

ANNUAL REPORT



A Message from Executive Director, Joanie Leonard

Our 17th annual “hybrid” festival was presented in person in downtown Durango theatres March 2-6 and virtually March 2-8, 2022. The in-person festival featured 101 films with 59 of the films also being shown virtually. A record 73 filmmakers attended the in-person festival, which was held entirely in downtown Durango theatres. Film venues included the Animas City Theatre, Durango Arts Center and the Gaslight Twin Cinemas. Being back in theatres with filmmakers emphasized how the power of gathering for a shared artistic experience can build and strengthen a community. Filmmakers rely on a live audience reaction to their films and connections made with audience members.

We engaged filmmakers prior to the festival in Zoom meet and greets in the weeks leading up to the festival. These engaging sessions provided filmmakers with festival related information and the ability to sign up for press opportunities to promote their films. With moving back into theatres, all Q&A sessions were live following screenings. Coffee Talk with Filmmakers, parties, and panels gave filmmakers an opportunity to talk about their films and connect with the community and other filmmakers.

Our hybrid 2022 REEL Learning school program reached 1,799 students and teachers, with students from Ignacio attending the program in person and Durango students participating virtually. Teachers had freedom in sharing the virtual programs over 10 days according to their classroom schedules. Teachers were asked to gather information from students about lessons learned from the films.

I hope you will become a part of Durango Film. Please take a look at the following articles to find out about our 2022 programs and accomplishments, all while still being impacted with the ongoing global pandemic. Please visit our website at durangofilm.org for more information. 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 ”

“One of the most hospitable film festivals I’ve been to. I flew in from Connecticut and was blown away by how they treat filmmakers. This is definitely a ‘filmmaker’s festival’ and it’s located in an adorable quaint western town. Looking forward to going back again!”

—Alex Morsanutto, *Operation Cavity*

“Great town, very welcoming towards the filmmakers, many festival events as well as activities to do in town. The screenings were well advertised and attended, as expected in Durango, the Outdoor Adventure series had a packed house... I look forward to next time I screen here!”

—Evan Curtis, *Thunder Rises*



ON/OFF



Under the Lights



Around the Block



Alpine Bank
Member FDIC

Alpine Bank funded the 2022 REEL Learning school program

The Reel Learning School Program

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

2022 marked our 17th year of sharing free independent films with 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.

Film programs are created based on the age-appropriateness of the films reaching separate audiences for K-2, 3-5, middle and high school students. Some films may be included in more than one of these programs. This year's program featured 17 films from around the world. Films included animated shorts and narrative and documentary shorts. 576 ballots were collected from Ignacio students and 1,223 students and teachers reported attending the Durango programs virtually. Local high school student, Aiden Hurley, created and directed our 2022 festival trailer using the film *Poltergeist* for inspiration in tandem with our theme of "We're Back" following the pandemic.

Narrative short *Under the Lights*, which won the REEL Learning audience award, starred former local actor Pearce Joza. The film is currently being turned into a narrative feature film.

REEL Learning Coordinator, Claudia Murphy Foley, believes there continues to be a big advantage to the virtual format, allowing teachers flexibility in fitting the film screenings into their classroom schedules while eliminating student transportation to and from venues. Ignacio is unique in that all the district students attend the program in the Ignacio H.S. auditorium.



Durango Film leverages in-kind contributions so that our cash resources can be used as efficiently as possible. The 2022 festival received a value of \$59,879 of in-kind support for advertising and media placements, food and beverage, filmmaker lodging and other needs. Cash sponsorships totaled \$22,750, grant funds totaled \$60,788 and community members donated \$8,348. All these ways to support our organization are essential to our financial stability. Many of the grants funded in this fiscal year were in response to COVID-19 recovery. It is noted that festival pass and ticket sales bring in approximately 25% of our overall operating budget.

Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity: Fiscal Year 2021-2022			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Bank Account	\$44,990.13	Current Liabilities	\$ 0
Accounts Receivable	\$ 0	Accounts Payable	\$13,500.00
Other Current Assets	\$ 799.80	Other Current Liabilities	\$13,500.00
Total Current Assets	\$45,789.93	Total Liabilities	\$13,500.00
Fixed Assets	\$ 48.50	Equity	\$32,338.43
Other Assets	\$ 0		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$45,838.43	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$45,838.43

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.

2021-2022 Festival Grantors

Colorado Creative Industries | National Endowment for the Arts
 Colorado Humanities | National Endowment for the Humanities
 El Pomar Foundation
 The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado
 Ellingson Condie Family Trust
 The Tom and Mary Orsini Fund
 Mukul Gadde
 Gwendolyn & Joan Fund

Board of Directors

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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.