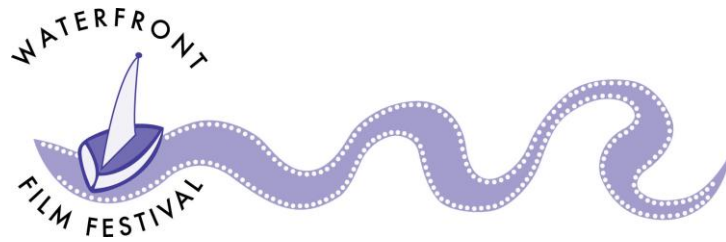


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## **Michigan Film Office Advisory Council to meet at Waterfront Film Festival in South Haven**

*Summer meeting set for 10 a.m. on June 13 at South Haven City Hall*

**South Haven, Michigan, May 30, 2014** – Waterfront Film Festival will host a summer meeting of the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council, a 15-person statewide panel that includes festival co-founder Hopwood DePree.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at 10 a.m. at South Haven City Hall at 539 Phoenix Street. An agenda for the meeting will be posted at [www.michiganfilmoffice.org](http://www.michiganfilmoffice.org).

“We are pleased to host the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council meeting for the first time in South Haven,” Mayor Robert Burr said. “The council will have the opportunity to experience why our community is the perfect venue for the Waterfront Film Festival. As was originally anticipated, the festival offers different avenues to attract visitors to our beautiful lakeshore town. Once visitors find out about us, I have no doubt they will return.”

Independent filmmakers and thousands of people who appreciate fine filmmaking convene annually to enjoy Waterfront Film Festival, which brings nearly 80 independent films, filmmaker panels and lively mixers to the scenic Lake Michigan shoreline for four days each June.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterfront Film Festival will be held June 12-15 in South Haven, Michigan.

Dori DePree, co-founder of Waterfront Film Festival, said the importance of hosting the MFOAC during Waterfront cannot be overstated, as many of the discussions and much of the decision making that takes place within the organization has a direct impact on the viability of furthering a middle coast venue for independent filmmakers.

“The South Haven area has benefitted directly from the work of the Michigan Film

Office. The South Haven/Van Buren County CVB office is a proud supporter, and has provided assistance for the Waterfront Film Festival and the production of films such as ‘Virginia’, ‘The Lake Effect’ and others to help increase awareness of South Haven as filmmaker and film festival aficionado’s paradise,” South Haven/Van Buren Counties Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Lisa Shanley said. “We look forward to rolling out the red carpet for members of the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council.”

An on location South Haven production will take place during the festival, with the segments of the pending “South Haven Girls” music video to be shot during headliner Tony Ferrari’s live performance at the Opening Night Summer Homecoming! Party on June 12, with an opportunity for audience members to be cast as extras and appear in the video.

Visit the festival website [www.WaterfrontFilm.org](http://www.WaterfrontFilm.org) to view the schedule, read about the films, watch trailers, and purchase tickets and passes. Of the 34 feature films screening at this year’s fest, 21 are Midwest premieres and 13 are Michigan premieres.

Waterfront Film Festival is a non-profit organization that relies on donations to continue its programming. There are many opportunities to get involved, including various sponsorships that come with VIP perks, volunteer opportunities, and a variety of day and weekend passes that offer access to film and other fun festival weekend events. For more information, please visit [www.WaterfrontFilm.org](http://www.WaterfrontFilm.org)

#### **About Waterfront Film Festival**

In its 16th 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. For more information on the coming festival June 12-15 in South Haven, Mich., visit [www.waterfrontfilm.org](http://www.waterfrontfilm.org), “like” us on Facebook at [facebook.com/waterfrontfilm](https://facebook.com/waterfrontfilm) and follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/waterfrontfilm](https://twitter.com/waterfrontfilm).