

For Immediate Release



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Way Down Film Festival Announces \$17,000 Grant-Funded Sponsorship

Columbus, Ga.- Way Down Film Festival, Columbus' first high-profile film festival announces its grant-funded sponsorship from the Knight Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, Inc. The formal announcement and check presentation will be held on Thursday, August 11th 10:30a.m. at the Springer Opera House on its main stage. Interview and photo opportunities will be available at event.

The inaugural Way Down Film Festival will be hosted at the Springer Opera House October 21st-22nd, 2016 in Columbus, Ga. The festival will showcase over 30 short films, celebrating the most innovative voices in narrative, animation, documentary and experimental categories from all over the world.

"It's time for Columbus, Ga. to further tap into the six billion dollar film industry happening in our state, and we are grateful the community has been extremely supportive!," said Jacy Jenkins, one of the three founders of WDFF.

The festival, now open for film submissions, provides talented filmmakers a platform to showcase their creative efforts and deliver networking opportunities to obtain jobs and launch projects.

"Columbus Georgia is blooming as an area that serves filmmakers, and WDFF is an invitation to explore the possibilities, way down here," said Cora King one of the founders of WDFF. "We also want to show the community the value filmmakers bring, and how they can contribute to our local culture. WDFF's development hopes to encourage and celebrate filmmakers, and offer opportunities to network and collaborate for both filmmakers and film enthusiasts."

The Knight Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, Inc. is excited to announce a \$17,000 grant to help fund Way Down Film Festival. The Knight Foundation Fund was established at the Community Foundation in 2002 by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, Knight Foundation is one of the country's largest private foundations.

"The Knight Foundation Fund at the Community Foundation invests in civic innovators who help cities attract and keep talented people, expand economic opportunity and create a culture of engagement," said Betsy Covington, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley, Inc. "We're excited to be able to help support the Way Down Film Festival, because we see it as an effort that will appeal to Columbus' creative class and -- playing off of the explosion in Georgia's film industry -- help us attract and retain talent."

"We are here, Founders of WDFF, to offer a groundbreaking experience in Columbus, GA," said Stacy Cunningham, one of the founders of WDFF. "Celebrating innovative filmmakers and uniting artists is our passion. We are extremely grateful to the Knight Foundation for their support, generosity, and vision in helping this festival come to life."

For more information about the festival, film submissions or other sponsorship opportunities, visit the Way Down Film Festival website at www.waydownfilm.com, or contact@waydownfilm.com.

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WDFF was founded on the principle to support the blooming, underground arts; to enhance awareness through exciting short films that shed light on the periphery, express triumph over tragedy, and allow audiences to walk away with more courage and perspective, feeling inspired and connected.