

BREWERS™

PRESENTS

2023

# CULTURES & COMMUNITIES FESTIVAL

MILWAUKEE WI  
OCT 5-12TH



MILWAUKEE  
FILM



# WE'RE NOT THE ONLY TEAM OUR PLAYERS PLAY FOR.

Each year, the Brewers' players, coaches and entire organization contribute millions of dollars to hundreds of Wisconsin nonprofits – improving the health, education, recreational opportunities and overall well-being of children and families in our communities. Please join us in going to bat for these worthwhile causes. Because creating a happier, healthier environment for all is definitely a team effort.



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BASIC NEEDS



[brewers.com/bcf](http://brewers.com/bcf)

# WELCOME

Dear Friends,

As I reflect upon the remarkable journey that has brought us to this point, I am filled with a sense of gratitude and excitement. It's incredible to think about the evolution of the Cultures & Communities Festival and the path that led us here.

Nearly five years ago, Maureen Post and I pitched an idea for an event I called the Minority Health Film Festival to Heidi Moore, an executive at Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin at the time and now a current Board member of Milwaukee Film. Needless to say, that name didn't last long, and neither did our initial approach to programming the Festival. Fueled by good intentions and a desire to make a meaningful impact, our focus leaned heavily toward health education.

However, we quickly realized that a vital ingredient was missing from the equation—celebration. Joy, as I've learned, is an essential component of well-being. It's the elixir that nourishes our spirit and feeds our soul. It's the laughter that intertwines with learning, making the journey not only enlightening but also deeply fulfilling.

Over the past five years, our dedicated team has poured their heart and soul into crafting an event embodying intellectual enrichment and unbridled joy. As we present the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival, know that every moment has been curated with you in mind.

We understand your desires—to relish delectable food while sharing hearty laughter, to sway to the rhythm of the music that moves your soul, and to engage in conversations that ignite



your thoughts, all in an atmosphere of respect and camaraderie. That's why we've meticulously programmed over 20 films and 35 events that invite you to bask in the embrace of celebration. And that's not all - we're excited to welcome an array of local and national guests to aid you in your pursuit of unadulterated joy.

While we acknowledge that there's still much work to be done, I can't help but feel a surge of pride when I look back at how far we've come since our modest beginnings. This journey has been one of growth, learning, and community building. As we stand on the cusp of this year's festival, I invite you to participate in the continued evolution of the Cultures & Communities Festival and Milwaukee Film.

Together, we are forging a path toward something special.

With heartfelt anticipation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geraud Blanks'.

Geraud Blanks  
Chief Innovation Officer,  
Milwaukee Film

# CINEMA. CULTURE. CHECKING.



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**Milwaukee Film Checking from Associated Bank helps you back local film while you manage your money.**

Every purchase you make with the exclusive Associated Bank Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard® gives 5¢<sup>1</sup> to the nonprofit Milwaukee Film. Plus, you'll get other perks like membership savings<sup>2</sup>, discounts on Milwaukee Film gear<sup>3</sup>, free popcorn<sup>4</sup> and more.

## GET READY FOR AN EPIC CULTURES & COMMUNITIES FILM FESTIVAL!

1. **Open a Milwaukee Film Checking account and get the Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard.**
2. **Support the nonprofit Milwaukee Film with every debit card purchase!**

Stop by your closest Associated Bank or visit [AssociatedBank.com/MKEFilm](https://www.associatedbank.com/MKEFilm) for details.



1. Five cents from every transaction (less returns) made with a Milwaukee Film Debit Card will be given back to Milwaukee Film, up to \$35,000 annually.

2. Memberships are valid for 12 months. Dual memberships are available only to members who reside at the same address. Discount is available for new membership or at time of renewal. Show your Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard when making a purchase or call 414-755-1965 x204 for more information. All benefits are subject to change. See [mkefilm.org](https://mkefilm.org) for membership information.

3. Show your Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard when making a purchase. Exclusions may apply, please see a sales associate for details. Valid for purchases at Oriental Theatre only.

4. Show your Milwaukee Film Debit Mastercard when making a purchase to receive a free small popcorn with purchase of any beverage. Valid for purchases at Oriental Theatre only.

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# CULTURES & COMMUNITIES

The Cultures & Communities initiative was established in 2019 to amplify diverse cultural perspectives and lived experiences through film programming, event curation, and community outreach.

Through the initiative, Milwaukee Film offers a variety of year-round programming options beyond the Milwaukee Film Festival, such as commemorative month films and event series, the annual Cultures & Communities Festival, and our film-based DEI engagement program, Engage & Activate while supporting the efforts of anchor cultural programs such as Black Lens, the Latinx-focused Cine Sin Fronteras, and the LGBTQIA-centric, GenreQueer.



## CINE SIN FRONTERAS & HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Cine Sin Fronteras tiene el objetivo de mostrar las historias que no son contadas por la rica y vibrante diáspora latinx en todo el mundo, incluidas las comunidades latinxs, chicanxs, latinoamericanxs, indígenas y afrolatinxs. Celebre la convergencia del Mes de la Herencia Hispana en el Festival de Culturas y Comunidades de 2023 con películas y eventos que exploran temas relacionados con la identidad, la cultura, la familia, la historia y la modernidad. Más información en [mkefilm.org/csf](https://mkefilm.org/csf).

Cine Sin Fronteras aims to showcase the untold stories of the rich and vibrant Latinx diaspora worldwide, including Latinx, Chicanx, Latin American, Indigenous, and Afro-Latinx communities. Celebrate the convergence of Hispanic Heritage Month at the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival with films and events that explore topics surrounding identity, culture, family, history, and modernity. Learn more about Hispanic Heritage Month at [mkefilm.org/csf](https://mkefilm.org/csf).





## BLACK LENS

With a singular focus on spotlighting fiction and documentary films by emerging and established Black storytellers, the Black Lens program explores stories and topics rooted in the Black community and relevant to all to inspire conversation, celebration, and community.



## genrequeer

Spotlighting the best in documentary and fiction filmmaking that explores LGBTQIA+ voices and experiences, GenreQueer celebrates the past, present, and future of cinema's rich queer tradition.



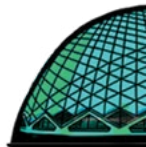
## ENGAGE & ACTIVATE

Through our Engage & Activate program (EA), we provide workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and soft skills training. Expert facilitators research and select films, help develop discussion topics, and moderate staff engagements emphasizing guided reflections and vicarious learning.



# CULTURES & COMMUNITIES FESTIVAL

Guided by principles of cultural inclusivity, the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival, held in Milwaukee from October 5th–12th, is an eight-day convergence of groundbreaking films, distinguished speakers, and public forums designed to amplify diverse cultural expressions and celebrate community—convening multicultural, intergenerational audiences across southeastern Wisconsin through engaging events, films, and compelling public conversations.





## MEET THE 2023 CAMPAIGN ARTISTS



### **Samantha Smyser De-Leon** **Artist, Designer, Organizer**

Samantha Smyser-De Leon is a Puerto Rican visual artist and designer from Humboldt Park, Chicago. She holds a BA in Fine Art from Columbia College Chicago, with a minor in Arts Business. Most recently working as a Color Designer for Nike on the Women's Global Footwear team, Samantha now runs her own Art & Design studio

executing creative projects from custom sculptural installations to graphic design and art direction for brands and activations.

In tandem with her design work, Samantha co-hosts Sistematic Podcast with her twin sister, she is a professional stunt woman (member of SAG- AFTRA), and a community organizer whose work revolves around issues including reproductive rights and affordable housing.



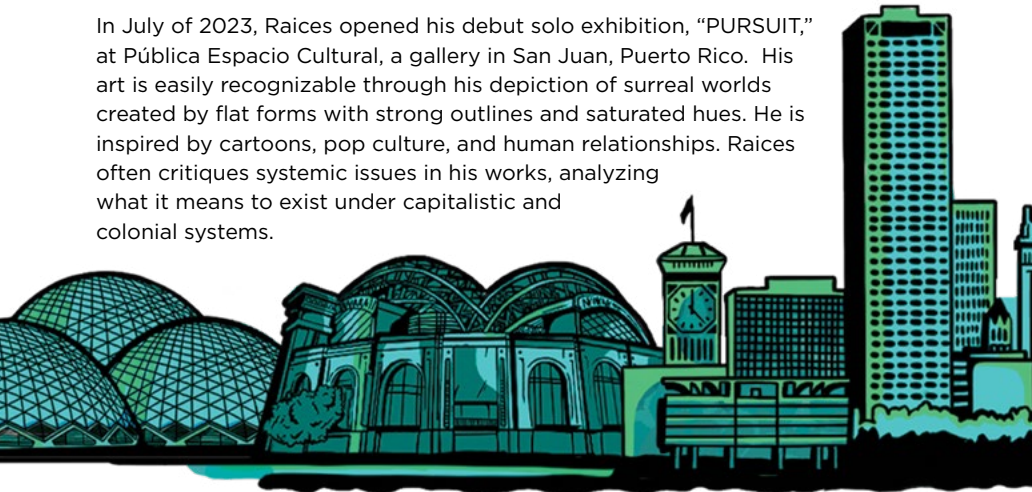
### **Jose "Roots" Raices** **Artist, Illustrator, Muralist**

Jose "Roots" Raices is a self-taught, visual artist from Utuado, Puerto Rico. He works independently, creating graphic, and digital artworks, paintings, murals, and mixed media sculptures. Raices often collaborates with music artists and brands that range from local to global.

In addition to his independent work, he also works as a

creative consultant to Sombrero Media - a creative advertising agency.

In July of 2023, Raices opened his debut solo exhibition, "PURSUIT," at Pública Espacio Cultural, a gallery in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His art is easily recognizable through his depiction of surreal worlds created by flat forms with strong outlines and saturated hues. He is inspired by cartoons, pop culture, and human relationships. Raices often critiques systemic issues in his works, analyzing what it means to exist under capitalistic and colonial systems.



# SPONSORS

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The Cultures & Communities Festival would not be possible without the amazing support of our sponsors.

## SUPPORTING



## MEDIA PARTNERS



# HOW BEST TO FEST

There's something for everyone at this year's Cultures & Communities Festival! Using the power of storytelling to embrace cultural inclusivity, spark dialogue, and inspire attendees to celebrate their heritage and authentic selves, the fifth annual #CCFMKE will feature groundbreaking films, large-scale exhibitions, national and local performing artists, distinguished speakers, brands, and so much more.

## FILM INFORMATION

### Film Tickets

\$12.00	.....	General Admission
\$10.00	.....	Senior (60 & over)
\$10.00	.....	Student/Educator*
\$9.00	.....	MKE Film Member
\$6.00	.....	Child (12 & under)

\*ID required

There are no virtual film offerings for CCF this year. We look forward to sharing space with you at the cinema!

### Film Accessibility Options

The Oriental Theatre's lobby, restrooms, and concession stand are all wheelchair-accessible, and all three auditoriums have reserved seating for guests who use wheelchairs.

### Assistive Technologies

Assistive technologies can be checked out and returned at the main concession stand. Please note that film distributors determine closed-captioning and descriptive-narration availability, so films we screen might not work with our array of devices. For those that do, we have the following options to offer:

All three of our auditoriums are

equipped with hearing loop technology, enabling any patrons with T-coil hearing aids or our in-house receivers to receive and amplify the features audio, allowing it to be heard more clearly.

Our auditoriums also feature CaptiView, which is a personal closed-captioning device for hard-of-hearing guests. Closed captions are wirelessly transmitted to a small, easy-to-read screen attached to an auditorium seat so you can view closed captions privately during the feature.

Finally, we also offer Fidelio, a wireless audio receiver that delivers descriptive narration to guests with visual and/or hearing impairments. Each Fidelio receiver has a plug-in headset, but guests may use their own headsets or headphones if desired.

## FESTIVAL FAQs

### When should I buy tickets?

There's no time like the present! Screenings and events are liable to fill up and sell out at a moment's notice, so get your tickets today!

### When should I arrive for a screening?

We highly recommend you arrive at least 30 minutes before showtime to guarantee a seat. To ensure a seat for a screening, ticket holders must arrive at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled showtime. Ticket holders arriving at least 15 minutes before scheduled showtime cannot be guaranteed a seat. They will be seated as capacity allows and at the discretion of Festival staff. No refunds or exchanges are available to ticket holders who are refused entry after this time.

### **How will I know if a showtime is sold out?**

Check the film's detail page. If a given showtime is sold out and tickets can no longer be purchased, the showtime listing online will indicate "sold out," and you will not have the ability to add tickets to your cart. You can also call the box office at 414-276-5140.

### **Where should I park?**

#### **How can I get to the theatre?**

The Oriental Theatre is located at 2230 North Farwell Avenue in a bustling area of the East Side with metered street parking and a limited number of off-street lots.

We recommend arriving early enough to find a parking spot or utilizing public transportation, such as the MCTS bus system or The Hop. Learn more about the nearby parking lots and structures at [theeastside.org](http://theeastside.org).

### **Can I purchase same-day tickets?**

Absolutely! Same-day tickets are available at the Oriental Theatre and online at [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) until each film's showtime sells out.

### **How can I get a Member discount?**

Milwaukee Film Members pay less for tickets, concessions, merch, and more during the Festival. Sign up at [mkefilm.org/membership](http://mkefilm.org/membership) and use those discounts immediately!

### **Can I bring children to the Cultures & Communities Festival films?**

Certainly. We offer many opportunities for kids of all ages and families to enjoy the Festival throughout the week. However, not all films have MPAA ratings. Some movies might contain material unsuitable for children, so please use discretion when selecting films for youths.

#### **THE FINE PRINT**

NO REFUNDS. NO RESALES. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. To guarantee a seat for a film, ticket and pass holders must arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled showtime. Film programs, special guests, events, venues, dates, and times are subject to change without notice. Unless noted, films are not rated; viewer discretion is advised. Patrons grant Milwaukee Film and its partners permission to use their images or likenesses in any reproduction of events. Patrons voluntarily assume all risks and dangers incidental to Festival events, whether before, during, or after the event or any other event connected to the Festival. Patrons voluntarily agree that Milwaukee Film and its facilities, sponsors, directors, officers, employees, supervisors, volunteers, and respective agents are expressly released from any injuries or claims arising from any Festival event. By entering any Milwaukee Film-operated event or venue, all parties agree to adhere to our Code of Conduct: [mkefilm.org/conduct](http://mkefilm.org/conduct).

# EVENT SCHEDULE

Offering a wide range of artistic and cultural experiences that promote collective expressions of JOY, the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival events program provides access to curated social spaces and platforms that support inclusive artistic and cultural creativity and feature a dynamic range of special guests—from national headlining acts and brands to local community leaders, artists, and many more!

As you browse this year’s program book, take note of the color-coded tabs for each event; they’re designed to help you find the kind of events that interest you most!



Featured Events with national and local headliners.



Mind, Body, and Soul events with enriching experiences.



Cultural Conversations to broaden your perspectives.



Family Friendly events for all ages to enjoy.



Engaging Entertainment to bring joy to all your senses.



## Engage & Activate: Diverse Professionals Forum

**Wednesday, Oct. 4**  
**Doors 6:00 PM, Event 7:00 PM**  
**Company Brewing**  
**735 E. Center St.**

Milwaukee Film's popular Engage & Activate series brings together the

city's diverse community of young professionals who have made Milwaukee their home. Attendees can expect to view a short film before splitting into anonymously assigned groups to discuss and share experiences that widen perspectives.

Designed to create an atmosphere that fosters social wellness, networking, and a sense of belonging among a cross-sector of corporate and community leaders and employee resource groups, these in-person happy hour events include complimentary food, drink specials, and DJ Bizzon, curating the vibes.

Free and open to the public.

**SPONSORED BY**







# FEATURED EVENT

## Opening Night Party featuring DJ Spinderella

**Thursday, Oct. 5**

**8:00 PM**

**The Cooperage, 822 S. Water St.**

Kicking things off with an unforgettable night that pays tribute to the 50th anniversary of hip-hop with a lineup of legendary DJs and various on-site activities, the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival Opening Night Party, hosted by Dame Ellzey and Element Everest-Blanks, promises to be a spectacular event!

Renowned for her role as one-third of the iconic Hip-Hop trio Salt-N-Pepa, DJ Spinderella headlines a stellar lineup of DJs featuring Doc B, Homer Blow, and Lo Lo, taking attendees on a journey through the 80s, 90s, and 2000s. The atmosphere will be electrifying as these talented DJs spin the most iconic tracks from these decades, creating a nostalgic and energetic experience for everyone.

\$25 advance; \$20 MKE Film members; \$30 door

This is a 21+ only event.

Visit [mkefilm.org](http://mkefilm.org) for tickets and information.

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## Pop-up Cinema: Epikos Church-Sherman Park

**Friday, Oct. 6**

**Doors 5:30 PM, Event 6:00 PM**

**Epikos Church**

**3737 N. Sherman Blvd.**

Join us for a captivating evening of film, dialogue, and community

empowerment at the first Pop-Up Cinema event of the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival, a collaborative effort between Safe & Sound, Milwaukee Film, and Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Health Network.

Prepare to be inspired as we delve into the crucial topic of violence prevention in our community through a series of thought-provoking short films. Shannon Ross, Executive Director of The Community and the curator behind the powerful Correcting the Narrative Campaign guides an expert panel of violence prevention and pre-entry specialists who share their insights, strategies, and experiences, shedding light on practical approaches to making lasting, positive changes in our neighborhoods.

Free and open to the public.

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## Ancestral Wisdom: Afro-Latinx Memory and Cultural Practices

**Friday, Oct. 6**

**Doors 5:30 PM, Event 6:00 PM**

**Radio Milwaukee**

**220 E. Pittsburgh Ave.**

Don't miss this chance to deepen your understanding of the revolutionary

potential of memory work to bridge the past, present, and future, preserving the African cultural lineage of Latinos over generations. Experience the living history of Afro-Diasporic cultural expressions as Marquette University's Dr. Stephanie Rivera Berruz (pictured) guides a panel of arts practitioners who explore how indigenous traditions evolve while staying rooted in their origins.

Free and open to the public.

**SPONSORED BY**





## Spinn M.K.E Cycle Classes

**Friday, Oct. 6**

**6:30 PM**

**Spinn M.K.E**

**309 W. Brown St.**

Powered by a passion for creating culture, community, and holistic wellness awareness, lifestyle fitness

brand Spinn M.K.E is reshaping fitness norms to create a vibrant culture of health and well-being. Spinn M.K.E Cycle classes are specially designed around our love for hip-hop music, dope energy, and the inspiration that pushes us every day. Milwaukee residents can register for one of several complimentary classes during the Cultures & Communities Festival to begin their fitness journey.

Limited to 20 spots per class. Visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) to register.



## Battle of the Chefs

**Friday, Oct. 6**

**VIP 6:00 PM, General Event 7:00 PM**

**Pritzlaff Building**

**143 W. St. Paul Ave.**

Founded by SamanthaStarr Events in 2016, Battle of the Chefs is a friendly competition and lush

tasting event curated to elevate local chefs from Milwaukee's evolving culinary scene while supporting local youth culinary and hospitality programs. This exciting collaboration amplifies the 7th annual Battle of the Chefs, adding more chefs, food, and fun.

\$100 general admission; \$150 VIP. Visit [mkefilm.org](http://mkefilm.org) for tickets and information.

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## Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration feat. Bomberxs De'Corra and De La Buena

Friday, Oct. 6

Doors 7:00, Event 7:30 PM

Radio Milwaukee

220 E. Pittsburgh Ave.

Featuring performances by notable artists such as La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón, Bomberx de Cora, and the jazz harmonic sensibilities of De La Buena, the first of several celebrations of art and music at the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival will be a captivating evening that highlights the rhythms and textures of Afro-Latin music and dance traditions.

Free and open to the public.

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## Festival Late-Night: The Turn Up with DJ Bizzon

Friday, Oct. 6

Doors 9:30 PM, Event 10:00 PM

Company Brewing

735 E. Center St.

One of Milwaukee's most popular party series, "The Turn Up," is the first of several Festival after sets. Curated by DJ Bizzon, these late-night collaborations feature a mix of music that spans various genres, keeping the energy high and the crowd moving, bring a vibrant and energetic party atmosphere to the festival.

Tickets at the door. This is a 21+ only event.

## CULTURES & COMMUNITIES: EA PROGRAM

# Engage & Activate

## Your Workplace Through Film

**The affective power of film allows us to confront stigmas and remove barriers to understanding, as it provides insight into the shared human condition.**

Using the cinematic experience to engage your workforce, we can activate learning opportunities that help you build a more empathetic and equitable workplace environment.

The EA program is a film-based vicarious learning model that matches our cultural programming experts with your team to select a film and discussion event that fits your existing DEI efforts. Characterized by active listening and reflective thinking, our vicarious learning methodology facilitates personal discovery through the lived experiences of film subjects.



### Let's Talk!

Learn more about our film-based methods for strengthening your organization's strategies to build a more empathetic and equitable workplace.

Contact: Maureen Post  
Director of Strategic Partnerships  
[maureen@mkefilm.org](mailto:maureen@mkefilm.org)



**MILWAUKEE**  
FILM



# CULTURE BY DESIGN

A SNEAKER & STREETWEAR SUMMIT



# FEATURED EVENT

## Culture By Design: A Sneaker & Streetwear Summit

**Saturday, Oct. 7**

**12:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**Baird Center, 400 W Wisconsin Ave.**



Guests include, from left to right; Alexander-John, designer and creative director, L.A. Gear; Beja Marie Velez, model and multifaceted creative; and Clyde Edwards, of Puma.

A celebration of sneaker & streetwear culture, Culture By Design brings together a like-minded community of sneakerheads and streetwear aficionados for a multifaceted exhibition featuring prominent national designers, as well as pop-up exhibition spaces, immersive activations, and mixed-media displays curated by local and national brands.

Adults: \$25.00 advance; \$20 MKE Film members; \$30 door  
Child (under 12): \$10.00 advance; \$15 door

Visit [mkefilm.org](http://mkefilm.org) for tickets and information.

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*SoleSafe*

**SNEEX**





## La Escuelita Bombera de Corazón Percussion & Dance Workshops

Sat. Oct. 7 | 10:30 AM [Percussion]

Sat. Oct. 7 | 12:30 PM [Dance]

MKE Youth Arts Center  
325 W. Walnut St.

“Bomberxs De’Cora” is a collective of Bomba practitioners with over 25 years of experience committed to preserving Bomba, Puerto Rico’s oldest surviving music and dance form established by the African descendants on the island. To promote wider recognition and appreciation of Afro-Latin music and dance forms, Bomberxs De’Cora will host two workshops showcasing Bomba’s rhythms, movements, and traditions that foster a deeper understanding and connection to Puerto Rico’s rich cultural tapestry.

All ages are welcome at this family-friendly event, ensuring fun for everyone, from the youngest to the oldest family members. Visit [mkefilm.org](http://mkefilm.org) for tickets and information.

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## Finding Light in Death: A Uniquely Milwaukee Dialogue

Saturday, Oct. 7

Doors 5:15 PM Event 6:00 PM

Radio Milwaukee

220 E. Pittsburgh Ave.

Join Salam Fatayer (pictured), host of Radio Milwaukee’s Uniquely

Milwaukee podcast, for a conversation around mourning, memory, and joy. Finding Light in Death invites us to honor the relationships of those who have passed away, embracing the joy that springs from cherished memories and the profound impact these individuals had on others. Amidst this exploration, we also strive to recognize and celebrate the beauty and uniqueness inherent in each fleeting moment of life.

Free and open to the public.

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## Festival Late-Night: Adi Armour and Klassik

**Saturday, Oct. 7**

**Doors 9:30 PM, Event 10:00 PM**

**Company Brewing**

**735 E. Center St.**

We've paired acclaimed soul-singer Aaron "Adi Mac" Armour, 2021

Milwaukee Arts Board Performing Artist of the Year, rapper and singer Klassik for an eclectic evening of neo-soul, hip hop, and contemporary R&B.

\$15 advance; \$12 MKE Film members; \$20 door (cash only at the door).

Visit [mkefilm.org](http://mkefilm.org) for tickets and information. This is a 21+ only event.





# FEATURED EVENT

## Janelle James: Newly Famous Comedy Tour

**Sunday, Oct. 8**

**Doors 7:00 PM Event 8:00 PM**

**The Pabst Theatre, 144 E Wells St.**

An award-winning actress best known for her role as Ava Coleman in the acclaimed television series *Abbott Elementary*, Janelle James is also an accomplished comedian, having toured with Chris Rock and Amy Schumer, and is coming to The Pabst this fall as a part of Milwaukee Film's 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival. In this one-of-a-kind experience, James will perform a 45-minute comedy set accompanied by a 15-minute audience Q&A, offering a unique glimpse into her life and career.

\$35-\$70, visit [pabsttheatergroup.com](http://pabsttheatergroup.com) for tickets and info.



## Motorcycle Diaries: The Legacy of Motorcycle Music, Fashion and Community

**Sunday, Oct. 8**

**11:00 AM**

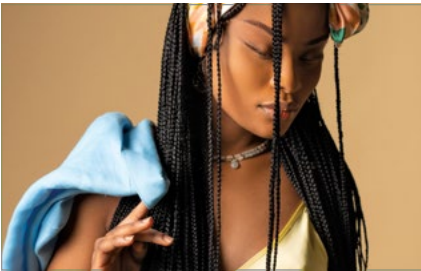
**Pilot Project Brewing**

**128 N. 9th St.**

An influential piece of Americana brewed through decades of innovation and social movements, motorcycle culture has become the quintessential symbol of nonconformity and rebellion worldwide. This event centers a conversation on music, fashion, and community alongside a curated selection of vintage vendors, cultural installations, plus food and drink.

Free and open to the public.

PRESENTED BY



## Tangled Roots: Unraveling Hair Discrimination and the Implications of the CROWN Act

**Sunday, Oct. 8**

**Doors 4:30 PM, Event 5:00 PM**

**WI Black Historical Society/Museum**

**2620 W. Center St.**

Led by Black women, the “Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair” (CROWN) Act was started to stop race-based hair discrimination. Since then, 22 states have enacted CROWN Acts. Join this important conversation about the need for legislation to protect hair textures, the politics of race-based hair discrimination, and the implications on mental health within the workplace and in educational spaces.

Free and open to the public.

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**KOHL'S**



# ORIENTAL

**SAVE THE DATE  
MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL  
APRIL 11-25, 2024**

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ARCADE  
KEEP  
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MILWAUKEE  
FILM



## PsychoHAIRapy Workshop

**Monday, Oct. 9**

**Event 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Milwaukee Film**

**1037 W. McKinley Ave. Suite #200**

Don't get it twisted, we cannot get well without understanding the relationship between our hair

and mental health! Dr. Afiya, a clinical psychologist and hairstylist, is offering a PsychoHAIRapy workshop on how we can use hair as an entry point into mental health. First, she will cover thousands of years of hair history, followed by identifying the signs and symptoms of mental illness in communities of color, and she will close out by helping you to practice active listening, narrative therapy, and mindfulness, all related to your hair! Space is limited.

Advance registration required. Visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) to register.





## Sound Bath Healing with Melissa Blue Muhammad

**Monday, Oct. 9**

**6:30 PM**

**Honeybee Sage and Wellness &  
Apothecary Café  
1819 N. MLK Dr.**

Undergo the deeply immersive, full-body listening experience of meditative sound therapy. Facilitator Melissa Blue Muhammad harnesses the healing power of sound to engender a gentle yet powerful therapeutic and restorative process to nurture your mind and body. Register to join the team for this complimentary experience.

Limited to 30 spots per class. Advance registration required.  
Visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) to register.



## The Art of Storytelling: Exploring Narrative Craft and the Ripple Effects of Representation

**Monday, Oct. 9**

**Doors 5:30 PM, Event 6:30 PM**

**Sam's Place Jazz Cafe  
3338 N. Doctor MLK Jr. Dr.**

In a world teeming with diverse voices and untold narratives, the role and responsibility of storytelling takes on new dimensions. Join us as we unravel the art of capturing stories that reflect the vibrant tapestry of our society. Acclaimed Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reporter, James Causey, guides an enlightening discussion with a distinguished panel of local journalists that transcends boundaries and uncovers the power of representative storytelling.

Panelists include Milwaukee PBS producer Everett Marshburn, Radio Milwaukee audio storyteller Salam Fatayer, TMJ4 News anchor Shannon Sims and Project Director of the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service Ron Smith, each a trailblazer, sharing their experiences, challenges, and rewards as they shed light on the hidden gems within our communities.

Free and open to the public.

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# FEATURED EVENT

## “Don’t @ Me Tour” with Aida Rodriguez

**Tuesday, Oct. 10**

**Doors 6:00 PM Event 7:30 PM**

**Milwaukee Improv, 20110 Lower Union Street,  
Brookfield**



In celebration of the convergence between Hispanic Heritage Month and the 2023 Cultures & Communities Festival, we’re thrilled to welcome comedian and actress Aida Rodriguez, whose “Don’t @ Me Tour” stops in Milwaukee for an evening full of laughs

featuring Gwen La Roka (inset), the first Latina from Chicago to make her comedy special debut on HBO Max.

General Admission \$25.00; Premium Booth \$75.00 (Booth seats four and includes a \$200 food & beverage credit).

This is a 21+ only event.

To purchase tickets visit [improv.com/milwaukee](http://improv.com/milwaukee).

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## Spinn M.K.E Cycle Classes

**Tuesday, Oct. 10**

**5:30 PM**

**Spinn M.K.E**

**309 W. Brown St.**

Powered by a passion for creating culture, community, and holistic wellness awareness, lifestyle fitness

brand Spinn M.K.E is reshaping fitness norms to create a vibrant culture of health and well-being. Spinn M.K.E Cycle classes are specially designed around our love for hip-hop music, dope energy, and the inspiration that pushes us every day. Milwaukee residents can register for one of several complimentary classes during the Cultures & Communities Festival to begin their fitness journey.

Limited to 20 spots per class. Visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) to register.



## Every Bottle Tells A Tale: An Evening of Wine, Dinner, and Storytelling with Edgar Torres

**Tuesday, Oct. 10**

**Doors 6:00 PM, Event 6:30 PM**

**Bavette La Boucherie**

**217 N. Broadway**

Join us for an evening of eating, drinking and storytelling with winemakers Edgar and Erika Torres. This collaborative wine dinner pairs the unique wines of California based Bodega de Edgar with the culinary prowess of our Third Ward's Bavette La Boucherie. Immigrating from Mexico with his father and believing in the American Dream, Edgar worked for years to invest in four barrels of wine. Dine with us as we hear Edgar's journey celebrating identity, purpose, and heritage.

\$180.00 per person. Visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) for tickets and more information. This is a 21+ only event.

**SPONSORED BY**





## Hey, High, Hello: A Conversation on Cannabis

**Tuesday, Oct. 10**  
**Doors 6:30 PM, Event 7:00 PM**  
**Company Brewing**  
**735 E. Center St.**

Utilizing clips from cult classics and pop-culture favorites like

Friday, Half-Baked, and Harold & Kumar, this evening brings together experts, advocates, and the community to explore the legalization, criminalization, and wellness of cannabis and CBD. Think you're in the know? Follow up the conversation by testing your trivia knowledge on the music, movie, and culture born out of cannabis.



## Parental Advisory: a breakbeat play

**Tuesday, Oct. 10**  
**7:30 PM**  
**Milwaukee Rep**  
**108 E. Wells St.**

In this high-energy world premiere by award-winning playwright Idris

Goodwin (HBO's Def Poetry Jam), two Hip-Hop artists mix slick beats and rhymes with important questions about censorship and expression in popular music. Half DJ jam session, half TED Talk, the play uses wit, humor and the uncanny powers of the Wu-Tang Clan to enter a conversation on parenting, identity and survival.

Ticketing available through The Rep's box office at [milwaukee.com](http://milwaukee.com).

Join us after "Parental Advisory: a breakbeat play" for a post-show conversation:

### **Speaking of Legacy: A Conversation about Hip-Hop's Past, Present & Future**

- Geraud Blanks, Chief Innovation Officer, Milwaukee Film (moderator)
- Element Everest-Blanks, HYFIN Music Director and Radio Milwaukee On-air Host
- Dameon Ellzey, political activist, and MC
- Kyle Ashley, Milwaukee Director for the Office of the Governor

**SPONSORED BY**





## Engage & Activate Community Schools Program

**Wednesday, Oct. 11**

**5:00 PM**

**Lincoln Avenue School**

**1817 W. Lincoln Ave.**

Join Milwaukee Film and Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership for

a double-feature screening of short films *THE HEARTLAND* and *THE STIGMA OF THE DURAG* by local directors Marquise Mays and Justin Goodrum. After the screenings, students will engage in a guided intergenerational discussion focusing on self-acceptance and reclaiming narratives about Black & Brown youth. This family-focused event is free, open to the public, and includes pizza and snacks. Don't miss this inspiring and thought-provoking experience!

**SPONSORED BY**



## Pop-up Cinema: Latino Arts

**Wednesday, Oct 11**

**Doors 5:30 PM, Screening: 6:00 PM**

**Latino Arts**

**1028 S. 9th St.**

Join us for a truly special community event, as we bring the magic of cinema right to your neighborhood

with our beloved "Pop-Up Cinemas!" In collaboration with Latino Arts, we're bringing you an old classic: *DOS TIPOS DE CUIDADO* (1953). Starring one of the stars of the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema, Pedro Infante, this is a drama you cannot miss! There'll be Latine food and vendors, and don't worry, there'll also be English subtitles!

Free and open to the public.

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## A Sense of Belonging: How Do You Say Your Last Name?

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Doors 5:30 PM, Event 6:00 PM

MARN Art + Culture Hub

191 N. Broadway

What does “Asian-American” even mean anyway? We’ve put this and

other existential questions of identity to esteemed Milwaukee multidisciplinary artist Howard Leu and Brooklyn author and illustrator Vanessa Nguyen (pictured), whose new coloring book “How Do You Say Your Last Name?” explores the duality of growing up as a first-generation Asian kid in America.

Free and open to the public.

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## The History of Polarization in American Music: A Conversation on Race & Music Presented by Gangstagrass

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Doors 5:30, PM Event 6:00 PM

Radio Milwaukee

220 E. Pittsburgh Ave.

#1 Billboard bluegrass charting hip-hop band Gangstagrass leads an inclusive dialogue on the origins of American music, revealing how marketing created artificial genre distinctions during the Jim Crow era when the recording industry emerged -- leaving a legacy of segregation that still persists today. The wide-ranging discussion explores the origin and development of the banjo and the cotillion, providing historical context that upends modern ideas of “black music” and “white music”. Gangstagrass’s own music fuses cherished American traditions into a fresh sound that is greater than the sum of its parts and underscores music’s ability to unite across boundaries.

Free and open to the public.



## Spinn M.K.E Cycle Classes

**Wednesday, October 11**

**6:30 PM**

**Spinn M.K.E**

**309 W. Brown St.**

Powered by a passion for creating culture, community, and holistic wellness awareness, lifestyle fitness

brand Spinn M.K.E is reshaping fitness norms to create a vibrant culture of health and well-being. Spinn M.K.E Cycle classes are specially designed around our love for hip-hop music, dope energy, and the inspiration that pushes us every day. Milwaukee residents can register for one of several complimentary classes during the Cultures & Communities Festival to begin their fitness journey.

Limited to 20 spots per class. Visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) to register.



## GenreQueer Presents Queer Trivia Night

**Wednesday, Oct. 11**

**Doors 6:00 PM, Event 7:00 PM**

**Promises**

**538 W. National Ave.**

Join us for a celebration on National Coming Out Day with a night of

music, dancing, and all things queer. Test your knowledge over topics about queer history, entertainment, icons, and so on. Teams of 4-6 people will have to register before the trivia begins and compete for amazing prizes. Come out with your friends, flex your brainpower, and be the team to beat!

Free and open to the public. This is a 21+ only event.

PRESENTED BY



**genrequeer**



## Poetry Unplugged 20th Anniversary Reunion

Wednesday, Oct. 11

Doors 7:00, PM Event 8:00 PM

The Cooperage

822 S. Water St.

In celebration of two decades of Poetry Unplugged, Milwaukee's

longest-running open mic experience and spoken word collective, founder and host Kwabena Nixon curates an evening filled with mesmerizing performances from an all-star line-up of local and national poets and special guest performers, backed by Milwaukee's favorite live band, Cigarette Break.

\$25 advance; \$20 MKE Film members; \$30 door; \$150 VIP (includes complimentary beer, wine, food, exclusive upstairs seating, and a special edition Cultures & Communities Festival t-shirt).

Visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) for tickets and more info. This is a 21+ only event.

PRESENTED BY



# MEMBERSHIP

## Join the Black Lens Council

Our Black Lens Council Members get the same benefits as a Milwaukee Film membership, plus additional perks as part of supporting our nationally renowned Black Lens program. All Memberships include access to our free monthly Members-only screening; discounts at the Oriental Theatre; and the best discounts for the Milwaukee Film Festival and the Cultures & Communities Festival.



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FILM

BLACK  
LENS



Your Black Lens Council Membership helps to sustain and elevate our Black Lens programming efforts through the power of film and important dialogue.





# FEATURED EVENT

## **Closing Night Celebration Featuring Gangstagrass / Shonn Hinton & Shotgun**

**Thursday, Oct. 12**

**Doors 7:00 PM Event 7:30 PM**

**The Cooperage, 822 S. Water St.**

Bringing together the Bluegrass Hip-Hop stylings of the genre-demolishing band Gangstagrass (top) and Milwaukee's own Blues-Rock sensation Shonn Hinton & Shotgun for a unique set of performances that seamlessly fuse a range of musical genres, the Closing Night Party promises to be a captivating finale to our eight-day celebration of diverse cultural expression.

\$25 advance; \$20 MKE Film members; \$30 door; \$150 VIP

This is a 21+ only event.

To purchase tickets visit [mkefilm.org](http://mkefilm.org)



## The Collaborative Connection: A STEM Education Mentorship Match

Thursday, Oct. 12

9:00 AM

Lubar Entrepreneurship Center  
& UWM Welcome Center  
2100 E. Kenwood Blvd.

A partnership with the WiscAMP

STEM-Inspire Program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “The Collaborative Connection” is a unique mentorship experience for local youth, mirroring a typical young professionals networking session.

Through short, 20-minute rotations, high school students connect with an esteemed group of experienced mentors offering expertise in various STEAM-related fields. The combination of peer group interaction and candid feedback will foster an engaging opportunity for future leaders to articulate their aspirations and set clear goals without fear of ridicule or judgment.

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## The State of Modern Conservatism Feat. Charlie Sykes

Thursday, Oct. 12

Doors 3:30 PM, Event 4:00 PM

Marquette University, Weasler Auditorium

1506 W. Wisconsin Ave.

With the Republican National

Convention set to take place in Milwaukee in July 2024, there is no better time to delve into the current state of local and national Republican politics. Led by GOP diagnostician Charlie Sykes and featuring insightful discussions on a range of topics pertinent to conservatism and Republican constituents, this event aims to foster understanding and encourage civil discourse.

Following the panel discussions, attendees are invited to continue the conversation over dinner with students in the Marquette Civic Dialogues Program, who will facilitate table discussions about political conflict and cooperation.

Free and open to the public.

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## Engage & Activate Community Schools Program

**Thursday, October 12**

**5:00 PM**

**Browning Elementary School  
5440 N. 64th St.**

Join Milwaukee Film and Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership for

a double-feature screening of short films *THE HEARTLAND* and *THE STIGMA OF THE DURAG* by local directors Marquise Mays and Justin Goodrum. After the screenings, students will engage in a guided intergenerational discussion focusing on themes of Black & Brown joy, reclaiming Narratives, and self-acceptance. This family-focused event is free, open to the public, and includes pizza and snacks. Don't miss this inspiring and thought-provoking experience! Free and open to the public.

**SPONSORED BY**



## Elevation without Intoxication Workshop

**Thursday, October 12**

**6:30 PM**

**Honeybee Sage and Wellness & Apothecary Café  
1819 N. Doctor MLK Jr. Dr.**

Learn to create an elevated home environment and discover herbs and tinctures for a healthy mind and body. This tasting includes alcohol-free spirits and cocktails and is limited to 40 spots per class.

Free and open to the public. Registration required, please visit [mkefilm.org/ccfevents](http://mkefilm.org/ccfevents) to register.

# FILM SCHEDULE



The 2023 Cultures & Communities film line-up offers a tightly curated range of thirteen conversation-starting film programs selected collaboratively by Milwaukee Film's programming staff that explore various identities, cultural practices, and issues that matter to intersectional communities in Milwaukee and beyond.

The lineup features films from several of our faves from festivals earlier in the year, films from new voices we've recently fallen in love with, and new films from filmmakers our audiences may already know well who will be back once again with new projects.





## The League

Thursday, Oct 5

7:00 PM

Oriental Theatre

United States / 2023 /

103 min / English

The Negro League was a stage for some of the world's best

athletes and an economic and social pillar of Black communities. Featuring interviews with Negro League players like Buck O'Neil and Hall of Fame Inductees Monte Irvin, Willie Mays, and Hank Aaron. Following the arc of race history in the United States, THE LEAGUE celebrates some of the 20th century's best athletes and entrepreneurs while grappling with America's arduous march toward equality. *Guests scheduled to attend!*

**DIR** Sam Pollard **PROD** Robin Espinola, Jon Kamen, Dave Sirulnick, Jen Isaacson, Byron Motley

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## Every Body

Friday, Oct 6

4:00 PM

Oriental Theatre

United States / 2023 /

92 min / English

From Academy Award-nominee Julie Cohen (RBG)

comes EVERY BODY, a timely interrogation of our country's obsession with gender through the lens of the oft-erased "I" in LGBTQIA+—intersex. Recounting their individual experiences with stigma, social pressure, and nonconsensual surgeries performed on them as minors, Sean Saifa Wall, Alicia Roth Weigel, and River Gallo make a case for the much-needed rethinking of both archaic medical practices and binary thinking about sex and gender.

**DIR** Julie Cohen **PROD** Tommy Nguyen, Molly O'Brien



## The Space Race

**Friday, Oct 6**

**7:00 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2023 /  
91 min / English

Milwaukee Film Festival alum  
Lisa Cortés (LITTLE RICHARD)

joins forces with Diego Hurtado de Mendoza for this powerful and illuminating story behind the first Black astronauts. Featuring candid interviews with Ed Dwight, Guion Bluford, Charles Bolden, and Victor Glover, this film goes beyond the expected hero narrative to shed new light on our nation's ongoing racial reckoning and attitudes toward space exploration and scientific discovery.

*Guests scheduled to attend!*

**DIR** Lisa Cortés, Diego Hurtado de Mendoza **PROD** Carolyn Bernstein, Alex Bowen, Lisa Cortés, Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, Leland Melvin, Mark Monroe, Aly Parker, Keero Birla



## Fremont

**Saturday, Oct 7**

**2:30 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2022 /  
91 min / English, Dari, Cantonese

Donya works for a Chinese  
fortune cookie factory in San

Francisco. As a former Afghan translator for the U.S. military, she struggles to put her new refugee life back in order. Featuring standout performances from newcomer Anaita Wali Zada and THE BEAR's Jeremy Allen White, FREMONT "finds romance in everyday interactions, and in the easy pleasure of opening up a cookie and reading one's fortune." (The Film Stage)

**DIR** Babak Jalali **PROD** Rachael Fung, Chris Martin, Marjaneh Moghimi, George Rush, Sudnya Shroff, Laura Wagner



## Uncharted

**Saturday, Oct 7**

**5:30 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2023 /  
95 min / English

Go behind the scenes of  
Alicia Keys' "She is The Music"

songwriting camp with filmmaker Beth Aala in this revealing look at the music industry and its lack of access and opportunity granted to young Black and Brown women. The camp's three resilient participants take center stage as they try to break through the industry with the next big hit song.

**DIR** Beth Aala **PROD** Beth Aala

SPONSORED BY **TEMPO**



## Rotting in the Sun

**Saturday, Oct 7**

**8:30 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2022 / 109 min  
/ English, Spanish

When **ROTTING IN THE SUN**  
premiered at Sundance, rumors

swirled that the mystery-comedy's nude beach sequence featured a number of non-prosthetic d\*\*ks—and shots of unsimulated sex—that would make even HBO's **EUPHORIA** blush. (We stopped count around 30 d\*\*ks, by the way.) Beyond the wild party scenes lies an unforgettable, hilarious, high-tension, NC-17 level queer thrill ride that, unlike its co-leads (influencer Jordan Firstman and filmmaker Sebastián Silva, as themselves) is best kept under wraps.

**DIR** Sebastián Silva **PROD** Jacob Wasserman



## Kids Shorts: Stay Gold

**Sunday, Oct 8**

**12:00 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

Canada / 2022 /  
120 min / English

From an Iranian boy who befriends an older woman in

Tokyo to a glittery and gritty fairy godmother in Taiwan or America's first all-girls tackle football league, KIDS SHORTS: STAY GOLD is a vibrant glimpse into inspirational communities and misfit-moxie-heroes around the world who defy convention while finding deep connection along the way. **Ages 8-14**

**Eid Mubarak** Mahnoor Euceph

**First Down** Carrie Stett

**I Scream, You Scream** Ashley Brandon

**Outside** Wouter Keijzer

**Phonos** Gabriela Badillo

**Tank Fairy** Erich Rettstadt

**The Old Young Crow** Liam LoPinto



## Golden Delicious

**Sunday, Oct 8**

**2:30 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

Canada / 2022 /  
120 min / English

When basketball-obsessed Aleks moves in across his

street, Asian-Canadian teen Jake finds himself rushing to tryouts to get his attention. Feeling stuck between his parents' expectations and his desires for the future, Jake decides to shoot his shot. Playing like a binge-worthy DEGRASSI arc, this charming and romantic coming-of-age feature is a winning heart-warmer from the start.

**DIR** Jason Karman **PROD** Kristyn Stilling





## Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project

**Sunday, Oct 8**

**6:00 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2022 /

102 min / English

As one of America's greatest living artists and social commentators, Nikki Giovanni's influence is revealed through the innovative biographical documentary GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT. The film's cinematic story editing parallels with visual treatments of her poetry, along with rich archival footage and captivating contemporary performances as Giovanni's work of resistance through tumultuous periods is traced—from the Civil Rights Movement to the Black Arts Movement to present-day Black Lives Matter.

**DIR** Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson **PROD** Joe Brewster, Michèle Stephenson, Tommy Oliver



## Fancy Dance

**Monday, Oct 9**

**7:00 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2022 /

90 min / English

Since her sister's disappearance, Jax (Lily

Gladstone) has cared for her niece Roki by scraping by on the Seneca-Cayuga Reservation in Oklahoma. At the risk of losing custody to Jax's father, the pair hits the road and scour the backcountry to track down Roki's mother in time for the powwow. What begins as a search becomes a far more profound investigation of the complexities and contradictions of Indigenous women moving through a colonized world.

**DIR** Erica Tremblay **PROD** Deidre Backs, Nina Yang Bongiovi, Tommy Oliver, Heather Rae, Erica Tremblay

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## Coldwater Kitchen

**Tuesday, Oct 10**

**7:00 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2022 /

90 min / English

For 30 years, soft-spoken chef Jimmy Lee Hill has run a highly regarded culinary training

program out of prison in Coldwater, MI, offering incarcerated men a renewed sense of purpose through the craft of fine dining—everything from foie gras to lobster. **COLDWATER KITCHEN** follows Chef Hill and three of his students as they navigate the equally challenging realities of incarceration and transitioning back into civilian life. *Guests scheduled to attend!*

**DIR** Brian Kaufman, Mark Kurlyandchik **PROD** Kathy Kieliszewski, Steve Byrne, Nicole Avery Nichols

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## Lady Buds

**Wednesday, Oct 11**

**7:00 PM**

**Oriental Theatre**

United States / 2021 / 96 min /

English

**LADY BUDS** tells the story of six women navigating the

industrial age of cannabis in California after its legalization in 2016. As they emerge from the hazy underground and fiercely independent scene before legalization, they must battle corporate greed, sexism and racism, wildfires, and more as they fight to keep their independent spirit ablaze in this inspiring and inquisitive documentary.

**DIR** Chris J. Russo **PROD** Michael J. Katz, Christian Bruno, Chris J. Russo



## Hummingbirds

Thursday, Oct 12

7:00 PM

Oriental Theatre

United States / 2023 / 78 min /  
English, Spanish

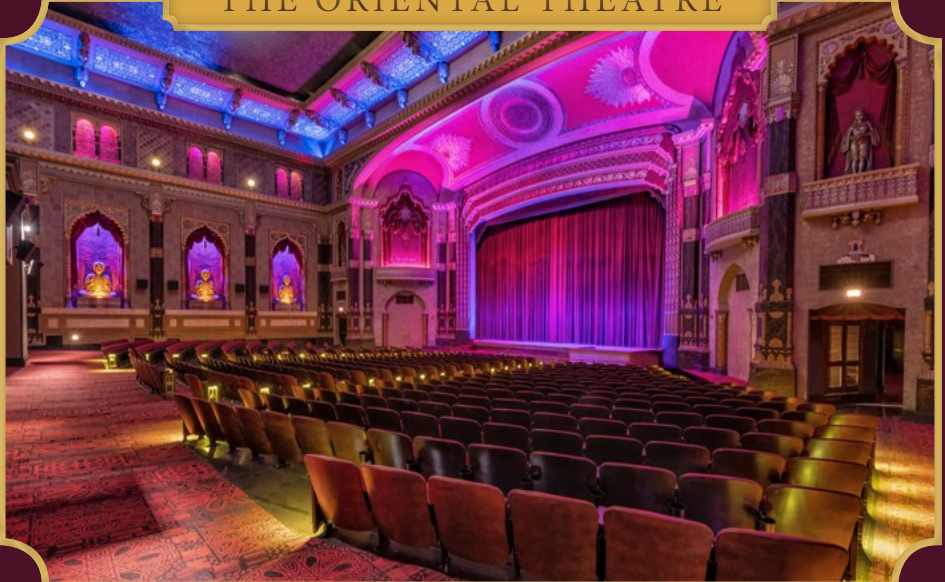
An exciting, fresh, and timely  
look at coming-of-age in a

small Texas town. Co-directors Silvia Del Carmen Castaños and Estefanía “Beba” Contreras document their friendship through a lazy summer before college. These Gen-Z women have already dealt with issues like immigration and racism and, in the wake of recent Supreme Court rulings, must now contend with a more challenging future. But in the end, this film celebrates friendship, joy, youthful energy, and hope.

**DIR** Silvia Del Carmen Castaños, Estefanía “Beba” Contreras

**PROD** Leslie Benavides, Miguel Drake-McLaughlin, Rivkah Beth Medow, Diane Ng, Ana Rodriguez-Falcó, Jillian Schlesinger

## THE ORIENTAL THEATRE



Wish you were here. Love, Milwaukee Film.





# KOHL'S

**Kohl's is a proud sponsor of Milwaukee Film's "Cultures & Communities" Festival, and we see this as a pivotal opportunity to create and deliver meaningful change.**

Making space to celebrate our diversity is what makes us stronger, helps us lead with empathy, and amplifies that embracing our differences is fundamental in creating an inclusive environment for all.

Kohl's works to build connections through conversations, programs and partnerships like Milwaukee Film to improve the quality of life for the good of our people, customers and communities.



**Together we're better. Together we're stronger.  
Together we're Kohl's.**



# We All Succeed When Barriers Are Removed



In Milwaukee County, we are taking an all-hands approach to realizing our vision that by achieving racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest county in Wisconsin. For the Milwaukee County Office of Equity, that includes the just and fair inclusion of people of color in a society where all people can participate, prosper and reach their full human potential.



MKEOOE



mkeoeequity



mkeOAAAA

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[equityoffice@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:equityoffice@milwaukeecountywi.gov) | 414-278-7979



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& Communities Festival

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

FILMS

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
											<b>THE LEAGUE</b> 7:00 PM				

EVENTS

												<b>OPENING NIGHT PARTY FEAT. DJ SPINDERELLA</b> 8:00 PM			
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### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

FILMS

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
								<b>EVERY BODY</b> 4:00 PM			<b>THE SPACE RACE</b> 7:00 PM				

EVENTS

										<b>POP-UP CINEMA: EPIKOS CHURCH-SHERMAN PARK</b> 5:30 PM					
									<b>ANCESTRAL WISDOM...</b> 5:30 PM		<b>BATTLE OF THE CHEFS</b> 7:00 PM			<b>THE TURN UP WITH DJ BIZZON</b> 10:00 PM	
										<b>SPINN M.K.E</b> 6:30 PM					
											<b>BOMBERXS DE'CORA AND DE LA BUENA</b> 7:00 PM				

FILMS

EVENTS

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
						<b>FREMONT</b> 2:30 PM			<b>UNCHARTED</b> 5:30 PM			<b>ROTTING IN THE SUN</b> 8:30 PM			
			<b>PERCUSSION WORKSHOPS</b> 10:30 AM		<b>DANCE WORKSHOPS</b> 12:30 PM	<b>CULTURE BY DESIGN: A SNEAKER AND STREETWEAR SUMMIT</b> 12:00 PM								<b>FESTIVAL LATE-NIGHT: ADI ARMOUR AND KLASSIK</b> 10:00 PM	

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

FILMS

EVENTS

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
				<b>KIDS SHORTS: STAY GOLD</b> 12:00 PM		<b>GOLDEN DELICIOUS</b> 2:30 PM				<b>GOING TO MARS: THE NIKKI GIOVANNI PROJECT</b> 6:00 PM					
			<b>MOTORCYCLE DIARIES: THE LEGACY OF MOTORCYCLE MUSIC, FASHION AND COMMUNITY</b> 11:00 AM						<b>TANGLED ROOTS: UNRAVELING HAIR DISCRIMINATION...</b> 4:30 PM				<b>JANELLE JAMES: NEWLY FAMOUS COMEDY TOUR</b> 7:00 PM		

CCF AT A GLANCE Use our films and events guide to plan your festival calendar and find the events that are right for you!

**FEATURED EVENTS** | **MIND BODY AND SOUL** | **CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS** | **FAMILY FRIENDLY** | **ENGAGING ENTERTAINMENT** | **FILMS**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9**

FILMS

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
											FANCY DANCE 7:00 PM				

EVENTS

	PSYCHOHAIRAPY WORKSHOP 9:00 AM									THE ART OF STORYTELLING: EXPLORING NARRATIVE... 5:30 PM					
										SOUND BATH 6:30 PM					

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10**

FILMS

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
											COLDWATER KITCHEN 7:00 PM				

EVENTS

										SPINN M.K.E 5:30 PM	HEY, HIGH, HELLO: A CONVERSATION ON CANNABIS 6:30 PM				
										"DON'T @ ME TOUR" WITH AIDA RODRIGUEZ 6:00 PM					
										EVERY BOTTLE TELLS A TALE: AN EVENING OF WINE, DINNER, AND STORYTELLING... 6:00 PM					
											PARENTAL ADVISORY: A BREAKBEAT PLAY 6:30 PM				



## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

FILMS

EVENTS

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
											LADY BUDS 7:00 PM				
									ENGAGE & ACTIVATE: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 5:00 PM	SPINN M.K.E 6:30 PM					
									POP-UP CINEMA: LATINO ARTS 5:30 PM						
									A SENSE OF BELONGING: HOW DO YOU SAY YOUR LAST NAME? 5:30 PM						
									THE HISTORY OF POLARIZATION IN AMERICAN MUSIC... 5:30 PM						
										GENREQUEER PRESENTS QUEER TRIVIA NIGHT 6:00 PM					
											POETRY UNPLUGGED 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION 7:00 PM				

CCF AT A GLANCE Use our films and events guide to plan your festival calendar and find the events that are right for you!

FEATURED EVENTS | MIND BODY AND SOUL | CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS | FAMILY FRIENDLY | ENGAGING ENTERTAINMENT | FILMS

FILMS  
EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	9:00 PM	10:00 PM	11:00 PM
											HUMMINGBIRDS 7:00 PM				
	STEM MENTORSHIP MATCH 9:00 PM						THE STATE OF MODERN CONSERVATISM FEAT. CHARLIE SYKES 3:30 PM			ENGAGE & ACTIVATE: COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 5:00 PM	ELEVATION WITHOUT... 6:30 PM				
												CLOSING NIGHT FEAT. GANGSTAGRASS WITH SHONN HINTON & SHOTGUN 7:00 PM			

CCF AT A GLANCE Use our films and events guide to plan your festival calendar and find the events that are right for you!

[FEATURED EVENTS](#) | [MIND BODY AND SOUL](#) | [CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS](#) | [FAMILY FRIENDLY](#) | [ENGAGING ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [FILMS](#)

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Milwaukee Film is equal parts Milwaukee and film. We're extraordinarily proud to have the support of a number of local programs and institutions, from small businesses to beloved eateries to impactful nonprofits. Our organization is all about fueling the connections that come from experiencing cinema in community, and our community partnerships help us connect to all of Milwaukee.

Alliance Française de Milwaukee

The Alice Wilds

The Alma Center, Inc.

America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM)

Antigua Latin Inspired Kitchen

ArtWorks for Milwaukee

Artists Working in Education (AWE)

B&M Accounting and Tax Services

Bandit MKE

Bay Bridge Wisconsin

Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC)

Breaking and Entering Milwaukee

The BrandLab

Bremen Cafe

The Burmese Rohingya Community of Wisconsin (BRCW)

CLARA Healing Institute

The Classic Shoppe

Courage MKE

Danceworks MKE

Discovery World

Dtangld Hair Salon and Suite

DryBar

EatMoveMKE

ElevAsian

Foundations for Freedom, Inc

Free Pour MKE

FreshFin

Fuel Cafe

Gallery 218

Girls Rock MKE

Groundwork Milwaukee

Hacienda Beer Co.

Hmong American Women's Association (HAWA)

Horizon Home Care and Hospice

Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee (HTTFGM)

Ian's Pizza Milwaukee

Janelle Gramling Studio

Japanese American Citizens League

Kelly's Greens

La Causa, Inc.

La Piña

Latinas Connect Milwaukee

Lion's Tooth

LUNA

Lush Popcorn

MAdre Wellness Collective

MalamaDoe

Mattie's Memory

Married in Milwaukee

Men of Men, Inc. (MOM)

Miller and Campbell Costume Service (MAC)

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre

Milwaukee County Historical Society

Milwaukee Peace Corps Association (MPCA)

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance

Milwaukee Riverkeeper

MKE LGBT Community Center

Odd Duck

Our Voice Milwaukee

Public Allies Wisconsin

Reginald Baylor Studio

Selfish Evolution

Sherman Phoenix Marketplace

TruCannaBliss

Turning Tables

Two Pie Films, LLC.

UBUNTU Research and Evaluation

URSA

UWM - Center for Student Experience and Talent

UWM - Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres

UWM - Office of Applied Gerontology

UWM - LGBTQ+ Resource Center

UWM - Lubar Entrepreneurship Center

UWM - Journalism, Advertising, Media Studies (JAMS)

Victims of Milwaukee Violence Burial Fund

Walker's Pint

Wisconsin Anti-Violence Effort Educational Fund (WAVE)

Woodland Pattern Book Center

# ABOUT MILWAUKEE FILM

Founded in 2008 by Chris Abele and Bill & Carmen Haberman, Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to creating world-class cinematic experiences that convene diverse communities and catalyze positive change in Milwaukee and beyond. Milwaukee Film is a national leader among cultural arts organizations and operates year-round using film to inspire community, artistry, education, and joy. We center our work on making our communities more empathetic and equitable for everyone to live, and our vision is to become America's most dynamic, well-rounded film culture institution.

## MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL (MFF)



Since 2009, the annual Milwaukee Film Festival has brought together audiences and filmmakers to celebrate the power of cinema.

It is one of the largest film festivals in the country and was recognized by *Moviemaker Magazine* as one of the "Coolest Film Festivals in the World." In 2019, our annual Milwaukee Film Festival attracted more than 87,000 attendees to packed cinemas, and over 100,000 people joined our virtual festivals in 2020 and 2021. The 2023 Milwaukee Film Festival presented

280 public, in-cinema screenings with a 58% increase in in-person attendance from 2022. We continue to elevate Milwaukee's film industry each year and bring world-class films and filmmakers to local audiences while celebrating film, arts, and culture unlike anything else in Milwaukee.

## ORIENTAL THEATRE



Milwaukee Film operates the historic Oriental Theatre, a magnificent movie palace recognized on the National Register of Historic Places. Since getting the keys in 2018, Milwaukee Film has worked to revitalize this one-of-a-kind space. In 2019, we fully restored one of the three houses

inside the theater, replaced the lobby concessions stand, and showed nearly 250 film titles outside MFF. After the theater closed in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we began our next phase of renovations, working to restore much of the theatre's other two houses while also incorporating hearing loops for improved accessibility. We're now fully reopened and proud to show off what we've accomplished in restoring this historical gem.

## EDUCATION



Beyond screening movies, Milwaukee Film aims to foster deeper audience engagement with film and serve our community. Our education programs are critically important elements of this work. Whether bringing films to the classroom with our Take 1 filmmaking courses for high school students, bringing the classroom to film with our special education screenings or everything in between—Milwaukee Film is committed to

making a lasting impact on local movie lovers no matter their age.

## ARTIST SERVICES



Milwaukee Film provides year-long initiatives, events, and programming for local filmmakers to hone their craft and get the support they need for their storytelling projects. We are the leading regional funder of filmmakers through the Forward Fund, offering annual grants of \$100,000 and a Fiscal Sponsorship Program to assist filmmakers in soliciting and receiving project funding. Through our Focus Finder Accelerator, Milwaukee Film provides a cohort-based, two-year program for emerging film talent from historically under-resourced identities as a way to develop, connect, and elevate diverse voices in film.



# STAFF

## LEADERSHIP

**Geraud Blanks**  
*Chief Innovation Officer*

**Kristen C. Heller**  
*Chief Operating Officer*

**Jonathan Jackson**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Cara Ogburn, Ph.D.**  
*Artistic Director*

**Rebecca Steiner**  
*Interim Chief Financial Officer*

## ARTISTIC

**Marielle Allschwang**  
*Education Manager*

**Ian Cessna**  
*Take 1: Teen Filmmaking Lab Instructor*

**Tyanna Clayton-Mallett**  
*Educational Outreach & Engagement Coordinator*

**Abbie Esterline**  
*Programming Coordinator*

**Jack Feria**  
*GenreQueer & Shorts Programmer*

**Kerstin Larson**  
*Programming Director*

**Marquise Mays**  
*Black Lens Programmer/Take 1: Teen Filmmaking Lab Instructor*

**Ernie Quiroz**  
*Cine Sin Fronteras Programmer*

**Brigid Wheeler**  
*Artist Services Manager*

## DEVELOPMENT

**Haley Beller**  
*Development Database & Research Specialist*

**Kristopher Pollard**  
*Membership Manager*

**Dana Reinoos**  
*Executive Assistant*

**Rachel Vander Weit**  
*Development Director*

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**Rym Soltani**  
*Human Resources Generalist*

## INNOVATION

**Robyn Erhlich**  
*Marketing Coordinator*

**Connor Erickson**  
*Community Events Coordinator*

**Matthew Gnas**  
*Creative Services Manager*

**Bre Graziano**  
*Communications Director*

**Jade Hampe**  
*Strategic Partnership Coordinator*

**Jared Lee**  
*Digital Marketing Manager*

**Jolee Mallmann**  
*Digital Coordinator*

**Erika Petterson**  
*Director of Project Management*

**Maureen Post**  
*Strategic Partnerships Director*

**Adilene Quezada**  
*Cine Sin Fronteras Program Coordinator*

**Ranell Washington**  
*Strategic Partnerships Manager*

**Ryan Ziegler**  
*Graphic Designer*

## FINANCE

**Adam Mallen**  
*Accounting Coordinator*

## OPERATIONS

**Anastasia Esther**  
*Festival Production Coordinator*

**Caroline Fraser**  
*Festival Operations Assistant*

**Britany Gunderson**  
*Festival Shipping Coordinator*

**Curt Heiner**  
*Festival Technical Coordinator*

**Brian Hupke**  
*Festival Engineer*

**Anahis Injasoulian**  
*Ticketing & Customer Service Manager*

**Kelsey Parks**  
*Lead Cinema Technician*

**Ryan Putskey**  
*Facilities Manager*

**Kevin Rice**  
*Technical Director*

**Brett Smith**  
*IT Technician*

## **FESTIVAL REVISIONISTS**

**Morgan Murphy**  
**Jonathan Foster**

## **FESTIVAL PROJECTIONISTS**

**Tristan Adams**  
**Joaquin de la Peunte**  
**Sam LaStrapes**  
**Hasti Soltani**  
**Spencer Tye**  
**Modestina Weeden**  
**Danielle Wright**

## **FESTIVAL THEATER MANAGER**

**Anthony Fiorenzo**  
**Mark Levi Johnson**  
**Emily Porter**  
**Ben Post**  
**Mercedez Yasmeen**

## **FESTIVAL ASSISTANT THEATER MANAGERS**

**Karen Duerr**  
**Ben Friedman**  
**Graham Hartlaub**  
**Dovie Hughes**  
**Sierra Irwin**  
**Roger Kocher**  
**Philippe Melo**  
**Carrie O'Connell**  
**Amanda Worley**

## **CINEMA STAFF**

**Petey Balestrieri**  
*Cinema Manager*

**Malik Riddle**  
*Lead Assistant Cinema Manager*

## **ASSISTANT CINEMA MANAGERS**

**Tristan Adams**  
**Mahdi Gransberry**  
**Deiva Motley**  
**Brel Schroeder**

## **CINEMA ASSOCIATES**

**Philippe Amorim Figueiredo de Melo**  
**Aneesh Beahlen**  
**Dara Carneol**  
**Gini Connell**  
**Zack Cowell**  
**Tyler Glor**  
**Harmony Henderson**  
**Zac Higgins**  
**Maddie Hogue**  
**Leah Holterman**  
**Krissy Olson**  
**Cece Stocker**  
**Freya Theler**  
**Spencer Tye**  
**Carrie Van Gorder**  
**Jada Wegner**  
**Jake Whalen**  
**Ian Wilkinson**  
**Ty Williams**  
**Kami Yelk**



**MILWAUKEE**  
**FILM**



# WE'RE ALL ONE CREW

As Presenting Sponsors of the Cultures and Communities Festival, the Milwaukee Brewers aim to celebrate, support, and amplify the powerful, diverse voices and perspectives of our community.

We believe in the power of storytelling. By sharing our experiences, we can help eliminate barriers to understanding one another and instead, build empathy and insight into what can bring us together.

Milwaukee Film's programming offers our community the ability to experience each other's stories through the power of film, events and outreach. We are proud to be a part of their efforts.

