



Statement on Our New Partnership

September 17, 2018

The Meaningful Movies Project and the Social Justice Film Festival are excited to announce a new strategic partnership to expand their social-justice film presentations and community conversations throughout Washington.

Meaningful Movies Project (MMP) is a volunteer-run organization that screens films for free in 22 neighborhoods across Western Washington. Each film is followed by a facilitated, non-partisan discussion about the film and ways to mobilize for social change. MMP events often include the filmmaker or other guest speakers from allied social justice groups.

The Social Justice Film Festival (SJFF) presents new films in a two-week series each fall in Seattle. SJFF's events include discussions with filmmakers and notable activists, plus media outreach to educate the public. Later this year SJFF will become a project of a newly formed umbrella organization, the Social Justice Film Institute, which has the broader mission of providing technical and creative support to filmmakers and offering school-based programs to students.

What will change:

1. SJFF will continue to curate films for its festival while opening new distribution channels through MMP's venues. MMP will gain access to SJFF's curated slate of timely, high-quality, independent films—all in coordination with the filmmakers.
2. Both organizations will start to expand their presence in Eastern Washington where fewer opportunities exist for residents to watch social-justice films and hold community discussions. SJFF is now organizing a festival in Spokane for February 2019, and MMP plans to open a venue there.
3. Both groups will co-promote their films and events. MMP members will enjoy discounted tickets to SJFF events.

With the Festival's curation process and Meaningful Movies' multiple venues, our plan is to introduce more movies, more conversations, and more civic action at this important time in America.



Social Justice Film Festival | 2018 Fact Sheet

Each fall, the Social Justice Film Festival is a place where the community gathers with artists and policymakers to learn and talk about important public issues through the art form of filmmaking.

Founded by the Seattle nonprofit Books to Prisoners in 2009, the first Social Justice Film Festival focused exclusively on mass incarceration and prisoner justice. After a hiatus the festival returned in 2013 as a project of the nonprofit ProForum, offering a full range of social-justice films.

The festival emphasizes annual themes, which have included Prisoner Justice, Food Justice, Immigration, Worker Justice, and #TheResistance. The theme of the 2018 festival— which runs Oct. 5-14—is Hope & Democracy.

Quick facts

- **228 films screened in Seattle** at Cinerama, Majestic Bay Theater, Northwest African American Museum, Northwest Film Forum, Pacific Science Center, Rainier Arts Center, University Christian Church, Market Theater, and the University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Theatre.
- **Hosted notable social justice leaders:** These include death-penalty activist Sister Helen Prejean; actor Danny Glover; immigration activist Jose Antonio Vargas; congresswoman Pramila Jayapal; journalist Will Potter; filmmaker Sanjay Rawal; Seattle Black Panther Party founder Aaron Dixon; and Black Lives Matter organizer Darnell Moore.
- **50+ community partners over the past six years.** They include CineCity Pictures, 4Culture, Seattle Office of Arts & Culture, Meaningful Movies Project, Columbia Legal Services, ACLU, Seattle University Film Studies Department, Seattle Office of Civil Rights, Tulalip Tribes, Duwamish Tribe, KBCS FM, The Stranger, University of Washington Law Societies and Justice program, and the League of Women Voters.

Youth Visions

The festival is committed to showcasing the work of young filmmakers on the critical social-justice issues of our time. We highlight youth voices in our annual program, including a special “Youth Visions” award category. Our staff also partners with area teachers to bring students to films and lead classroom workshops.

Social Justice Film Institute

Beginning in late 2018, the Social Justice Film Festival will become a program of the Social Justice Film Institute, a new umbrella organization led by the same leadership team. The Institute will operate film programs year-round with the aim of:

- Serving as an incubator for filmmakers and providing technical assistance
- Conducting school-based programs
- Bringing the films of the Social Justice Film Festival to more locations beyond Seattle.

Staff

Anne Paxton, Executive Director
Aurora Martin, Managing Director
Jody Cole, Curator
Laura Brady, Assistant Director and Graphic Design
Rhenda Meiser, Communications Director
Daniel Swan, Staff Assistant and Digital Producer
Hannah Martin, Staff Assistant and Event Management

Contact

Social Justice Film Festival
c/o ProForum
9425 35th Ave, NE, Suite E
Seattle WA 98115
206-526-5336

SocialJusticeFilmFestival.org