


Proclamation Request Form

Requests for the issuance of proclamations are governed by Council Policy (excerpted below). Requests must be received at least six (6) weeks in advance of the requested issuance date and may be emailed to the City Clerk at

ClerksApprovalRequests@london.ca or mailed to City Hall, P.O. Box 5035 LONDON, ON, N6A 4L9.

Request details

Name of Organization Forest City Film Festival	
Date Proclamation Required October 16 to 23	
Proclamation Name Southwestern Ontario Film Week	
Proclamation Type (day), (week), (month) week	
Category (public awareness campaigns), (charitable fundraising campaigns), (arts and cultural celebrations) Arts and Cultural Celebrations	
Requester Name Dorothy Downs	
Requester Telephone Number	
Requester Email Address	
Requester Address	
Required Supporting Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Detail information on the Organization• Detail information on the Event• Confirmation of authorization from the Organization to submit the request	
The undersigned confirms that I am the Official Representative of the Organization requesting the Proclamation and that by signing this Application, I acknowledge and agree that my organization complies with all City of London's Policies and By-laws.  _____ Signature	March 21, 2022 _____ Date
NOTICE OF COLLECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION Personal information collected on this form is collected under the authority of the <i>Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25</i> and may also be used for purposes related to the Issuance of Proclamations Policy and Proclamation Request Form. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the City Clerk, 3rd floor, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Ave., London, ON N6A 4L9. Tel: 519-661-2489, ext. 4937,	

Hello,

Please find attached the proclamation request for October 16-23, 2022 for Southwestern Ontario Film Week. Also attached is our festival report from 2022 giving you an idea of how our event went last year.

We feel that this proclamation will be a benefit to the region both from an economic and artistic standpoint.

Please tell me if there is a deadline and format for providing the information. I've included some here in case this is helpful but I am happy to provide this in a PDF too if that would be better for you.

EVENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

London Ontario's Forest City Film Festival (FCFF) celebrates the art of cinema through a regional lens with a focus on national and global films and filmmakers connected to Southwestern Ontario. We honour successes, showcase new, compelling artists and inspire future ones.

FCFF is a charitable organization dedicated to celebrating and advancing the art of film and regional filmmakers. Film tells our stories, builds community and boosts awareness of the talent London has to offer the industry and community, and inspires future filmmakers. This region has been overlooked by the industry, and our festival is determined to bring the voice to the national cinematic conversation.

Forest City Film Festival's goals are to:

- Build Pride in Regional Audiences
By honoring successes in the film industry and showing excellent films connected to the region.
- Build Capacity of Film Industry in Region
Through the Ontario Screen Creatives Conference we offer educational and networking opportunities with the larger industry.
- Inspire Future Filmmakers
By working through the Forest City Youth Film Festival we will provide education, inspiration and opportunity to the youth of Southwestern Ontario.

We exist to:

- Give access to London audiences to see and celebrate the creative talented people who have been influenced by our region and express themselves through film.
- Encourage growth in the film industry in the area by giving opportunities to regional film talent to screen their films for their people and by giving them exceptional professional development opportunities.
- Put people with similar purpose together to help make good things happen in film.
- To help bridge gaps in communities and help encourage distinct voices in the industry to develop our connections to diverse communities and experiences of our region.
- Make the film festival experience memorable and special for both the filmmaker and audience.

Brief History of FCFF

The Forest City Film Festival has been focused on showcasing films with a connection to London since 2015. Over the course of our five festivals, FCFF has been able to triple in size and impact. This growth includes greater inclusion of local filmmakers through an increase in film viewings, the expansion of the festival's length and capacity to include

more viewers, as well as a development of industry support through workshops, competitions and networking.

In 2020 and 2021, the festival prioritized accessibility. As COVID-19 proved to be a challenging year for events, FCFF adapted to ensure the festival could continue to exist in our greatest capacity. This required an online presence through live-streamed screenings, Q and A's, and access to films at viewers' discretion.

Forest City Film Festival has been able to hit a number of milestones in just six years thanks to our rapid growth. These milestones include the additions of a Flashback Friday screenings to focus on iconic films connected to our region, Music Video screenings to highlight the connections between the film and music industry, the new and growing Ontario Screen Creator's Conference helping to bring the industry to London, the Youth Film Festival to celebrate and nurture the creative talents of highschool aged kids, Indigenous programming to honour and learn about Indigenous cultures of our region and beyond. FCFF has grown from a 3-day event to 14 days, with 24 films in our first year, to 95 films in our last year, and the audience has grown from 1,200 to 6,000 in our sixth year.

We are continually working to expand our scope and connection to London. Our audience continues to grow, whether it is filmmakers with connections to the region, individuals from the industry, local film enthusiasts, or Londoner's that want to get involved in the community and experience our local talent. It is clear that London has embraced the film industry, and we have captured the attention of Ontario and will continue to build Ontario. It has been expressed by filmmakers in the past that it is their favourite film festival, and they believe it will be one of Canada's in the future.

Please let me know if there is anything else that you need from me to put in front of the committee or city council.

Thank you
Dorothy Downs

FOREST CITY: FILM FESTIVAL



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE

from the Executive Director



As we began to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Forest City Film Festival decided to take the plunge and run a full slate of films and programs in-person and virtually over the course of 12 days this year. As a festival, we are so proud to have pushed forward through the challenging times. It was a long, tough haul to put on an event, but we did not give up. As other festivals scaled back or remained fully digital, FCFF was determined to open up and bring our audience back to the theatre. It was a bold act of certainty at an unpredictable time, but it paid off.

Not only did we execute a successful event, but we have seen progress and support for film in our region and industry grow. This year the City of London gave the official proclamation that October 16 - 24 would be known as Southwestern Ontario Film Week, and the new London Film Office threw its support behind the festival. We knew then that FCFF's continued tenacity as a festival was paying off. Between the support of our community and the changes in the world around us, we are eager to see what's next.

I am filled with gratitude for our incredible team of staff and volunteers (totaling nearly 100 people) that made it happen. I feel very happy that we made the decision to move forward despite the hard work and challenges that it entailed. Most of all, I feel excited for what the future holds for this festival.

Thank you to our sponsors who supported us when times were tough. Your community-mindedness has made it possible to continue this great cultural event for our region. Thank you to the intrepid filmmakers who submitted their films, attended industry events, and continue to create.

Thank you to our loyal and growing audience. It made 2021 a year we will never forget.



*Dorothy Downs - Executive Director
Forest City Film Festival*



Vision: We are building SWO's film culture by championing and profiling films and filmmakers connected to the region and bringing leaders in the industry to acknowledge and celebrate us.

Mission: London Ontario's Forest City Film Festival celebrates the art of cinema through a regional lens with a focus on national and global films and filmmakers connected to Southwestern Ontario. We honour successes, showcase new, compelling artists and inspire future ones.

We endeavor to be a festival that film lovers want to attend, and filmmakers want to be recognized by.



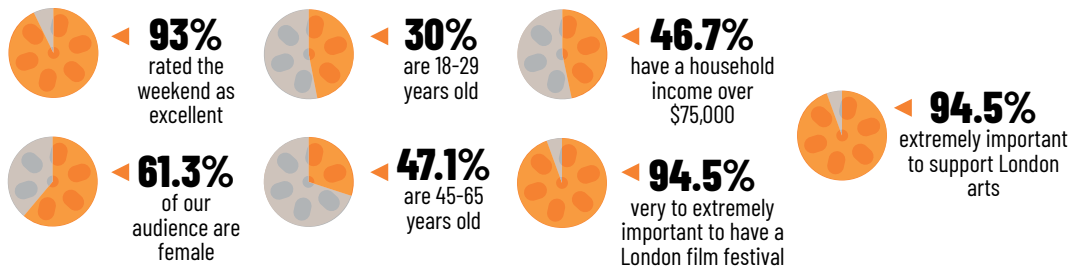
The Forest City Film Festival (FCFF) is a charitable organization dedicated to celebrating and advancing the art of film in Southwestern Ontario. FCFF has been granted charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency (#786771891RR001).



2021 Festival Highlights

2021 has been a year like no other, but the Forest City Film Festival adapted to continue with its sixth uninterrupted festival. FCFF previewed a Behind the Scenes talk with Stratford Ontario's Colm Feore on the Sunday before the festival kicked off, and introduced our Fresh Feature films during preview night, which highlighted first feature films from regional directors. The festival was ready to jump into full swing with the Opening Night feature Trigger Point, an action film starring Colm Feore who joined us for a fascinating Q&A alongside director Brad Turner.

The 6 days of in-person events continued with back-to-back screenings across three venues that featured 92 films all connected to Southwestern Ontario. Every screening had filmmaker Q&As to give our audience a chance to talk to the filmmakers. Throughout the festival week, we also had two fantastic Indigenous programs curated by Oneida Judith Schuyler with great Q&As hosted by Mohawk Janet Rogers. The Youth Film Festival showcased 25 films and 4 pitches of highschool aged filmmakers from 9 boards across the region. Music video night was a spectacular show at 100 Kellogg Lane that had live performances woven into the in-person screening and after-show with live music that brought the house down. Our keen audiences were engaged throughout our films and events, which was illustrated by their questions at Q&A sessions throughout the festival and their votes for the Old Oak Audience Choice Award, which was announced on November 1st. Additionally, the filmmakers had numerous opportunities to learn and network over the course of 3 days and 13 events at the newly rebranded Ontario Screen Creators Conference. The Behind the Scenes series featured Colm Feore, Emma Donoghue and David Shore! The OSCC was a fantastic success despite the impact of COVID on the audience size. The 2021 Forest City Film Festival was an exciting and engaging week of celebrating regionally connected film and filmmakers!



Our Year Six Audience: 6105 attendees!

For the 6 days of in-person events it was thrilling to see our audiences come back to the theatre. Restrictions were lifted days before our event began and our audiences understandably came back with caution this year. Audience members weren't quite ready to shift out their stay-at-home mindset and attend events in-person. Over the 6 days of screenings at the Wolf Performance Hall and TAP, FCFF had 1,065 tickets sold. The following 6 days of digital on-demand had approximately 4,500 views. The OSCC had 540 industry members attend and enjoy the networking and professional development opportunities.



Our Team

Our 9 board members, 10 staff and 80 volunteers worked behind the scenes to support FCFF this year!










Founder and Executive Director: Dorothy Downs

Board Members:

Norman DeBono (Chair)
 Romy Goulem
 Rene Zwinkels
 John Brennan
 Kelly Peckham

Nancy Branscombe
 Megan Fowler
 Mark Vogelsang
 Monica Ulici

2021 STAFF

 Evan Rowell <i>Digital Marketing Manager</i>	 Jackson Adams <i>Admin Assistant</i>	 Nick Scott <i>Youth Film Festival Manager</i>
 Nandita Dutta <i>Marketing and Intern Supervisor</i>	 Julissa Bonilla <i>OSCC Marketing and Event Assistant</i>	 Lydia McClory <i>Event Coordinator and Marketing Assistant</i>
 Derrick Beckford <i>Production Manager</i>	 Chelsea Preston <i>Development Manager</i>	 Carson Haight <i>OSCC Producer</i>

Marketing Interns:

Taylor Westbury, Asleysha Ramasamy, Harsh Patankar, Gallus McIntyre, Iulia Costache, Seoyeon Bae, Craig Meerkamper, Sana Al-Louzi, Dylan Murphy

Assisted by:

Marketing Committee - 6 members
 Production Team - 15 members
 Narrative Selection Committee - 17 members
 Documentary Selection Committee - 17 members
 Music Video Committee - 3 members
 Youth Film Festival Committee - 11 members
 Youth Film Selection Committee - 13 members

Ontario Screen Creators
 Conference Committee - 6 members
 Screenwriting Selection Committee - 6 members
 Film Judging Panels - 11 members
 OSCC Experts - 36 experts
 Tech interns - 12 members



In 2021 we gave our “Industry Sessions” a major rebrand and developed them into the Ontario Screen Creators Conference with the mission to nurture independent filmmakers in Ontario. By creating connections and bringing industry insights to filmmakers in a friendly and accessible way, we are working to be the next logical step in a filmmaker’s career.

ONTARIO SCREEN CREATORS CONFERENCE

Our goals are to:

1. Make London the preferred destination for filmmakers by creating an environment that is friendly, supportive and much more economical than other options.
2. Build strong, collaborative relationships with filmmakers so that they return to the area for their future productions and are eager to participate in OSCC events here as well.
3. Focus on professional development for filmmakers as another way to both push the quality of films being produced here and also to establish ourselves as a community “hub” valued by filmmakers interested in elevating their work and finding success as working professionals.

In 2021:

- 3 Behind the Scenes talks, 5 panels, 3 seminars and 2 networking opportunities
- The largest feature film pitch in Canada with Project Pitch at \$60,000
- Engaged with 24 industry experts representing organizations such as Ontario Creates, Telefilm William F. White International, Canada Media Fund, CHAOS, LEDC and IO Industries.
- In total 15% of our experts were local, 85% came from Toronto, Vancouver and New York and 42% of experts were female
- 540 people participated in our seminars and sessions at the OSCC 2021



Thank you for such a truly wonderful festival experience. I felt so welcomed, so valued, and so heard, and as a young filmmaker who is still developing my voice, the experience was one I will never forget. You are truly making magic happen with FCFF and I’m so happy I got to be a part of it this year.

- Filmmaker

FOREST CITY YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

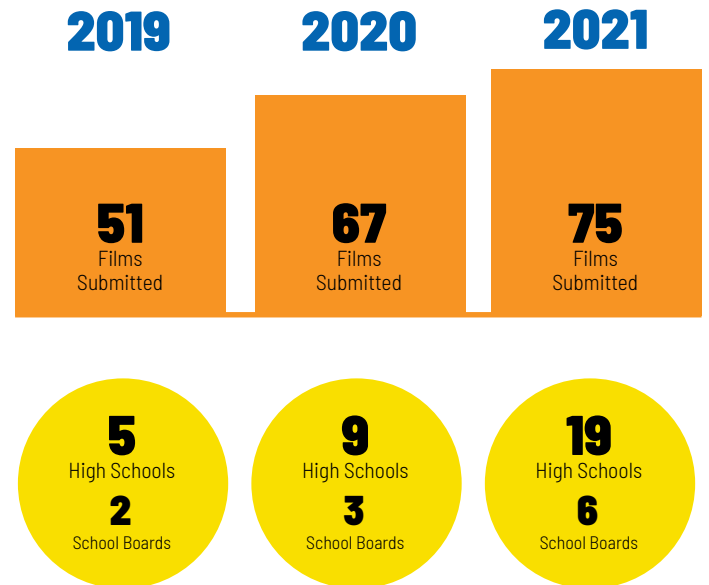
A great place to learn, create and grow, the Forest City Youth Film Festival works to nurture the development of young aspiring filmmakers.

We celebrate, inspire, and promote the future storytellers of Southwestern Ontario in a culminating Fall event. While promoting an exceptional interdisciplinary opportunity, we will help this region to become renowned for our film talent.

One word best describes this year's Forest City Youth Film Festival: growth.

In 2021:

- FCYFF doubled the participation of school boards and high schools across Southwestern Ontario with a total of 19 high schools and 6 school boards.
- The competition received its highest number of submissions since its inception with 75 films from youth.
- Out of the 75 films submitted, there were 29 film finalists in competition that were judged by 7 experts.
- FCYFF held a successful in-person screening & awards show for over 160 filmmakers and fans during a pandemic, which resulted in 165 in-person attendees, and 446 live-stream views on Youtube.
- \$5000 in prize money awarded to youth filmmakers.
- The festival stretched out across the region, with submissions and winners coming from London, Woodstock, Burlington, Renfrew, Kitchener, Cambridge, Oakville, and Owen Sound.
- 10 filmmaking seminars, including our first two in French.



The Festival has provided my son with incredible opportunities for development as a filmmaker. I don't know that he would have even considered a career in film if the Festival did not exist. Being part of a community with a vibrant film festival showed him that possibilities for careers in the arts exist - even right here in London, Ontario. For my son, the realization that all of his areas of artistic interest - visual art, creative writing, music - could be combined in filmmaking was life-changing. His success this year in the FC Youth Film Festival has validated his choice to pursue a degree in filmmaking and a career in the film industry.

- Filmmaker Parent



Economic Impact:

Ontario Climate:

A total of 343 film and television projects were produced in Ontario in 2019. Between them, these 343 Ontario-produced projects contributed \$2.1 billion to the economy, resulting in approximately \$6.3 million production dollars left in Ontario per production. Forest City Film Festival is helping to get London on the map within the film world so that we can start to participate in this vibrant industry that is responsible for 37,000 full-time direct and spin-off jobs across Ontario.

Impact on London:

The presence of the Forest City Film Festival in London for over 6 years has created an environment for film lovers and filmmakers to enjoy and celebrate film in our region. It has also encouraged collaboration, networking and education, which has led to a growing community of filmmakers bringing projects to this city.

The Forest City Film Festival continues to work to push the film industry forward in London. This year, the Ontario Screen Creators Conference exemplified our commitment to expanding educational, networking and support for filmmakers in London. After years of advocating by FCFF, just this year, the London Film office was established with a 3 year commitment of support from the city. After only 6 months, the London Film Office has landed more than \$2 million in film production through 15 film and TV productions.

Kapil Lakhotia, chief executive of the London Economic Development Corp. says "The film office is gaining momentum. These successes validate the importance of creative industries in our economy, It has economic impact. We are developing an industry cluster in our region."



It feels like a big city event. When you look at the sponsor list, you instantly feel like wow, there is community buy-in here. It's refreshing to see!

- Audience Member



MEDIA



The London
Free Press



!★@#
exclaim!



Global
NEWS

ROGERS.

NEWSTALK

1290

C J B K

theGazette

Media:

05/11/2021 - LFP (London Free Press)

Getting to the next level: Film festival offers leg up to screenwriters

06/11/2021 - LFP

Forest City Film Festival seeks to woo filmmakers to London with \$60K prize

06/11/2021 - LFP

Sense of Direction (mention)

08/24/2021 - Playback Magazine

London film festival opens \$60K pitch event nationwide

09/16/202 - CTV

Forest City Film Festival ready to hit the big screen again

09/17/2021 - LFP

Showtime! Forest City Film Festival set to welcome back live audiences

09/19/2021 - CBC London

Meet 2 young London filmmakers competing at the city's film festival

09/24/2021 - Interrobang

Forest City Film Festival returns for in-person screenings

10/05/2021 - Exclaim Magazine

Lido Pimienta, Status/Non-Status, Austra Selected for London's Forest City Film Festival Music Video Showcase

10/19/2021 - 519 Magazine

October is a Busy Month For Southwestern Ontario Filmmakers at FCFE

10/20/2021 - Two Row Times

Indigenous created works featured in Forest City Film Festival, on Now

10/20/2021 - LFP

LFP LIVE: Behind the documentaries at Forest City Film Festival

10/20/2021 - Global News

Forest City Film Festival returns for an in-person feature presentation

10/20/2021 - LFP

Forest City Film Festival shines spotlight on regional Indigenous filmmakers

10/20/2021 - CTV

London Hollywood drops in on first night of FCFE

10/20/2021 - Two Row Times

Upcoming lacrosse documentary featuring Indigenous greats reaches London Film Festival

10/20/2021 - Gameday London

Sport is on the screen at annual film festival

10/22/2021 - Western Gazette

Forest City Film Festival to highlight Indigenous programming

10/22/2021 - LFP

Forest City Film Festival bringing together musicians, filmmakers

10/23/2021 - Global News

Forest City Film Festival brings back 'Music Video' category

10/23/2021 - The Street Journal

Forest City Film Festival Brings Back 'Music Video' Category

10/23/2021 - CBC Windsor

Indigenous folktales come to life with horror short made on Walpole Island

10/25/2021 - LFP

Docudrama about Steven Truscott's Wife Wins big at Forest City Film Festival.

10/26/2021 - CBC

London Meet the Londoner helping musicians of colour make music videos

11/12/2021 - PLAYBACK

Audit wins Canada's largest pitch prize

TV:

05/21/2021 - Whats up London, Rogers TV

Forest City Film Festival is offering screenwriting workshops featuring veteran filmmakers.

06/21/2021 - Whats up London, Rogers TV

The \$60,000 Feature Film Pitch, Forest City Film Festival

09/16/2021 - CTV

Forest City Film Festival returns as hybrid

10/16/2021 - CTV

Forest City Film Festival ready to hit the big screen

10/20/2021 - CTV

Evening news Clip

Radio:

9/15/2021 - 106.9

London's Forest City Film Fes4itl is on

10/17/21 - Newstalk 1290 CJBK

One Dish One Mic & The Forest City Film Festival - Judith Schuyler & Janet Rogers

10/18/21 - CBC

General interview and OSCC

10/22/2021 - CBC

Indigenous films featured at Forest City Film Fest

10/22/21 - AM900

Interview with Evan

10/25/21 - CBC

ISO Project

10/26/2021 - Global News 980 CFPL

Colm Feore and the 2021 Forest City Film Festival

10/22/2021 - CBC

The Gig is Up

10/20/2021 - London's pretty Cool Podcast

Interview with Dorothy

10/19/2021 - CBC

When Shadows Dance at Night

10/22/2021 - Element FM - Moment of Truth w

David Moses

Judith Kanatahawi Schuyler & Janet Rogers

CoolFM

Interview with Gemma (Filmmaker)

Top Follower Locations

- London, Ontario
- Toronto, Ontario
- St. Thomas, Ontario
- Hamilton, Ontario
- Sarnia, Ontario
- Windsor, Ontario
- Vancouver, British Columbia
- Kitchener, Ontario
- Los Angeles, California
- Stratford, Ontario

Online:



3,307 followers

10% growth in followers since 2020



1,678 followers

29% growth in followers since 2020



817 followers

17% growth in followers since 2020



484 followers

142% growth in followers since 2020



269 subscribers

209% growth in followers since 2020



2,451 subscribers

32% growth in subscribers since 2020

Combined Impressions:

1,093,446



Film Information

Film Facts:

- 92 Outstanding Films
- 31 Short Films
- 15 Feature Length Films
- 21 Documentaries
- 6 Animations
- 15 Music Videos
- 19 Experimental films
- 11 Indigenous films
- Plus another 25 films and 4 pitches in the Youth Film Festival Screening

2021 Forest City Film Festival Winners:

Best Short Film: Paris, Ontario – Arnaud Weissenburger

Best Narrative Feature: Marlene – Wendy Hill-Tout

Best Documentary Short: Stitched Glass – Ian Daffern, Omar Majeed

Best Documentary Feature: Dead Man’s Switch: A Crypto Mystery – Sheona McDonald

Best Short Animation: The Lost Seahorse – Kirsten Brass

Winning Screenplay: Both Sides Now – Tyler Dowey

Old Oak Audience Choice Award: The Gig is Up – Shannon Walsh

Best Music Video: Eso Que Tu Haces – Lido Pimienta, Paz Ramirez, Trevor Blumas

Project Pitch Winner: Audit – Geordie Sabbagh, Olga Ziman Sabbagh



TIFF experience in my own backyard. - Audience member

I am awed by the incredible array of films in this festival and how the film community was brought together. Kudos to Dorothy, the team and the volunteers for pulling this off, it is a huge feat and must have been a staggering amount of work.

- Filmmaker

Meeting other panelists and audience members was great. Three members came up to me to discuss future projects and we are now in communication.

-Expert Panelist



FCFF truly cares about the future of their filmmakers and connecting them with seasoned professionals and various networking opportunities. I'm grateful I had the opportunity to participate with my short.

- Filmmaker

I was given a chance to get my ideas out there which I have never had the opportunity to do. I also got to meet a lot of people through it.

- Student Filmmaker

I felt lucky to have the opportunity to watch such nice films and share thoughts with people. What I liked the most was the behind scene talks of the movie directors because they gave me more ideas to deeply understand the message of the movie.

- Audience member

The programming lineup and the music video night was great.

- Audience member

Met with my fellow music video directors, a few that had seen my work in the past and would like to collaborate now.

- Music Video Director

"You are making London a more desirable place to live in."

"Great films we would not see otherwise."

"It was great! I learned a lot and made connections."



THANKS

With Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

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Director Level



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