

PROVINCETOWN FILM SOCIETY INSTITUTE FESTIVAL CINEMA

Dec 4, 2020

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Donors, Supporters, and Friends,

Six years ago, The Provincetown Film Society made a difficult decision to suspend daily programming at the Waters Edge Cinema during Winter months. Theater attendance in seasonal Provincetown was simply not enough to support the cost of staff, operation expenses, and exhibition fees necessary to run the theater as debt continued to mount. Public outcry was profound, moreover, it led to a greater appreciation on the role of the local arthouse cinema and the value that we place in treasured institutions of cultural engagement.



As many in our community rallied to design a plan and solicit the resources, the cinema has not shuttered its doors for any extended period until COVID-19 struck last March. Few places deemed worse for coronavirus spread than a movie theater and going to the cinema will be one of the last steps to return to “normal life”.



Director, Christine K. Walker, and the renaming of the **Women Filmmakers Residency Program** in her honor. There are no words to describe our gratitude for your rally in support.

Furthermore, your donations continued. Memberships were renewed, filmmakers lent support and time; board members rolled up their sleeves and hit the pavement to fundraise with advice from key stakeholders.

Staff and vendors *volunteered* weeks of time and service to deliver quality programs that support our mission to raise the diverse voice, provide a stage to the disenfranchised, and continue to make Provincetown the destination for creative exploration in film.

Again, *you*, our constituents regrouped in support through innovations like the **Virtual Cinema, PIFF Reimagined 2020** - a virtual and drive-in film festival honoring **Mya Taylor, PIFF's first transgender actor, Friday Night at the Movies** at the newly restored Mary Heaton Vorse House outdoor courtyard, and the **Collaborative Art of Filmmaking**, a virtual program commemorating films made by our former Executive

Because of you, this fall, the board unanimously voted to bring back key staff at nearly full-time status. Cautious optimism has sparked plans to safely open the cinema, initially for limited engagements.

For your earnest, PFS is presented with an opportunity to give back to our members through free programming on our virtual platform and by engaging filmmakers and their stories that must be told to wider audiences. They are diverse stories of inclusion, local stories, historical accounts, game-changers for democracy, and true stories that exemplify the human spirit – unfettered will, triumph, survival, and hope. This series of virtual programming enhanced with filmmaker conversations behind the camera changes minds.

We're often asked about our incentive to continue the fight to maintain relevance during a time of unprecedented economic and political upheaval in a global pandemic. At PFS, the answer is clear: we must continue to promote citizen engagement and remake the systems that deliver our democracy. It is incumbent upon us to preserve the spaces that have the power to drive cultural movement – explicitly places driven by artists, culture bearers and networks convening across differences and sectors and incubating breakthrough ideas that stick because they rise from communities that come together to embrace truth, honor and diversity in an ardent pursuit of freedom.

Appropriate maxims like “it takes a village” and “we are in this together” were never truer as they are for the Provincetown Film Society today. Your continued giving and generosity is the only way this work is possible. As we head into the holiday season, we [thank you for your continued support](#) and wish you the best of health and safety.

Looking forward to seeing you at Waters Edge Cinema soon,

Tracy Pease | Director of Development
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