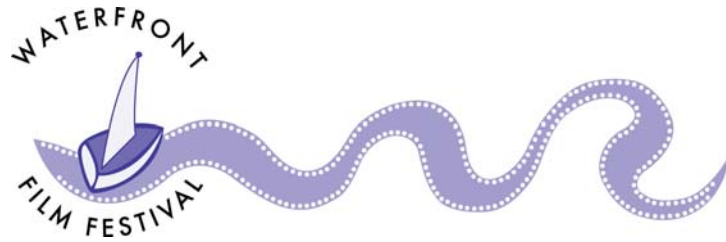


waterfrontfilm.org
ph. 269.857.8351
fax 269.857.1072
PO Box 387
Saugatuck, MI
49453-0387



Contact: Patrick Revere
reverewriter@gmail.com
(616) 308-7573

Waterfront Film Festival announces new host city

South Haven lands 2013 festival; St. Joe and Grand Haven look to future

Saugatuck, Michigan, Oct. 2, 2012 – The Waterfront Film Festival is officially going on the road. After several months of meeting with leaders in prospective cities, WFF organizers announced today that the nationally recognized 15th annual non-profit event will take place in South Haven, Michigan, June 13-16, 2013.

“We are absolutely thrilled” said South Haven Mayor Robert Burr. “South Haven has a long tradition of celebrating the arts and it will be a pleasure to showcase our town to the thousands of visitors the Waterfront Film Festival draws to West Michigan.”

The proactive South Haven proposal put forth by the city includes a pledge of \$50,000 in sponsorship and fundraising efforts, PR professionals with strong ties to the Chicago market, committed local business organizations and volunteer groups, shuttle service, office space, and many in-kind donations including some lodging for guests. There is also a movie theater in town and a 540-seat luxury auditorium theater, which will help cut down on the rising costs of creating the makeshift theaters the festival has dealt with in the past.

Grand Haven and Saint Joseph both submitted enthusiastic and strong proposals, with Saint Joseph making a fundraising pledge of \$75,000 each year to host WFF in 2015-16. Organizers will begin working with these cities to plan future events. All three cities understood that WFF could no longer continue in Saugatuck without a resolution to the current financial and logistical issues the volunteer event has faced there.

“We appreciate Saugatuck and are talking with city leaders about resolving the current issues so that Waterfront Film Festival can potentially return there at some point in the future. This reinvention will benefit more people in West Michigan and will keep the non-profit organization functioning,” said Hopwood DePree, WFF co-founder. “The enthusiasm from the communities that submitted applications has been inspiring.”

About Waterfront Film Festival

Now in its 15th year, Waterfront Film Festival celebrates independent film and filmmakers in a non-competitive environment. Located along the Michigan lakeshore, WFF is one of the leading destination film festivals in the Midwest, regularly hosting Midwest premieres of Academy Award-winning and nominated documentaries. Recognized as a top five film festival, WFF is a non-profit event committed to creating a “middle coast” venue for independent filmmakers while further enhancing the cultural draw of West Michigan.

Please like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/WaterfrontFilm](https://www.facebook.com/WaterfrontFilm) and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/#!/WaterfrontFilm.