

Mission Statement:

Durango Film brings a community together with independent filmmakers for the unique opportunity to experience and discuss global, innovative, and diverse films. We are committed to promoting film production in the Four Corners and serving as a liaison between the production crew and the community, thereby creating positive socio-economic impact.

Filmmaker Perspectives

"Thank you for bringing me back to Durango. The festival was an absolute blast and we felt so taken care of the entire time. You all really know how to treat your guests well and how to throw a great party. All my love and gratitude."
- Laura Spencer, *Likeness*

"This was an amazing experience! Thank you for all you and the DIFF staff and volunteers do! We are so grateful that Swagger Back got to premiere here. This whole festival has been so inspiring both as a human and artist! Thank you, thank you, thank you."
- George Kenyon

"Thank you and your incredible team of volunteers and staff as well as the fantastic sponsors. This festival continues to prove the value of film and community in a place like Durango where stories connect us to each other and to places foreign and far. Thank you for all you do to support filmmakers."
- Rich Henrich, *Serpent in the Bottle*

A Message from the Executive Director

Our 14th annual festival was an exciting one featuring 107 films over 5 days. This year, we were proud to screen two narrative features that were shot in southwest Colorado; *The Great Alaskan Race* and *Shooting in Vein*. Almost 70 filmmakers joined us for the festival, including Henry Thomas and Laura Spencer as special guests. Showcasing all genres of independent film is what the festival is all about. We proudly spotlight the best in Native cinema, indulge the adventurous with an abundance of adventure films and focus on family films for the young and young at heart. We enjoy taking films and filmmakers to area schools for our REEL Learning program. In 2019, 1,609 students and teachers participated in the program. Panels and workshops, coffee talk with filmmakers, and nightly parties round out festival week.

In accordance with our newly updated mission statement, Our goal is to connect our community with independent filmmakers, engaging the audience in a unique viewing and interactive experience. In January, 2019, we brought the Four Corners Film Office into our organization as a program to promote filmmaking in SW Colorado and serve as a liaison between production crews and the community.



The cast and crew of *The Great Alaskan Race* conducting Q&A on opening night

I hope you will become a part of Durango Film. Please take a look at the following articles to find out about our 2019 programs and accomplishments. There is more background information and a link to receive our email newsletter on our website at durangofilm.org. We invite you to join us!



Student and Teacher Perspectives

"I learned its okay to be different"
Middle school student

"I learned how it is for kids that are children of immigrants and first generation college students." High school student

"I love this program! We went back to our school and made a list of the videos and had a discussion about each one and what the students thought the theme was of each story. It was very powerful to have these discussions. I think they were inspired by some of the comments made in the auditorium as well. Thank you for putting this on." 3-5 Teacher

Participating Schools

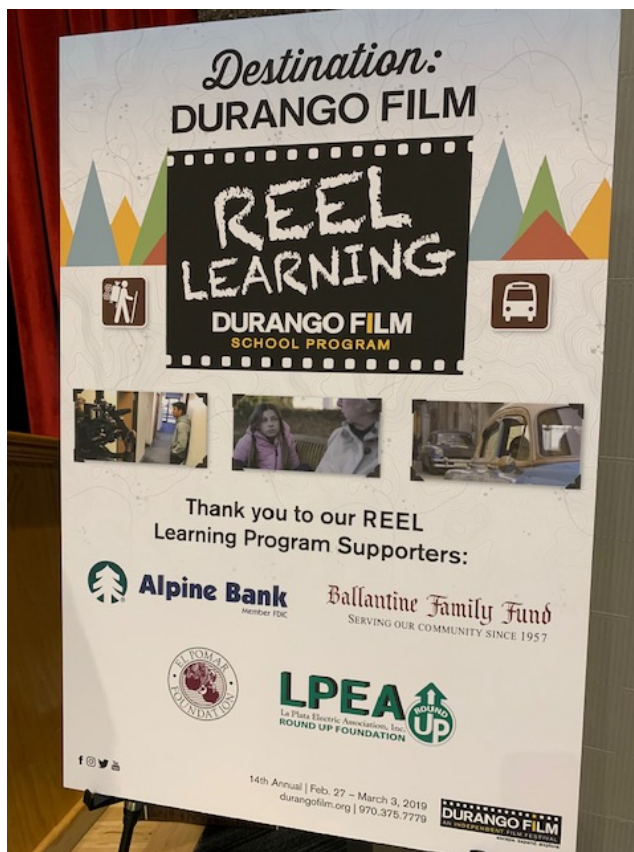
K-12 students in the Ignacio JT school district, K-12 students in the Durango 9-R school district, Animas High School, The Juniper School, Big Picture High School and Shared School all participated in the program.

The Reel Learning School Program

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

2019 marked our 14th 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 team of educators with strong film backgrounds. The program 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. In all, a record 1,609 students and teachers from Ignacio and Durango participated in the program and turned in ballots. The students and teachers vote for the School Audience award and record comments on the films screened. This way, we know what lessons were learned. One director attended with his film "Turns in the Road", which was presented to high school students. Alpine Bank generously donated media literacy materials to participating school libraries.

A selection of the eleven films in the 2019 program were shown to a general festival audience on Sunday, March 3rd. This public screening has become popular with the festival audience.



The 2019 Program was funded by these sponsors and grantors:

Alpine Bank
Ballantine Family Fund
El Pomar Foundation
La Plata Electric Association
LPEA Roundup

Mail Room & Copy Center generously donates the ballots for each program.



Photo by Katie McCranie



Photo by Katie McCranie

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 nineteen 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 Programs

Panels and Workshops were free to the public and offered community members opportunities to connect with filmmakers and film industry representatives. Three panels were presented over the festival weekend. First, the Truth Be Told panel covered how the adventure of making a documentary can take surprising turns and alter the course of the final story, impacting both filmmaker and subject. The Acting Up: The Business and Craft of Make-Believe panel covered what it is like to be an actor when the cameras are off with actor John Rubano and Agent Carissa Mitchell. The panel Bloody Sunday: Stories from the Frontlines of Filmmaking featured filmmakers Nathan Hollis and Fred Fontana who shared heartfelt and hilarious stories from behind the scenes of what it takes to make a movie from start to finish.

Coffee Talk with Filmmakers is a free program providing even more opportunities to connect with visiting filmmakers. The talks took place four mornings during the festival at R Space at the Rochester Hotel. Activist and subject of the film *Grizzly Country*, Doug Peacock was a popular guest. The cast and crew of *The Great Alaskan Race* (filmed in Silverton and Durango) also participated in a Coffee Talk.

FESTIVAL FACTS:

- **7,110 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.



In January 2019, we brought the Four Corners Film Office into our organization as a program. This year, a short film and three commercials spots were produced in the Durango area. We updated our mission statement

to include our commitment to promoting film production in the Four Corners region and to serve as a liaison between the production crew and the community, thereby creating positive socio-economic impact.



Funding for the special programs was provided by the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media [Four Corners Film Office and Festival] 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 2019 festival received a value of \$60,156.23 of in-kind support for advertising and media placements, lodging for filmmakers, party venues, food and beverage, filmmaker gift bag donations and office furnishings. Cash sponsorships totaled \$35,100, grants totaled \$37,600, and community members donated \$13,845. 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 2018-2019*

ASSETS

Bank Accounts	\$ 42,513.72
Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,500.00
Other Current Assets	\$ 873.36
Total Current Assets	\$ 44,887.08
Fixed Assets	\$ 149.12
Other Assets	\$ 48.20

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 45,084.40

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities	\$ 3,254.06
Equity	\$ 41,830.34

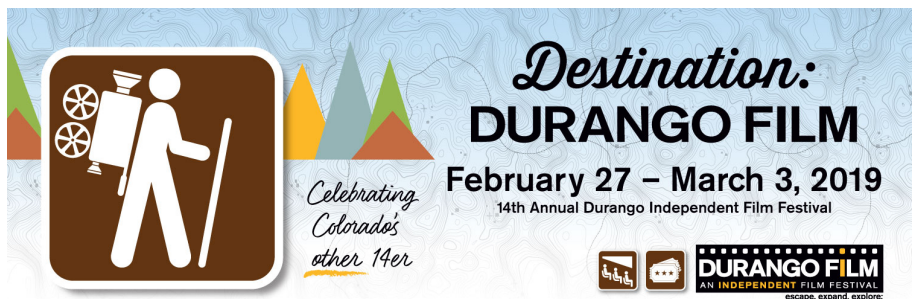
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 45,084.40

*Unaudited numbers

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



Photos by Katie McCranie



FESTIVAL GRANTORS

Jonathan and Devon Wayne Family Foundation
Colorado Creative Industries

Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado
El Pomar Foundation

M. Gadde | Tom & Mary Orsini | Norman Broad & Carol Salomon | Katz
Family Fund | Howard & Jeani Poe | Brandsma Family Fund

Board of Directors

David Jeffers, Chair

Dwayne Baker, Vice Chair

Mike Mrozowicz, Treasurer

Aimee Martin, Secretary

Members: Dean Fagner,

Barbara Noseworthy, Luke

Prince, Cate Smock

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.
4. Actively promote film production in SW Colorado and provide assistance to visiting production crews.