

## **Our Mission** –

#### To entertain, educate, and engage our community through cinematic experiences

Through our operations, advocacy, and community engagement, Milwaukee Film seeks to accelerate film culture and positively impact the Greater Milwaukee region.



MILWAUKEE

## Our Goals —

- To grow our locally beloved and internationally acclaimed film festival into a community and cultural center
- To provide an ongoing platform for entertainment, education, and engagement through the Oriental Theatre
- To offer year-round education programs in the classroom and at the Oriental Theatre, teaching students the power of film and arts literacy
- To provide strategic support to filmmakers and projects





## CELEBRATION Milwaukee Film Festival



- Since our first event in 2009, the Milwaukee Film Festival has become a signature event for our community and has grown into the largest arts event in Milwaukee.
- The 11th Milwaukee Film Festival was held in October 2019 and featured:
  - -More than 87,000 attendees, a Festival record
  - -349 films screened
  - -Eight screens across six venues
  - -134 corporate partners, foundations, and individual sponsors
- The 12th Festival will be held Oct. 15-29, 2020
- Our Festival brings together our diverse community to share immersive experiences, expand their worldview, and celebrate the power of film



"I love how the festival brings together the community of Milwaukee through film. We get to experience these amazing films together." "This event has become one of Milwaukee's true cultural gems." - 2019 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL ATTENDEES



## EXCELLENCE Oriental Theatre –



- Milwaukee Film took over operations of the historic cinema palace, the Oriental Theatre, in July 2018
- The Oriental Theatre is consistently featured as one of the top movie theaters in the country (Entertainment Weekly, USA Today)
- In 2019, Milwaukee Film surpassed its goal in a \$10 million capital campaign to fund extensive restoration and upgrades that will continue over the course of the next few years
- The Oriental Theatre enables Milwaukee Film to entertain and engage audiences year-round, while also opening extensive opportunities for education programs and events
- The theater gives us a critical platform toward fulfilling our vision of making Milwaukee a center of film culture



"Like theater, film is a medium best experienced in community." JENNIE LIVINGSTON, *"PARIS IS BURNING"* DIRECTOR, IN HER MFF2019 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"Some of the films have altered my understanding of major global and local issues. The films have inspired important conversations and have brought me joy. I especially love the Oriental Theatre feeling like the home of such important work."

- 2019 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL ATTENDEE



## INCLUSION Cultures and Communities



- Milwaukee Film's Cultures and Communities initiative supports our goal to engage our entire community in our mission and programs
- This initiative seeks to advance established programs such as Black Lens, Cine Sin Fronteras, and GenreQueer, while also creating new platforms such as community festivals
- For 2020, major Cultures and Communities events include:
  - February: Black History Month films and events
  - April: Milwaukee Muslim Film Festival, in partnership with Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition
  - **September:** Second annual Minority Health Film Festival, in partnership with Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin
  - October: Black Lens, Cine Sin Fronteras, and GenreQueer films and events during the Milwaukee Film Festival



## INCLUSION - Black Lens







- Created in 2014 to foreground the work of emerging and established African-American filmmakers
- Provides a critical function by gathering diverse audiences to illuminate and discuss issues concerning African-Americans through film narratives
- Connects Milwaukee Film with local organizations and community leaders to develop new audiences and supporters
- Has received national recognition and support from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and HBO



## INCLUSION Cine Sin Fronteras





- Established in 2015 to highlight the multifaceted experience of Latinx, Chicanx, Latin American, Indigenous, and Afro-Latino communities
- Creates an inclusive space to represent and affirm the diverse identities across a growing Latinx community
- Offers a platform for cross-cultural conversation and understanding in a highly segregated city
- In 2019, Milwaukee Film screened 12 films in its Cine Sin Fronteras program, in addition to presenting exciting events that celebrated the food, music, and culture of our Latinx community



## INCLUSION GenreQueer



- Milwaukee Film's GenreQueer program uses film, forums, and events to explore LGBTQ+ voices and experiences, celebrating the past, present, and future of cinema's rich queer tradition
- The 2019 Milwaukee Film Festival featured 16 GenreQueer films and three events, ranging from panels to a drag show
- Jennie Livingtson, director of the landmark documentary "Paris Is Burning," gave the keynote address on the state of cinema during the 2019 Festival



"The social justice mindset of MFF and of Milwaukee Film itself, attract me and others. I feel proud to be a member of an organization with an interest in the social issues in our city."

"We loved the strong sense of community among festival patrons, who ranged from toddler to elderly and in every shade of skin. That's the kind of integration we need here all year long. Even better, there were movies catering to and featuring each of these groups, which they could bond with and the rest of us could learn from."

- 2019 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL ATTENDEES

## COMMUNITY Membership



- Milwaukee Film's more than 5,500 Members enjoy a broad range of benefits and serve among our organization's best ambassadors
- More than seven in 10 of our Members renew each year, a retention rate that's 25 percent above the median for arts and culture organizations
- Our passionate and engaged Member base is a key part of Milwaukee Film's long-term success, and this vibrant community spreads their love of our organization and events throughout the region



## EDUCATION Youth Education Programs



- Youth education programs make arts literacy accessible for all students and educators, both in the classroom and at the majestic Oriental Theatre
- In 2019, education screenings at the Oriental Theatre reached nearly 10,000 local students
   both during the Festival and throughout the school year
- Reel Talks connect students with filmmakers from Milwaukee and around the globe to discuss film, the filmmaking industry, and personal experiences
- Educator fellowships bring local teachers to the Milwaukee Film Festival and to group meetings as a training ground for using film in their own classrooms
- The Teen Film Council screens, discusses, and programs films for the Teen Screen program at the Milwaukee Film Festival



## EDUCATION Milwaukee Filmmaker Alliance





MILWAUKEE FILMMAKER ALLIANCE



- Brings together and supports individuals involved in all forms of media, television, and filmmaking, both artistic and commercial
- MFA membership has grown to more than 400 Members since the program launched in 2017, ranging from students to seasoned professionals
- Offers advocacy, networking opportunities, education, exposure, funding, workshops, and discussions with local and national artists
- Seeks to grow and sustain Milwaukee's diverse and vibrant filmmaking community
- In 2019, the Brico Forward Fund awarded a record \$100,000 in cash support for seven Milwaukee-based film projects, as well as more than \$80,000 in sponsor-donated production resources



## Board and Governance

Our board of directors provides invaluable support for our organization and an incredible connection to a diverse core of Milwaukee leaders.

#### **BOARD CHAIR**

Patti Keating Kahn

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Brenner Alexander P. Fraser, Immediate Past Board Chair Michael G. Klein Tracey L. Klein, Past Board Chair and Secretary Ken Krei, Chair Elect Marianne Lubar Kenneth W. Muth Joseph A. Rock, Treasurer John Utz

#### **MEMBERS**

Chris Abele John P. Bania Donna Baumgartner Lori Brissette Kathryn Murphy Burke Héctor Colón Karen Ellenbecker Jeff Fitzsimmons Carmen Haberman Susan Haise Katie Heil Jasmine M. Johnson Michael J. Koss Jr. Alexander Lasry Steve Laughlin Emilia Layden

Michael R. Lovell Joan Lubar Steve Mech Susan Mikulay Mark Mone Heidi Moore John Ridley Lacey Sadoff Dave Stamm James E. Stoll Julia Taylor Kimberly Walker

#### **EMERITUS MEMBERS**

Tom Barrett Jacqueline Strayer



## LEADERSHIP Executive Team



#### JONATHAN JACKSON

#### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

- Has led Milwaukee Film since 2008
- Oversees strategic and artistic direction of the organization, working with the board of directors and staff to fulfill our mission
- Previously served as artistic director for the Milwaukee International Film Festival



#### **SEBASTIAN MEI**

CHIEF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Joined Milwaukee Film in 2018
- Oversees and leads strategy for Development and Marketing
- Previously worked in sales and brand partnership development for The Onion, Vimeo, and Mic



#### **KRISTEN HELLER**

#### CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

- Joined Milwaukee Film in 2013
- Oversees operations teams for cinema, Festival, and office
- Previously served as associate manager with Sundance Film Festival



#### JASON KOEHLER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- Joined Milwaukee Film in 2015
- Oversees all financial management for the organization and serves as lead partner on fiscal strategies
- Previously worked as controller with Aisle Logic



### BY THE NUMBERS Milwaukee Film Festival -





### BY THE NUMBERS Oriental Theatre -







**MILWAUKEE** FILM Source: 2018 Art House Convergence National Audience Survey.

## - Support for Milwaukee Film -

- As a growing nonprofit, Milwaukee Film relies on a wide array of partnerships, grants, gifts, in-kind support, memberships, and ticket sales to advance our mission
- Operating the Oriental Theatre will play a critical role in our ongoing success, helping to sustain operations and secure Milwaukee Film's future



#### 2019 MILWAUKEE FILM INCOME



- 52% Cinema
- 24% Membership
- 18% Festival
- 6% Other



## SPONSORSHIP - Testimonials

#### OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS INCLUDE:





OF FESTIVAL ATTENDEES WOULD CONSIDER SUPPORTING A BUSINESS IF THEY SPONSOR THE MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL



MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL ATTENDEES GAVE THE FESTIVAL A NET PROMOTER SCORE (NPS) OF 83.3, HIGHER THAN COMPANIES LIKE COSTCO AND STARBUCKS



Seeing good films with an audience and the chance to discuss—it's a special experience, much better than Netflix in private!"

- 2019 MILWAUKEE FILM FESTIVAL ATTENDEE



4

Ready to get involved?

## LET'S TALK –

#### Sebastian Mei

CHIEF MARKETING & DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

sebastian@mkefilm.org (414) 755-1965 x213



MKEFILM.ORG • (414)755-1965 1037 W MCKINLEY AVE SUITE 200 • MILWAUKEE, WI 53205



# **MILUAUKEE**