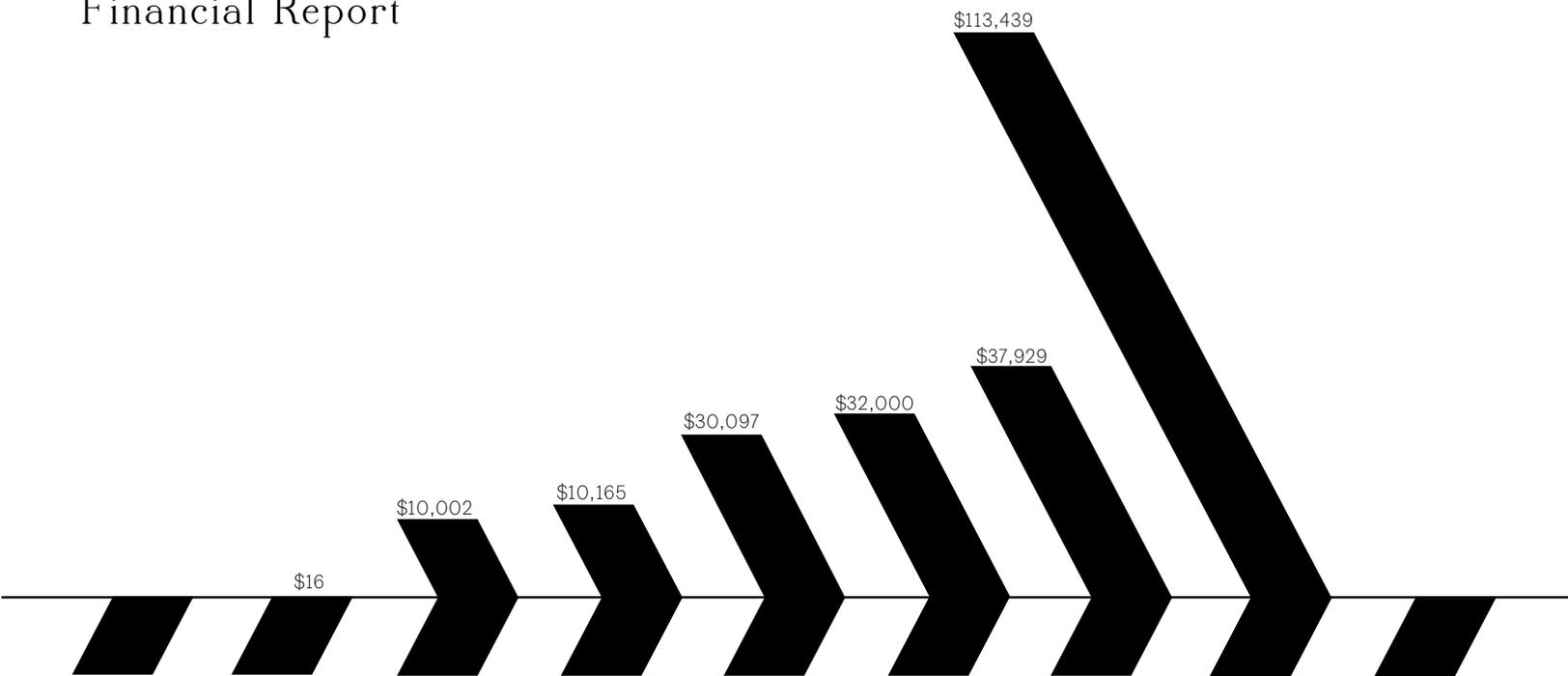
Durango Film is looking forward to presenting the Reel Learning program in Bayfield schools in the 2016 program, bringing the benefit of independent film to Durango and all of La Plata County's satellite communities for the first time.

“Learning through the arts provides powerful tools that help students develop knowledge and abilities critical to their academic achievement and engagement in learning. The arts can support positive self-esteem and give students skills that are essential in becoming a successful adult.”
– Colorado Creative Industries

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Financial Report



Misc. Income

Fundraising events

Donations

Cash Sponsorships

Grants

Festival Income

In-Kind Contribution

Total Revenue: \$233,649

Total Expenses: \$223,590

Durango Film Statement of Financial Position *

As of June 30, 2015

Accrual Basis	Jun 30, 15
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	19,487.70
Capital account	584.55
Endowment Fund	2,157.00
Accounts Receivable	1,000.00
Total Current Assets	<u>23,229.25</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>23,229.25</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	13,169.44
Net Income	10,059.81
Total Equity	<u>23,229.25</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>23,229.25</u></u>

*Unaudited numbers