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Waterfront Film Festival Receives State and Federal Arts Grants

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN – The Waterfront Film Festival has recently received grants totaling nearly \$16,000 to “Produce and Present the Waterfront Film Festival June 10-13, 2004 in downtown Saugatuck: 60 films, three venues and a free outdoor screening.”

The funds come from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) in partner with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the purpose of producing the festival. The mission of the MCACA is to “encourage, develop and facilitate an enriched environment of artistic, creative, cultural activity in Michigan.”

"The Waterfront Film Festival is a wonderful event for the citizens of Michigan and I am pleased to know that it has received this funding to further promote the festival," said State Senator Patricia Birkholz, Republican from Saugatuck Township.

Now in its sixth year, The Waterfront Film Festival is 100-percent volunteer-run, non-profit organization. Entertainment professionals from Los Angeles, New York, and Michigan created the festival in 1999 to provide a “middle coast” venue for independent filmmakers eager to show their work to sophisticated audiences.

“We are so delighted to receive these grants,” said festival co-founder Judy Smith. “The Waterfront Film Festival gives the public the opportunity to see high-quality independent films that they otherwise would not have the chance to see – plus the chance to meet and mingle with the people who are part of the creative filmmaking process,” she added.

Saugatuck, located midway between Detroit and Chicago, is long renowned as a meeting place for artists, writers, actors, and arts-literate consumers. The quaint village – nestled in the beautiful white sand dunes of Lake Michigan and curled around an inland bay – offers wonderful restaurants, art galleries, shopping, and lodging, all within easy distance of festival venues. For more information, visit the official festival website at www.waterfrontfilm.org.

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FESTIVAL FOUNDERS

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