

Mission Statement:

Durango Film brings a community together with independent filmmakers 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 company and the community, thereby creating positive socio-economic impact.

Filmmaker Perspectives

"This was an amazing festival - now on our Best of the Best List. Thank you so much to all of Team DIFF! The experience was sublime, the films all top drawer, the hospitality off the charts - train ride, circus, lounge, great parties, friendly people. This festival is a KEEPER! With many, many thanks!"
Bob Celli & Laura Delano,
The Keeper

"What a wonderful festival! Screenings were all full, line to get in - great Q and A's and a wonderful assortment of content. A truly wonderful community that welcomes filmmakers. This festival goes above and beyond in every way!"
Meghan Falcone,
Power Up!

"What a fantastic festival. When our film was selected, my filmmaker friends said it was one of the best one's they've been to, and they were right! Good people, they take good care of you, a crazy-unique setting, engaged and supportive community who fill the theaters, and great food. Highly recommended."
Jim Picariello,
Passive Aggressive Dads

A Message from Executive Director, Joanie Leonard

Our 15th annual festival was an exciting one featuring 112 films over 5 days. This year we focused on screenwriting and developing acting skills. More than 70 filmmakers and their guests joined us for the festival. We firmly believe in the power of gathering for a shared artistic experience. That's what festivals are all about! Filmmakers enjoy being in theaters with movie-goers to experience first-hand an audience's reaction to their films. In addition to showcasing all genres of independent film, we proudly spotlight the best in Native cinema, family, and adventure content. We enjoy sharing films and connecting filmmakers with students in La Plata County in our REEL Learning school program. This year, a record 2,505 students and teachers participated in the program. This includes, for the first time, intermediate school students in Bayfield, Colorado. Panels and workshops, Coffee Talk with Filmmakers and nightly parties rounded out festival week.

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



I hope you will become a part of Durango Film. Please take a look at the following articles to find out about our 2020 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!

The Reel Learning School Program

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



A Teacher's Perspective

"I just wanted to send a personal thank you for providing the opportunity for our preschool (and other FLM students) to attend today's showings. As an outlying school, it costs our school sometimes 4 times as much to travel for events. This was such a special treat. Personally, I was moved to tears by a few of the films and we have already had authentic conversations about what we viewed. I truly hope this opportunity is offered each year."

Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary Teacher

Student Comments

"Thank you for the film festival. My favorite film was *Stewy Baby*. Thank you for having the two dogs there after the films. This was a really cool experience for our school."

After viewing *Osama & Ayman*, two students responded:
"I like how they were trying to show that anyone can experience discrimination, even a U.S. citizen and NASA employee."
"Opened my eyes and revealed the struggles people go through."

2020 marked the 15th year of bringing our REEL Learning program to La Plata County students. Classes are invited subject to the age-appropriateness of the films 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. This year, two dogs starring in two of the films attended the programs, which thrilled students. The director of *Stewy Baby - A Dogumentary* brought *Stewy* and literacy materials for school classrooms. *Stewy* is a dog whose one purpose in life is to share reading, joy, and compassion to everyone she comes in contact with. *Pinot*, a disabled dog, is a central character in the film *Something in Common*. In all, 2,505 students and teachers from Bayfield, Ignacio, and Durango participated in the program and turned in ballots. Students and teachers voted for the REEL Learning audience award and provided comments on the films screened. This way, we know what lessons were learned. Alpine Bank generously donated media literacy materials to participating school libraries.

A selection of the films were shared with the general festival audience in a screening on Sunday, March 8.



Thank you to our Reel Learning Program Supporters:



15th Annual | March 4-8, 2020
durangofilm.org | (970) 375-7779



Stewy Baby - A Dogumentary

The 2020 program was funded by these sponsors and grantors:
Alpine Bank
Ballantine Family Fund
Durango Friends of the Arts
LPEA Education Fund/Roundup

In-Kind support provided by Kids First Film Festival, who provided content and Mail Room & Copy Center, who donated ballots for student and teacher evaluations.

Participating Schools

- K-12 students in the Ignacio JT school district
- K-12 students in the Durango 9-R school district
- Animas High School
- Bayfield Intermediate School
- The Juniper School
- Big Picture High School
- Shared School



Photo by Chris Eagan



Photo by Chris Eagan

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 eight 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 are moderated by Rich Henrich and are free to the public providing community members an opportunity to connect with filmmakers and film industry representatives. In 2020, Industry veteran, producer and writer Liz Tuccillo attended as a special guest to participate in the Script to Screen panel and a screenwriting workshop. Liz, known for *Sex and the City*, *Divorce*, and *He's Just Not That Into You*, and other writers discussed the business and craft of making stories for screens large and small and walked us through the process of turning ideas into the beginning of a story for the screen.

The Central Casting: What it Takes to be in Pictures panel featured talent agent Carissa Mitchell (Mitchell & Associates), casting director Marie McMaster (*Hell or High Water*, *Sicario*), and actor and coach Vic Browder (*Sicario*, *Godless*). They discussed what it takes to be an actor in modern "Hollywood" in front of and behind the camera with community and fellow film industry attendees.

Coffee Talk with Filmmakers are free to the public and provide even more opportunities to connect with visiting filmmakers. The talks took place four mornings during the festival at R Space at the Rochester Hotel.

FESTIVAL FACTS:

•**7,427 seats** were filled in festival films, panels, workshops, coffee talk with filmmakers, parties, and students and teachers participating in the REEL Learning school program.

•**200+ room nights** were booked through the festival in Durango hotels 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 approximately 9,000 hours throughout the year.



In January 2019 we brought the Four Corners Film Office into our organization. This year, a short film and three commercials spots were produced in the Durango area. Our mission statement (found on the first page) declares our commitment to promoting film production in the Four Corners region with a goal to positively create socio-economic impact.



Funding for the Four Corners Film Office was provided by the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media. In-kind support for the Panels, Workshops, and Coffee Talk with Filmmakers was provided by Four Leaves Winery and R Space at the Rochester Hotel. Four Leaves Winery also served as our Box Office location.

Financial News

Durango Film leverages in-kind contributions so that our cash resources can be used as efficiently as possible. The 2020 festival received a value of \$69,743.50 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 \$33,300, grants totaled \$24,250, and community members donated \$10,572.43. 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 2019-2020*

ASSETS	\$ 35,955.54	LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,300.00
Bank Accounts		Current Liabilities	\$ 10,900.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 3,710.00	Accounts Payable	\$ 12,200.00
Other Current Assets	\$ 1,525.89		
Total Current Assets	\$ 39,191.43	Other Current Liabilities Total	\$ 12,200.00
Fixed Assets	\$ 281.30	Current Liabilities Equity	\$ 27,272.73
Other Assets	\$ 0.00		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 39,472.73	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 39,472.73

*Unaudited numbers

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



FOCUS ON FILM

MARCH 4-8, 20/20

15th Annual Durango Independent Film Festival
durangofilm.org | 970.375.7779

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FESTIVAL GRANTORS

Jonathan and Devon Wayne Family Foundation
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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.