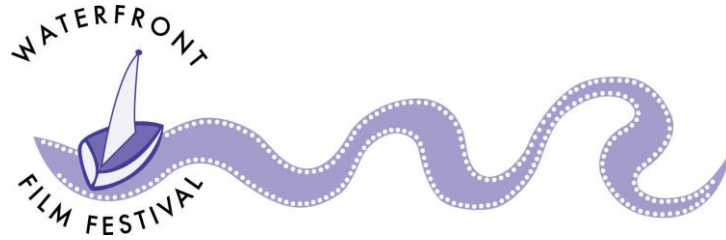


waterfrontfilm.org
ph. 269.767.8765
PO Box 904
South Haven, MI
49090



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

Waterfront Film Festival hires development director *16th annual independent film festival to be held June 12-15 in South Haven*

South Haven, Michigan, Feb. 12, 2014 – Waterfront Film Festival announces the hiring of Kurt Tiesman as the organization’s Director of Development, who will focus on building donor relations, fundraising and corporate sponsorships.

Tiesman comes to the position with more than 15 years of corporate development and event management experience throughout the state and region. Most recently, Tiesman oversaw corporate partnerships for University of Michigan Athletics as the Director of Corporate Relations generating more than \$4 million annually. Tiesman also worked for IMG College selling sponsorships for Michigan Athletics and special events including The Big Chill at the Big House outdoor hockey game at Michigan Stadium in 2010.

Previously, Tiesman worked as the Corporate Partnerships Manager for Michigan International Speedway where he managed and negotiated sponsors for NASCAR and Indy Racing League event weekends at the venue. In addition, he spent time with DP Fox Sports & Entertainment as a sales executive and assisting game day operations for the Grand Rapids Griffins hockey club.

Tiesman earned a master’s degree in education from Northern Illinois University and a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Central College in Pella, Iowa.

“Thanks to the generosity of a local philanthropist, this is all possible. Having a full-time staff member dedicated to development is an important step in taking the Waterfront Film Festival to new heights and to achieve long-term success for the non-profit organization,” Waterfront Film Festival Co-founder Dori DePree said.

Now in its 16th year, the non-profit Waterfront Film Festival screens more than 80 documentaries, dramas, comedies and film shorts on seven screens throughout the four-day event. The event draws filmmakers and actors from all coasts and internationally to

talk about their films before and after the screenings and participate on Q&A panels.

Festival organizers have been approached by many new sponsors and volunteers who are committed to helping make Waterfront Film Festival's second year in South Haven a success. To become a sponsor or volunteer for 2014, visit www.WaterfrontFilm.org. Film submission deadline is Feb 15.

About Waterfront Film Festival

Now 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, "like" us on Facebook at facebook.com/WaterfrontFilm and follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/WaterfrontFilm.