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Waterfront Film Festival Launches First Ever Film Competition at ArtPrize this Fall

Showcasing 20+ films, the festival will present 3 best-in-category awards based on public vote.

Grand Rapids, Mich., June 9, 2015 – ArtPrize OnScreen: Presented by Waterfront Film Festival will replace this year’s annual summer lakeshore event, for one year, in favor of its first ever film competition to be held during ArtPrize in September in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The new endeavor with ArtPrize will showcase at least 20 films competing for audience awards in three separate categories: Best Feature, Best Documentary, and Best Short Film. Each competition film in the lineup, to be unveiled later this month, will also be eligible for the large cash prizes associated with the ArtPrize public vote as well as the juried awards.

“Launching a new event that focuses on the competition is going to offer a unique twist on what Waterfront has done in the past”, said Co-Founder Hopwood DePree. “We are creating a brand new event in the spirit of ArtPrize and people can still expect the same types of great films, guests and opportunities for which Waterfront has become recognized.” DePree adds that Waterfront also is in talks with several West Michigan communities to potentially return a 4-day festival to the Lakeshore in June of 2016 or 2017, in addition to hosting the annual ArtPrize partnership each September.

“As Waterfront continues to grow into a year round organization, we are constantly looking for ways to bring film opportunities and education to multiple communities. Our long-term plan includes screenings, workshops and other endeavors throughout West Michigan in the coming years and this is one step in that plan. Focusing 2015 on the ArtPrize partnership has allowed the volunteer organization to reevaluate, reinvent and reinvigorate,” DePree said.

ArtPrize is an independently organized international art competition that takes place during 19 days in metropolitan Grand Rapids, offering a novel and entirely intriguing cultural experience for artists and art enthusiasts alike.

SAGIndie, Screen Actors Guild Magazine, honored WFF by naming its annual festival among the top five film festivals in the world, alongside Cannes and Sundance.

“The new partnership will boost our efforts to promote the middle-coast film industry and continued growth of inventive filmmaking and the cinematic arts, which has been our goal since the inception of the Waterfront Film organization in 1999,” DePree said

About WaterfrontFilm.Org

The non-profit Waterfront Film organization has been offering unique film experiences, education and opportunities for the past 17 years. Based in West Michigan, Waterfront Film organization founded and hosts one of the leading destination film festival in the Midwest, regularly hosting Midwest premieres of Academy Award-winning and nominated documentaries. Recognized as a top five film festival, WFF is a volunteer event committed to creating a “middle-coast” venue for independent filmmakers while further enhancing the cultural draw of West Michigan. For more information on Waterfront Film organization visit www.waterfrontfilm.org, “like” us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/WaterfrontFilm](https://www.facebook.com/WaterfrontFilm) and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/WaterfrontFilm](https://twitter.com/WaterfrontFilm)