



**MILWAUKEE**  
**FILM**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**In 2021, Milwaukee Film** continued to navigate an uncertain landscape in the early part of the year, keeping the community connected and engaged through virtual offerings (including our 13th annual festival).

**In August**, the Oriental Theatre was able to open its doors again to audiences, allowing them to see the detailed restoration work for themselves, while taking in world-class cinema programming (reopening with the Best Picture-winning *CODA*) alongside industry-best health and safety standards. This culminated with our first in-person festival experience since 2019, our third annual Cultures & Communities Festival, headlined by an intimate conversation surrounding mental health with Destiny Child's Michelle Williams.

**We offered much more than just films throughout 2021** - special panels and conversations spoke to the issues facing our community, providing a vital virtual outlet for necessary conversations. Meanwhile, our education programming continued to bring film into the classroom and the classroom into film through screenings, discussions, workshops, and much more. And our Artist Services offerings continued to offer support, fellowship, and mentorship to local filmmakers to the tune of \$100,000 in grant awards as well as our Focus Finder accelerator program.



## MILWAUKEE FILM MISSION

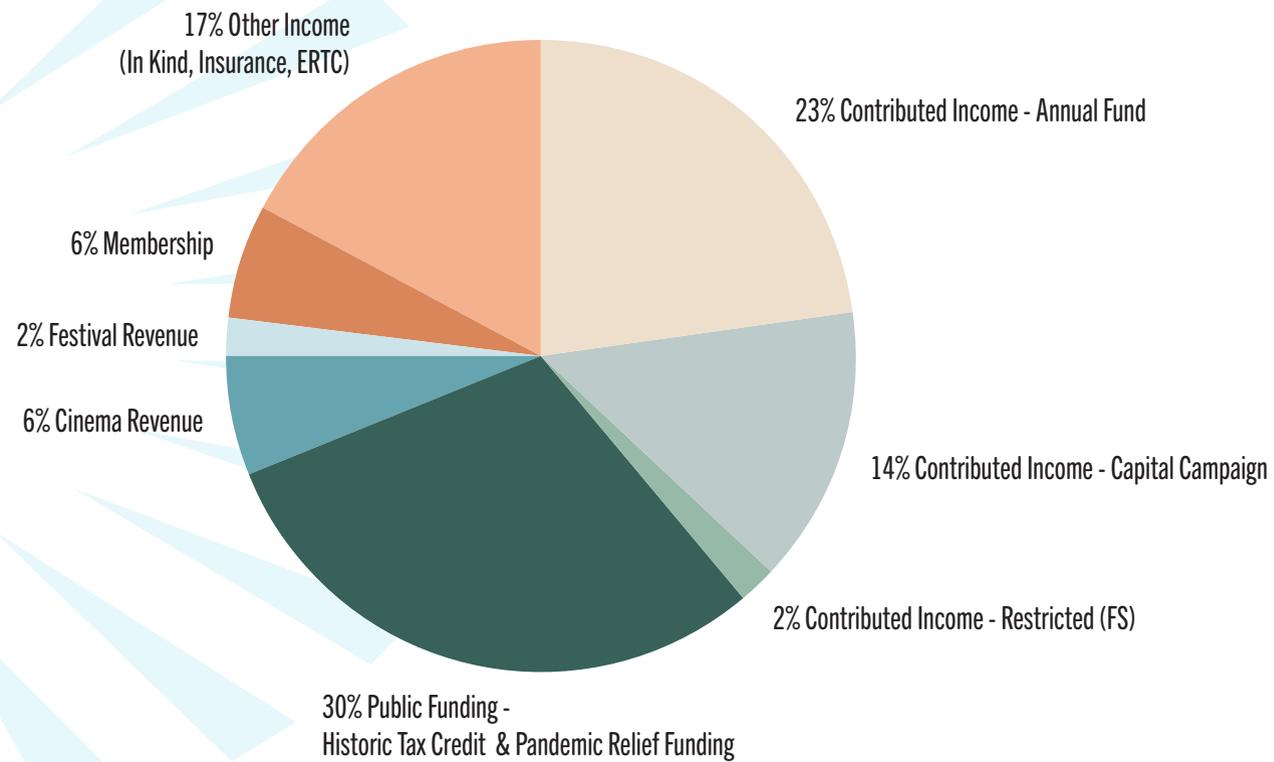
Create world class cinematic experiences that convene our diverse communities and catalyze positive change in Milwaukee.

## VISION

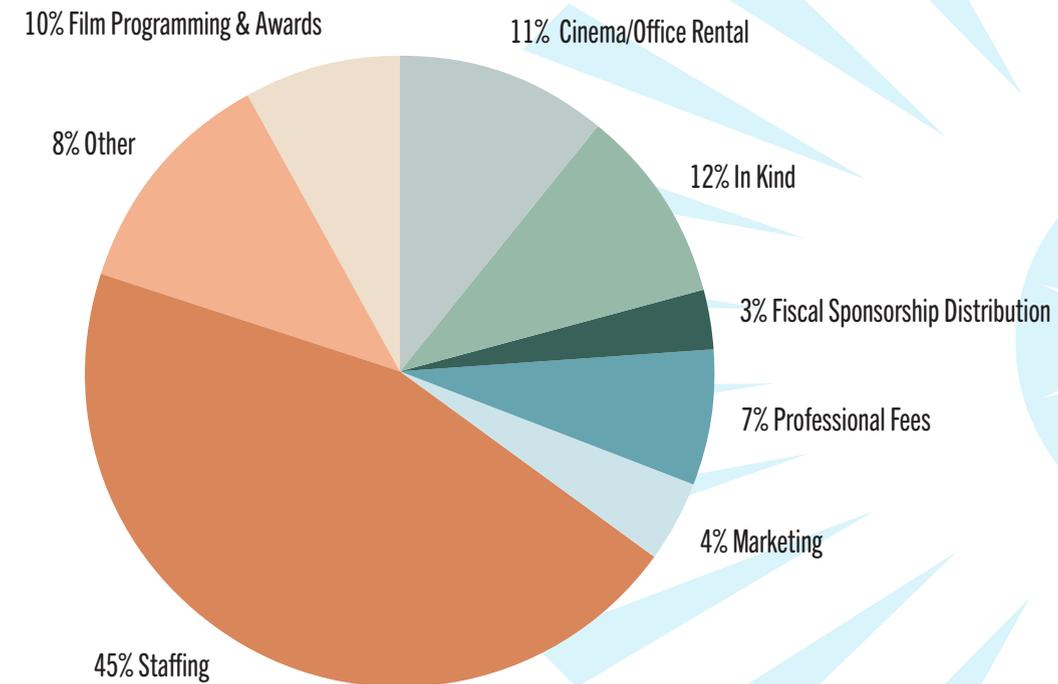
Become the most dynamic, well rounded film culture institution in America.



## Revenue



## Expenses



# Oriental Theatre

The pandemic gave us the opportunity to make lemonade out of lemons, allowing for the acceleration and completion of our multi-stage restoration project while the bright lights of the marquee were dimmed. These efforts included:



REPLACING THE BALCONY AND FLOOR SEATING OF OUR MAIN HOUSE



REPAIRING AND RESTORING THE CEILING, INCLUDING PLASTER AND DECORATIVE ELEMENTS



ACOUSTIC TREATMENTS IN BOTH THE MAIN AND SIDE HOUSES TO DECREASE SOUND BLEED BETWEEN SCREENS



INSTALLATION OF A HEARING LOOP TO SUPPORT THE USE OF ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES



REPAIRING AND RESTORING LIGHTING FIXTURES THAT HAD GONE UNUSED FOR DECADES



At long last, we reopened our doors to the public on August 20, kicking things off with an exclusive run of eventual Best Picture Winner *CODA* and allowing our audience to experience the Oriental Theatre restored to a luster it hadn't held in nearly a century. That was followed up with our third annual Cultures & Communities Festival (formerly known as Minority Health Film Festival) in September, bringing audiences back to the theater for an in-person festival experience for the first time since MFF 2019!



## 2021 Milwaukee Film Festival

After a successful virtual Milwaukee Film Festival in 2020, we reprised the 15 day virtual event in spring of 2021. Our virtual celebration allowed us to reach new audiences around the country, while still safely serving our dedicated audience in Milwaukee. This year's favorite film was *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*, which took home the Allan H. (Bud) and Suzanne L. Selig Audience Award for Best Feature Film.

41,999

ATTENDEES AT FESTIVAL  
FILMS AND EVENTS

1,218

PASSES SOLD

207

FEATURE-LENGTH AND  
SHORT FILM TITLES SCREENED  
DURING THE FESTIVAL

194

SPECIAL GUESTS IN  
(VIRTUAL!) ATTENDANCE

1,544,917

FILM MINUTES VIEWED

\$153,793

SUSAN & BOB MIKULAY  
DOUBLE-UP DONATION TOTAL



# Cultures and Communities Program

The Cultures and Communities Program continued its work towards engaging all members of our community throughout the year, both through cinema programming, as well as events and conversations. Our Black Lens, Cine Sin Fronteras, and GenreQueer programs all were highlighted throughout the year - with Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Pride Month all allowing opportunities for robust and engaging programming.

Our return to in-person screenings were headlined by the third annual Cultures & Communities Festival, (formerly known as the Minority Health Film Festival) bringing together the community for a weekend of fantastic events spread out across the city, complemented by incredible screenings at the Oriental Theatre.



MICHELLE WILLIAMS

37

FILMMAKERS, FILM SUBJECTS, SPEAKERS, AND HEADLINING GUESTS



27

SPONSORS TOTALING \$156,500 IN CONTRIBUTED INCOME



40

FEATURE FILMS IN CULTURES & COMMUNITIES FESTIVAL



ADRIAN MILLER

18

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL EVENTS



# Education and Artist Services Programs

Beyond screening movies, Milwaukee Film's vision is to foster deeper audience engagement with film and to serve our community. Our education programs are critically important elements of this work. Whether it's 8-year-olds or 80-year-olds, film professionals or professional film fans, educators or students, program participants are part of the lasting impact we seek to have on our community.



**14**  
TEENS IN OUR TEEN SCREEN SELECTION COMMITTEE



**14**  
PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2021 MELINDA KREI EDUCATOR FELLOWSHIP TO FOSTER MEDIA LITERACY IN THE CLASSROOM



**14**  
NEW COHORT MEMBERS JOINING OUR FIRST COHORT OF THE FOCUS FINDER ACCELERATOR



**5,000**  
STUDENTS WHO ENGAGED IN FREE VIRTUAL EDUCATION SCREENINGS AND REEL TALKS



**34**  
FILMS SCREENED IN SHOWCASES FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL FILMMAKING COURSE AND TAKE 1: TEEN FILMMAKING LAB



**\$140,408**  
FUNDS RAISED BY THE 10 PROJECTS IN OUR FISCAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

**\$100,000**  
CASH AWARDED TO 8 PROJECTS AS PART OF THE 2021 BRICO FORWARD FUND



2021 BRICO FORWARD FUND RECIPIENTS



## 2021 Highlights

After reopening the Theatre in August of 2021, we screened films that included Oscar winners, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and everything in between. We loved showing them all, but as we reflect on the year, here are a few that stand out.



*CODA*



*The French Dispatch*



*Licorice Pizza (35mm)*



*The Power of the Dog*



*The Tragedy of Macbeth*



*No Time to Die*

## 2022 Preview

For 2022, we'll continue to feature the best in film, including a few that have already come our way.



*Cha Cha Real Smooth*



*Elvis*



*Nope*



*Everything Everywhere All at Once*



*Small Town Wisconsin*  
(including its theatrical premiere at a gala red carpet event!)



*Marcel The Shell With Shoes On*

**OFFICERS**

Ken Krei  
Board Chair

Susan F. Mikulay  
Chair Elect

Joseph A. Rock  
Treasurer

Dave Stamm  
Secretary

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

John P. Bania

Lori Brissette

Alexander P. Fraser

Patti Keating Kahn

Tracey L. Klein

Ken Krei

Marianne Lubar

Susan F. Mikulay

Joseph A. Rock

Lacey Sadoff

Kimberly R. Walker

**MEMBERS**

Chris Abele

Donna Baumgartner

Kathryn Murphy Burke

Karen Ellenbecker

Jeff Fitzsimmons

Carmen Haberman

Susan Haise

Katie Heil

Jasmine M. Johnson

Michael J. Koss Jr.

Jeffrey Kurz

Alexander Lasry

Steve Laughlin

Emilia Layden

Michael R. Lovell

Joan Lubar

Steve Mech

Mark Mone

Heidi Moore

John Ridley

James E. Stoll

Julia Taylor

John Utz

Gail Yabuki

**EMERITUS MEMBERS**

Tom Barrett

Jacqueline Strayer

A huge THANK YOU to our members & philanthropic partners who have gone above and beyond in support of Milwaukee Film's mission.

**LUMINARY (\$100,000+)**

Donna and Donald Baumgartner  
Herzfeld Foundation

Marianne and Sheldon Lubar

Lacey Sadoff Foundation

Allan H. (Bud) & Suzanne L. Selig

**VISIONARY (\$50,000+)**

Argosy Foundation

Bader Philanthropies, Inc.

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation

Brico Fund

Kathryn Murphy Burke

Heil Family Foundation

Herb Kohl Philanthropies

Susan and Robert Mikulay

National Endowment for the Arts

David and Julia Uihlein

The Yabuki Family Foundation

**INNOVATOR (\$20,000+)**

Anonymous

John Axford

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Kelben Foundation, Inc.

Nicholas Family Foundation

Christine Symchych and Jim McNulty

We Energies Foundation

Werner Family Foundation

**LEGEND (\$10,000+)**

Ken Krei

Chris and Rick Lane

Joan Lubar and John Crouch

Madeleine and David Lubar

Susan A. Lubar

Judith McGregor and Richard Gallun

Bert L. and Patricia S. Steigleder  
Charitable Trust

Zilber Family Foundation

**ICON (\$5,000+)**

Mark Blumenberg and Beth Jaworski

Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation

Jean and John DiMotto

Karen Ellenbecker

Julie Ellenbecker Lipsky

Ralph Evinrude Foundation

Kelly and Jeff Fitzsimmons

Ann and Kim Alan Harter

Patti Keating Kahn and Chuck Kahn

Mary Ann and Charles LaBahn

Alex Lasry

Marge and Steve Laughlin

Gene & Ruth Posner Foundation, Inc.

Stephen Ragatz

Sadoff Family Foundation

Victoria Teerlink and Jeff Drope

Shannon and John Utz

DONOR LISTS COMPILED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021.



## A huge **THANK YOU** to our members & philanthropic partners who have gone above and beyond in support of Milwaukee Film's mission.

### **MOVIE MOGUL (\$2,000+)**

Josh Adams and Sandi Anderson  
Adams  
Linda and Dan Bader  
Elizabeth Brenner and Steve Ostrofsky  
Ericka and Mike Burzynski  
Caralyn Court  
Kristin and Alexander P. Fraser  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation's  
Richard M. Kaul LGBT Arts  
Endowment Fund  
Lisa Groskopf-Gleason  
Susan Haise  
Amy and Peter Hellman  
Tim Hoelter  
Maja Jurisic and Don Fraker  
Deborah Kern  
Tracey and Rick Klein  
Kelly Knoke  
Christina and Michael Koss Jr.

Christie and Bill Krugler  
Jeff Kurz and Jim Mortell  
Emilia and Chris Layden  
Joviann and Steve Mech  
Milwaukee Arts Board  
and Wisconsin Arts Board  
Daniel and Susie Minahan  
Suzanne Osetek  
Peck Foundation, Milwaukee LTD  
Christine Prevetti  
Tom and Susan Quadracci  
Sarah and Joseph A. Rock  
Dave Stamm  
Cynthia and James Stoll  
Julia Taylor and Stig Ostling  
Byron and Laurie Vielehr  
Aliza and Nick Werner  
Don and Kate Wilson  
Maxine Wishner

### **FILM DIRECTOR (\$1,000+)**

Joan Aguado Ware and Bruce Ware  
Carmen Aguilar and Russell Cuhel  
Tracy Anello  
Peggy Ann  
Mary and Tom Avery  
Brittany and John P. Bania  
Natalie Beckwith  
James Bryce Jr. and Amy Williams  
Richard Cayo and Jane Somers  
Dara Chappie and Robert Stockinger  
Brian and Rita Clark  
James Cook and Roula Villis  
Catherine and Mario Costantini  
Amy Daniels  
Michael Drescher  
Julie Edell-Berlin  
Mark Filla  
Robb and MP Fischer  
Joshua and Julia Gimbel

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### **FILM DIRECTOR (\$1,000+)**

Peter Goldberg  
Eileen Gorman  
Jill Griffie Ross  
Dennis Grzezinski and Jane Porath  
Nate Gubin  
Jill Haas  
Carmen Haberman  
Leslie Hayes  
Bob and Jenny Hillis  
Julia Ihlenfeldt  
Carrie and Grant Killoran  
Adel and Bishara Korkor  
Sue and Tony Krausen  
Margaret and Andrew Krei  
Amy and Michael Lovell  
Danielle Mantyh and Jude Kizenkavich  
Mark Mone and Sara Swanson  
Heidi Evita Moore

### **BAADASSSS (\$1,000+)**

Anne and Christopher Noyes  
Jess and Sheldon Oppermann  
Adam and Laura Peck  
Arnie and Cathy Peltz  
Clare M. Peters Charitable Trust  
Colleen Reilly and Dan Ryan  
David Roberts and Gary Kampe  
Chuck Rozewicz and Maureen Fitzgerald  
Janet and Gregory Schmeling  
Jan Serr and John Shannon  
Mark and Wanda Staples  
Eric Steele and Kathryn Bach  
Richard Stone  
Connie Tresch  
Bernadette Vitola  
Laura Vuchetich  
David Wiener and Jessica Swearingen

Deborah Blanks  
Danielle and Ramel Bly  
Cecilia Gilbert  
Cecelia Gore and Randy Bryant  
Matthew Helmerich and  
Jeffrey Harwell  
Janan and Waleed Najeeb  
Angela Pinta and Kelly Cushion  
Jerry Roberts and Shannon Reed



“Thank you and your team for such a fun weekend! I had a great time all around. And I got to watch other films, which was such a treat. I was watching **SONS OF MONARCHS** and had a flash of inspiration for my next film. Watching films with an audience is such a different experience than at home on your couch. Thank you so much for giving me that. All the best and hope I come back sometime with another film!”

**Yael Bridge, THE BIG SCARY S WORD (C&C Festival, 2021)**



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