



SEVENTH ANNUAL \* JUNE 9-12, 2005  
[www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org)

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**Waterfront Film Festival Receives Arts Grants**

**SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN** – The Waterfront Film Festival has recently received grants totaling \$17,400 to **"Produce and Present the Waterfront Film Festival June 9-12, 2005 in downtown Saugatuck."** Independent filmmakers and thousands of fans who appreciate their work will converge on the Lake Michigan resort community of Saugatuck, Michigan to view more than 60 independent films and shorts at three different venues around town as well as a free outdoor screening on Opening Night.

The funds come from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the Holland Area Arts Council (HACA). The mission of the MCACA is to "encourage, develop and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative, and cultural activity in Michigan." The mission of the HAAC works to expand awareness of the creative process for all individuals in the greater Holland area. As a re-granting agency for the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, HAAC distributes arts funding to non-profit groups throughout region.

An additional \$1000 was awarded to the film festival from the Youth Advisory Committee of the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area to sponsor the Student Film Showcase. This organization is dedicated to education, arts, culture, and community development programs that involve youth under 21.

Now in its seventh year, the Waterfront Film Festival is a non-profit organization completely run by volunteers. A hand full of Holland natives who have since gone on to become entertainment professionals in Los Angeles, New York and Michigan created the festival in 1999 to provide a "third coast" venue for independent filmmakers to show their work to a sophisticated audience who may otherwise not have the chance to view such films.

Founder Judy Smith remarks, "The Waterfront Film Festival gives Western Michigan two things: an opportunity to see high-quality independent films and actually meet and mingle with the people who are part of the filmmaking process."

Saugatuck, located midway between Detroit and Chicago is considered one of the top 20 arts and crafts destinations in the U.S. This charming village known as the Art Coast of Michigan is nestled in the beautiful white sand dunes of Lake Michigan and curled around an inland bay. With its beautiful beaches, diverse shopping, eclectic cuisine and nightlife – all within easy access of festival venues - the area's relaxed atmosphere has charmed visitors for nearly a century. For more information, visit the official festival Website at [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org).

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FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

Dana DePree • Dori DePree • Hopwood DePree • Kori Eldean • Judy Smith