

## ANNUAL REPORT



*Let's Celebrate the Sweetness of Film*  
**March 3-12, 2021**

### A Message from Executive Director, Joanie Leonard

Our 16th annual festival was presented virtually March 3 - 12, 2021 featuring 99 films to 5,125 U.S. participants. In pivoting to a virtual-only festival, we explored ways to engage festival filmmakers beginning with meet & greets via Zoom between filmmakers and the Festival in the weeks leading up to the festival. We extended the festival from five to ten days, giving folks plenty of time to watch films at home. In all, 29 filmmaker Q&A's were conducted virtually. Coffee Talks with Filmmakers and Quarantini Happy Hours via Zoom rounded out the festival, giving filmmakers a sense of participation and a chance to meet attendees. The festival ended with the virtual presentation of awards on closing night.

We enjoy sharing films and connecting filmmakers with students and this year we reached 1,403 students and teachers who chose to participate in the virtual REEL Learning program.

Our goal to connect our community with independent filmmakers, engaging the audience in a unique viewing and interactive viewing experience was accomplished, even in this completely virtual setting. We present all genres of film. We are extremely proud of the increasing popularity of our Native Cinema program, a showcase for Indigenous People from around the world. We also curate adventure and family films, providing content for everyone.

I hope you will become a part of Durango Film. Please take a look at the following articles to find out about our 2021 virtual 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!

### 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 socioeconomic impact.

### FILMMAKER PERSPECTIVES

"My film was in 13 festivals, all of them online. Durango was obviously the gold standard for filmmaker engagement. I've heard stories about the amazing community that springs up during the in-person festival, so it didn't shock me when I found that the online festival was the most engaging online festival I had been to. Every film festival can learn from them."

—Dustin Hlady, *Nolan: Here Nor There*

"A HUGE thank you to everyone over at DIFF. They were so accommodating and kind during all the adversity they were facing this year. A top notch festival. I truly hope to be back again and meet everyone in person one day."

—Pat Battistini, *Ms. Rossi*



*BECOLORED*



*The Magic of Chess*



*Kapaemahu*



**Alpine Bank**  
Member FDIC

*Alpine Bank funded the 2021 REEL Learning school program.*

## The Reel Learning School Program

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

2021 marked the 16th year of bringing our REEL Learning program to La Plata County students. 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.

Twelve films in this year's program were offered to schools virtually through Eventive, our virtual platform, for grades K-2, 3-5, Middle School and High School. Invitations were sent to all public schools in Durango, Ignacio, and Bayfield, plus Durango Charter Schools. In all 43 teachers or school administrators made requests for the free multi-use teacher passes so that they could share films with students. Fourteen schools from Durango, Ignacio, and Bayfield participated in the program. The Juniper School, Animas High School and Ignacio Middle School used their passes for wholeschool programs. Program Coordinator, Claudia Foley believes that a big advantage to the virtual format is that it allowed teachers to fit the desired programs into their schedules, eliminating transporting students to a onetime, strictly scheduled outside venue.

Durango High School student Amelia Player made three short films, *River in the West*, *Star Man* and *Forgotton War*, which were presented in this year's program and participated in a filmmaker interview.

## “ A TEACHER’S PERSPECTIVE ”

“My third grade class of 19 students viewed the four films from the 3-5 films. My class voted for the film **BECOLORED** as their favorite. They really liked all the films.”

“Thanks again for allowing my class to view the Middle School Program of the Durango Independent Film Festival this year. My students and I loved viewing the films and discussing them with the questions you\* had provided.”

\*Claudia Foley, REEL Learning program coordinator



Durango Film leverages in-kind contributions so that our cash resources can be used as efficiently as possible. The 2021 festival received a value of \$10,944 of in-kind support for advertising and media placements, which represents a fraction of what is leveraged when we have an in-person festival. Cash sponsorships totaled \$17,700, grants totaled \$33,339, and community members donated \$9,071. 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 2020-2021\*

#### ASSETS

Bank Accounts	\$37,407.11
Accounts Receivable	
Other Current Assets	\$ 1,119.85
Total Current Assets	\$38,426.96
Fixed Assets	\$ 164.90
Other Assets	

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$38,591.86**

#### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Current Liabilities	\$ 0
Accounts Payable	\$ 11,038
Other Current Liabilities	\$ 11,038
Total Liabilities	\$ 11,038
Equity	\$27,553.86

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY** **\$38,591.86**

\*Unaudited numbers

### 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 films 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.

### 2020-2021 Festival Grantors

Colorado Creative Industries | City of Durango  
Colorado Humanities  
Community Foundation Serving SW Colorado  
Mukul Gadde

### Board of Directors

Dwayne Baker, Chair  
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Cindy Pickett  
Cate Smock



We champion independent filmmakers by showcasing the best in independent film in our festival and by providing resources and services to filmmakers who travel to the Four Corners region to film.



Funding for the Four Corners Film Office was provided by the Colorado Office of Film, Television, and Media.