



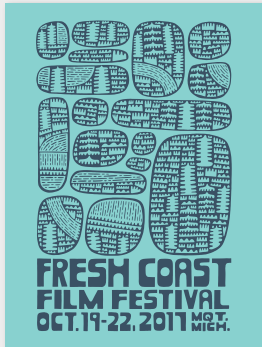
FRESH COAST FILM FESTIVAL

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN • OCTOBER 15-18, 2026

Thank you Fresh Coast artists.



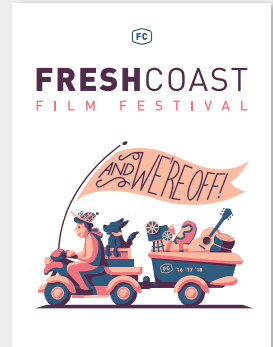
Since 2017, the Fresh Coast Film Festival has partnered with a different artist each year to capture the outdoor, adventurous spirit of the Great Lakes. Each festival is commemorated with a limited-edition screenprinted poster, giving every year its own distinct look and visual identity.



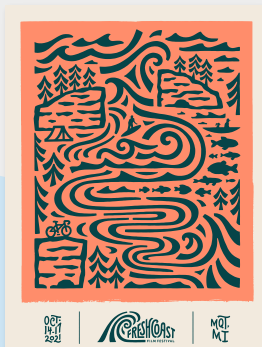
Geoffrey Holstad 2017



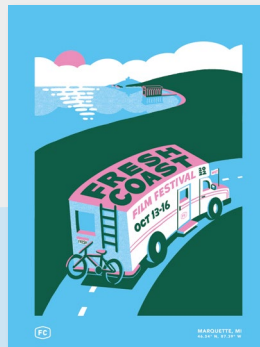
Jacob Rosenberg 2018



Tatiana O'Toole 2019



Leslie Olson 2021



Gerald Westlund 2022



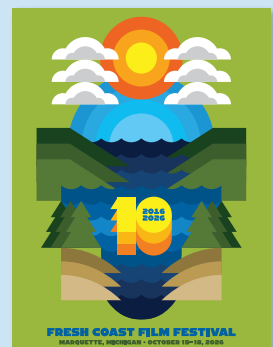
Rae Lang (Woosah) 2023



Cody Hudson 2024



Giizh Agaton Howes 2025



Aaron Draplin 2026



Table of Contents

- 10 Years of Artwork 2
- Land Acknowledgment 7
- Welcome to the Fresh Coast 8
- How to Fresh Coast 10
- Fresh Coast Box Office and Venues 12
- Marquette Map 17
- My Fresh Coast Weekend Worksheet 19
- Film Block Schedule. 20
- Featured Artist. 26
- Film Block Details 28
- Fresh Coast Checklist. 51
- Making Waves Commitment Grant 82
- Outdoor Tours 84
- Film Index. 90
- Sponsors 92
- Acknowledgments. 93
- Fresh Coast Trivia!. 94
- Thank You. 99

Welcome to our Fresh Coast



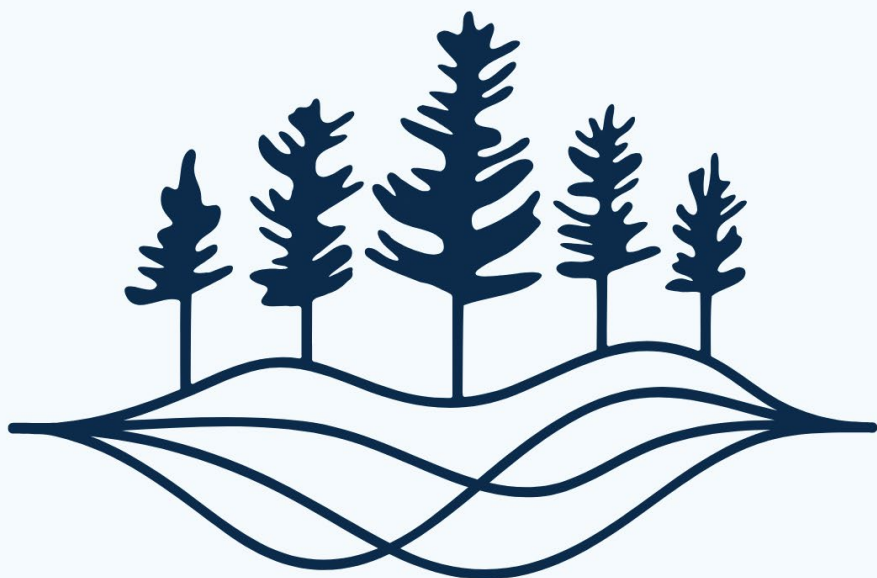
The Fresh Coast Film Festival is a unique and visionary film festival focused on telling the stories of resilience and beauty inherent in the lifestyle and heritage of the Great Lakes and Upper Midwest. The festival not only creates a venue for re-building the culture of Great Lakes storytelling, it also brings the best in adventure cinema from around the world to an interested and passionate community of people.

The Fresh Coast Film Festival is held annually the third weekend in October during the height of fall color season in Marquette, Michigan. Marquette is a Lake Superior harbor town where the waves of a great inland sea crash on the bedrock remains of the ancient Huron Mountains. It is a place where a web of well-maintained wilderness trails link the historic downtown with world class mountain biking, trail running and waterfall-rich hikes.

After a day of film viewing or outdoor play, Marquette's vibrant local brewing and dining scene offers a reward with ingredients and inspiration drawn from the crisp, clean waters of the world's largest body of fresh water, Lake Superior.

We think you'll like it here.





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UNIVERSITY



Land Acknowledgment

The Fresh Coast Film Festival exists to share stories. We share stories about the land, the water, and the people. We share stories of the underdog, the underserved, and the voiceless. We share stories of the dreamers, the makers, and the artists.

We share stories about the incredible forces that have formed this place. And, we share these stories around the flickering glow of a 21st century fire. As we gather today it is with full awareness that we are not the first people to live here and share stories.

We are not the first to walk the trails, paddle the waters, love the land.
We are not the first to express culture and create art.
We are not the first to find inspiration in what surrounds us.

There are many who have walked here before us, and it is their story we want to acknowledge.

Their story is one which spans every generation that has lived here. They are the past, present and future residents of the place we call the Great Lakes, this amazing fresh coast. Their ancestors' stories are the Original stories, they are the Original People, the First Nation.

They are the Anishinaabek.

The Fresh Coast Film Festival recognizes the tribal nations of this territory—the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Hannahville Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

We acknowledge that we stand upon the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabek.

In doing so, we seek to heal traumas inflicted by an on-going history of colonization and correct intergenerational injustice.

By acknowledging this we show our respect for these vibrant, living, and present cultures.

This is how we choose to move forward—with humility, honor, gratitude, and a shared love for this beautiful place and the stories within it.

A Welcome from the Fresh Coast Team

Welcome to the Fresh Coast of the Universe!

Can you believe it? Fresh Coast is **celebrating a decade of adventure, conservation and inspiration**, and we are growing in ways we never imagined! So, first off, we want to say thank you—for attending, for being part of the Fresh Coast community, and for your love of and passion for the Great Lakes.

What started as a little plip-plop and splish-splash in 2016 has grown into a wave of amazing stories. We are continually blown away by the energy flowing to the festival from all of our sponsors, attendees, volunteers, filmmakers and community collaborators. Without their support, Fresh Coast would still be a puddle.

Although we continue to grow, we are still a scrappy, independent, 99% volunteer run organization focused on gathering storytellers from the Great Lakes and beyond.

We hope you'll open your hearts and minds to these four days of storytelling and come away as affected as we have been while working on this event. It is truly a pleasure to offer you this year's Fresh Coast Film Festival.

Our Volunteers have put together a few suggestions for this year so you can make the most of your #FreshCoasting experience!

We are so glad you're here!





How to Fresh Coast

1) Prepare to drink from the Fresh Coast firehose

There's no other way to say this: You won't see everything this weekend. That's just the nature of film festivals like Fresh Coast. Think of it like a music festival with multiple stages—not like going to your local theater. In order to get the most from the weekend you might want to look through the program schedule and make a plan before the weekend starts (use the worksheet on page 19.) Or if you want to just “wing” it, we're good with that, too!

2) Be sure to attend our evening features

Returning for 2026 is our Fresh Coast Basecamp at Lower Harbor. A huge screen, lots of room to move, heaters and fresh air will make this one of the most memorable events you've attended. We recommend donning your best long johns, plaid shirt and puffy coat to join us for Fresh Coast Free Thursday night. The tent will also host a featured screening of *Aanikoobijigan [ancestor/great-grandparent/great-grandchild]* on Friday night with discussion to follow, and *Adventure, Conservation, Inspiration: A Decade of Fresh Coast and Friends* ft. Joey Santore of *Crime Pays But Botany Doesn't* and Mama Söl, Flint based hip-hop and spoken word artist on Saturday night. Local food trucks will be serving each night. Let's fill the tent!

3) Meet a filmmaker or film subject

One of the things we are proud of is the number of filmmakers and film subjects who attend our festival. The cool thing is that we're a small and laid back festival, so it's totally cool to say “hi” to those folks. Ask questions, share some food or beverages, swap stories, and work on changing the world together.

4) Enjoy the food and beverage

Many of our venues, which are also our sponsors, serve amazing craft brews, coffee, or cocktails. Some serve food or work with the local food trucks. Say thanks to the folks who help pay for the Fresh Coast Festival by supporting their business. You won't be sorry.

5) Thank a volunteer

No, seriously, thank a volunteer. There are well over 300 of them and they are the only reason this Fresh Coast boat stays afloat. Fresh Coast is 99.99% volunteer organized and run. That means every volunteer you see is here because they believe in the festival and many of them have worked hours and hours to bring you this year's film festival.

6) Get outside and play!

Yep—we're channeling our inner parents right now. But, really. The U.P. is amazing. Marquette is the perfect launching pad for an adventure. Go play. Watch films. Shake hands. Drink beer. Eat food. Repeat.

That's #FreshCoasting.



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MEAT & SEAFOOD • LOCAL & ORGANIC PRODUCE • NATURAL HEALTH & BODY CARE**

502 W. Washington St., Marquette, MI • 906-225-0671 • marquettefood.coop

Box Office and Venues

You won't find a red carpet on the Fresh Coast... our dirty work boots, muddy sandals, and wet waders would just ruin it anyway. Please thank these generous businesses and organizations for offering up their space so that the festival has a place to call home.

Venue sizes vary, and popular screenings may fill up. Seating is first come, first served—but with all Fresh Coast venues within a 10-minute walk, your next favorite film is always nearby!

Fresh Coast Box Office

Marquette Commons 112 South 3rd Street

The Marquette Commons is often thought of as an outside venue for the farmers market—but indoors you'll find the Fresh Coast Box Office where you can get passes, merch and questions answered. Also, public restrooms!

#FreshCoasting tip Look for the Fresh Coast Flags to identify the FC Box Office. Fresh Coast goods like sweatshirts and posters will be available for sale all weekend.

BOX OFFICE HOURS

Marquette Commons

Thursday	11am – 4pm
Friday	9am – 5:30pm
Saturday	9am – 4:30pm
Sunday	9am – 2pm

Fresh Coast Free at Lower Harbor Park

Thursday	5pm – 9pm
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Ore Dock Brewing Co. – The Station 114 West Spring Street

The Station, Ore Dock's new Front Street expansion, is now a full-fledged Fresh Coast venue. The upstairs screening room pairs perfectly with a beer, cocktail, or craft soda—no more trekking back to the taproom mid-block. After films, step outside to the beer garden and fire pits to keep the festival weekend glowing.

ENTRANCE: The entrance to both spaces is located off the 200 block of South Front Street. There will be separate doorways for each screening area—please use the designated entry/exit for your film block so as not to disturb your neighbors filmgoing experience. Passholders can still use the brewery's 114 W. Spring Street entrance to access the Community Space via staircase. **Accessibility:** ADA accessible entrance for both spaces located off of the 200 block of South Front Street.

#FreshCoasting tip Ore Dock allows food carry-ins, but their new Dockside Galley now serves food after 12pm.

Ore Dock Brewing Co. – Community Space

114 West Spring Street

The community space at the Ore Dock remains a Fresh Coast favorite—upstairs screenings paired with a warm, rustic atmosphere, and the taproom downstairs where you can grab a pint and gather with new friends. With The Station next door, Ore Dock now offers not one but two unique festival venues, giving filmgoers even more room to watch, sip, and settle into the weekend.

ENTRANCE: The entrance to both spaces is located off the 200 block of South Front Street. There will be separate doorways for each screening area—please use the designated entry/exit for your film block so as not to disturb your neighbors filmgoing experience. Passholders can still use the brewery’s 114 W. Spring Street entrance to access the Community Space via staircase. **Accessibility:** ADA accessible entrance for both spaces located off of the 200 block of South Front Street.

#FreshCoasting tip Ore Dock allows food carry-ins.

Fresh Coast Basecamp at Lower Harbor Park

100 North Lakeshore Boulevard

Located just north of the Ore Dock in Marquette’s Lower Harbor, the 22 acre Mattson Lower Harbor Park has a large grassy open space area, park benches, picnic tables, boat ramp and a large nearby breakwater. The shoreline multi-use path runs through the park and an illuminated walkway with period style lighting parallels the waterfront along the bulkhead. Seats in the tent are available on a **first come, first served basis** so we recommend arriving early—tent full? **New this year, an outdoor screen** will be on the lawn for additional viewing so dress for the weather, bring a blanket or lawn chair and don’t miss any of the action.

#FreshCoasting tip Wear your puffy because Fresh Coast culture is tent culture. A large tent overlooking Lake Superior and the crisp October air. This is who we are. Grab a bite from a local food truck parked at Basecamp on Friday and Saturday night to pair with a local beer (or seltzer) pouring in the tent.

The Honorable Distillery

136 West Washington Street

When is a distillery a theater? Well in this case it was a theater first! Join us in celebrating The Honorable Distillery in the renovated historic Nordic Theater building on Washington Street. The theater was built in 1934 by adding onto a building built in the late 1880s and was the site of the original Peter White Library. The architect was Michael Meridith Hare, who assisted with the acoustical design for Radio City Music Hall and Rockefeller Center.

#FreshCoasting tip Try a handcrafted cocktail featuring the finest quality distilled spirits made from locally sourced ingredients and infused with the rugged spirit of the Upper Peninsula.

Peter White Public Library

217 North Front Street

All of Marquette knows the magic of Peter White Public Library. Part of that magic is the special reading rooms on the second floor. Located directly across from each other, the Shiras Reading Room and the Heritage Room make a great addition to the lower level Community Space FCFF has been utilizing off and on from the festival's early days. Founded in 1871, the Peter White Public Library is located on the corner of Front and Ridge Streets. **Accessibility:** ADA accessible entrance and elevator to the lower level community room and upper level Heritage and Shiras rooms is available off the library parking lot.

#FreshCoasting tip Be sure to check out the multiple art galleries, including the Huron Mountain Club Gallery, the Lower Level Reception Gallery and the Marquette Arts & Culture Center.

Blackrocks Brewery

424 North 3rd Street

The yellow house on the corner continues to expand! Raise a pint to the always evolving house-turned-pub on the corner of Third and Michigan. Roll in, high-five your neighbor and get your Fresh Coast on with a quality craft brew and all the quirkiness you've come to expect. Blackrocks allows food carry-ins, so pack a lunch and settle in. **Accessibility:** ADA accessible entrance available off the rear parking lot accessed from Michigan Street.

#FreshCoasting tip This space fills quickly so please arrive early and have a Plan B in case it's at capacity.

Down Wind Sports

514 North 3rd Street

Down Wind Sports has been supporting the film festival since day #1. They are a homegrown outdoor store that caters to the passion we have for adventure. From disc golf to ice climbing, cute shoes to fat-tire bikes Down Wind has it all. This year, as in years past, the folks at Down Wind Sports have partnered with Northern Michigan University to bring you our fantastic outdoor tours. Many of the tours meet at the shop and depart from there. Please see the Outdoor Tours pages for more information.

#FreshCoasting tip Shop employees are the gurus of U.P. adventure. Ask them for tips if you want to go explore. Also, sign up for Michigan Ice Fest while you're at the shop—a world class ice climbing festival held in the U.P. in February.

The Delft Bistro Marquee Room

139 West Washington Street

Located on the upper level behind the historic theater's marquee, The Marquee Room is Fresh Coast's home for filmmaker panels. With the marquee letters of the 1914 theatre providing a backdrop of inspiration behind panelists and a one-of-a-kind view over downtown, The Marquee Room offers an intimate setting to listen, learn, and connect with filmmakers on Saturday and Sunday morning. Enter through the main doors or via Donckers' second floor restaurant. **Accessibility:** ADA access available via elevator inside Donckers.

#FreshCoasting tip Start your morning with a coffee from Donckers next door and bring it into the panel.

The Evergreen Treehouse

131 West Washington Street

Perched above Evergreen Market and right next door to Donckers, The Treehouse hosts Fresh Coast's Filmmaker Lounge. Bright, inviting, tucked just above the bustle of Washington Street and exclusive to filmmakers, it's a space made for good conversation. With sunlight pouring in and a view over downtown, The Treehouse offers a relaxed setting for filmmakers to connect outside of screenings.

Accessibility: ADA access available via elevator inside Donckers.

#FreshCoasting tip Filmmakers, be kind and tip your servers!

Women's Federated Clubhouse

104 W. Ridge Street

Built in the 1880s and saved from demolition in 1925, the Marquette Federated Women's Clubhouse has been a hub for community gatherings ever since. From concerts and recitals to weddings and art shows, this historic space has carried the spirit of connection and creativity for nearly 100 years. **Accessibility:** ADA accessible entrance located off of Front Street.

#FreshCoasting tip The Clubhouse is part of Ridge Street's historic corner. Look around and you'll spot the Landmark Inn, Peter White Public Library, and First United Methodist Church keeping it company for nearly 100 years.

Bluff Street Station

201 North Front Street

Originally built in the 1930s, the historic building once served as a gas & service station, as well as a Buick dealership. The Bluff Street Station has been recently restored to blend its historic character with modern amenities and is Fresh Coast's newest venue. **Accessibility:** ADA accessible entrance located off of Bluff Street.

#FreshCoasting tip Bluff Street Station is one of our largest daytime venues—grab a snack, settle in and enjoy.

THE LAST HURRAH.

After nine wonderful years, we're closing up shop at 221 W Washington. Come buy some goodies and see the Sunrise Gallery one last time. New adventures await.

UPPER PENINSULA



SUPPLY COMPANY



3rd

4th Street

Down Wind Sports

Blackrocks
Brewery

Women's Federated
Clubhouse

Front Street

Peter White
Public Library

Bluff Street
Station

The Honorable
Distillery

Evergreen
Treehouse

The Delft
Bistro

Ore Dock
Brewing Co.

Fresh Coast Basecamp
@ Lower Harbor Park

FCFF Box Office
@ Marquette
Commons



Plan Your Route

Have a film you want to see?

Select a favorite film—identify its film block—pick between screening times (most films screen twice!)

Limited by time?

Check out the calendar view on pages 20 – 24 to see which film blocks are playing when you're available, then read more about the films in that block on its corresponding page.

Are you a creature of habit with a favorite venue?

Check out the calendar on pages 20 – 24 to see which blocks are playing at your favorite spot, then read more about the films on their corresponding pages. You can also view films by venue at freshcoastfilm.com/venues.

Want to go with the flow?

Select a film block that sounds interesting, pick between screening times, buckle in for the ride!



My Fresh Coast Weekend Worksheet

Friday OCTOBER 16	Saturday OCTOBER 17	Sunday OCTOBER 18
8AM Outdoor Tour	8AM Outdoor Tour	8AM Outdoor Tour
Don't forget to pick up your weekend pass from the box office!	8:30AM Filmmaker Panel at Delft Marquee Room	8:30AM Filmmaker Panel at Delft Marquee Room
10AM Film Block	10AM Film Block	10AM Film Block
12PM Film Block	12PM Film Block	12PM Film Block
2PM Film Block	2PM Film Block	2PM Film Block
4PM Outdoor Tour	4PM Outdoor Tour	Notes
7PM Evening Program: Aanikoobijigan [ancestor / great-grandparent / great-grandchild] at FC Basecamp	7PM Evening Program: Adventure, Conservation, Inspiration: A Decade of Fresh Coast and Friends at FC Basecamp	
9PM After Party at Blackrocks Brewery	9PM After Party at Ore Dock Brewing Co.	

Thursday OCTOBER 15

5:00PM • Fresh Coast Basecamp **FRESH COAST FREE!**

block details on page 28

Tip: Films begin at 7pm.

GET YOUR FRESH COAST MERCH!

Available at festival box office and online after the fest at upsupply.co/fcff.



Friday OCTOBER 16

10:00AM • Blackrocks Brewery **BEST DAY EVER**

block details on page 38

10:00AM • Bluff Street Station **ART!**

block details on page 36

10:00AM • The Honorable Distillery **REMNANTS**

block details on page 62

10:00AM • Ore Dock – Community Space **BEHOLD, THE PHOENIX**

block details on page 37

10:00AM • Ore Dock – The Station **ISLE OF GHOSTS**

block details on page 56

10:00AM • PWPL – Community Room **THE KIDS ARE (LOWKEY) ALRIGHT.**

block details on page 68

10:00AM • PWPL – Heritage Room **FRESH COAST FLASHBACK VOLUME I**

block details on page 45

10:00AM • PWPL – Shiras Room **FRESH COAST FLASHBACK VOLUME II**

block details on page 46

10:00AM • Women's Federated Clubhouse **JOIN US TOMORROW**

block details on page 58

See full schedule and
additional film details
at freshcoastfilm.com

Filmmaker Workshop

PWPL - SHIRAS ROOM
FRIDAY 12:00PM

12:00PM • Blackrocks Brewery
TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

block details on page 64

12:00PM • Bluff Street Station
THIS IS NOT A HOBBY

block details on page 72

12:00PM • The Honorable Distillery
WORK LIFE'S WORK

block details on page 80

12:00PM • Ore Dock – Community Space
BIKES!

block details on page 40

12:00PM • Ore Dock – The Station
ESTUARIES IN THE BALANCE

block details on page 44

12:00PM • PWPL – Community Room
WISDOM KEEPERS

block details on page 76

12:00PM • Women's Federated Clubhouse
PLANT LIFE

block details on page 61

2:00PM • Bluff Street Station
CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

block details on page 41

2:00PM • The Honorable Distillery
LOVE STORIES

block details on page 60

2:00PM • Ore Dock – Community Space
THE FIGHT FOR PROGRESS

block details on page 65

2:00PM • Ore Dock – The Station
THE FISHERMAN'S TALE

block details on page 66

2:00PM • PWPL – Community Room
FRONTIER TO FREEDOM

block details on page 48

2:00PM • Women's Federated Clubhouse
**THE SEARCH FOR ANNA
& LEVI**

block details on page 71

7:00PM • Fresh Coast Basecamp
**AANIKOOBIJIGAN [ANCESTOR/
GREAT-GRANDPARENT/GREAT-
GRANDCHILD]**

block details on page 32

After Party!

BLACKROCKS BREWERY
FRIDAY 9:00PM

Saturday

OCTOBER 17

Filmmaker Panel 1

DELFT MARQUEE ROOM
SATURDAY 8:30AM

10:00AM • Blackrocks Brewery

HOME IS WHERE THE HYPE IS

block details on page 55

10:00AM • Bluff Street Station

WITH INTENTION

block details on page 79

10:00AM • The Honorable Distillery

JOIN US TOMORROW

block details on page 58

10:00AM • Ore Dock – Community Space

LOVE STORIES

block details on page 60

10:00AM • Ore Dock – The Station

THE NATURAL WORLD OF THE BAY

block details on page 70

10:00AM • PWPL – Community Room

WATER IS LIFE

block details on page 73

10:00AM • PWPL – Heritage Room

FRESH COAST FLASHBACK VOLUME I

block details on page 45

10:00AM • PWPL – Shiras Room

FRESH COAST FLASHBACK VOLUME II

block details on page 46

10:00AM • Women's Federated Clubhouse

GOOD GRIEF

block details on page 52

Filmmaker Workshop

PWPL - SHIRAS ROOM
SATURDAY 12:00PM

12:00PM • Blackrocks Brewery

RUNNERS AND CHASERS

block details on page 63

12:00PM • Bluff Street Station

BIKES!

block details on page 40

12:00PM • Women's Federated Clubhouse

BEYOND OUR SENSES

block details on page 39

12:00PM • The Honorable Distillery

CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

block details on page 41

12:00PM • Ore Dock – Community Space

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

block details on page 42

12:00PM • Ore Dock – The Station

THE KIDS ARE (LOWKEY) ALRIGHT.

block details on page 68

12:00PM • PWPL – Community Room

WISDOM KEEPERS

block details on page 76

Sunday

OCTOBER 18

2:00PM • Bluff Street Station **FRONTIER TO FREEDOM**

block details on page 48

2:00PM • The Honorable Distillery **A PERPETUAL SERIES OF OCCASIONS FOR HOPE**

block details on page 30

2:00PM • Ore Dock – Community Space **WITCHY BOOTS**

block details on page 78

2:00PM • Ore Dock – The Station **GROUND**

block details on page 54

2:00PM • PWPL – Community Room **THE FISHERMAN'S TALE**

block details on page 66

2:00PM • Women's Federated Clubhouse **WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF A LISTENING PARTY??**

block details on page 74

7:00PM • Fresh Coast Basecamp **ADVENTURE, CONSERVATION, INSPIRATION: A DECADE OF FRESH COAST AND FRIENDS**

block details on page 34

After Party!

ORE DOCK BREWING CO.
SATURDAY 9:00PM

Filmmaker Panel 2

DELFT MARQUEE ROOM
SUNDAY 8:30AM

10:00AM • Blackrocks Brewery **WITH INTENTION**

block details on page 79

10:00AM • Bluff Street Station **TECHNICALLY SPEAKING**

block details on page 64

10:00AM • The Honorable Distillery **WORK LIFE'S WORK**

block details on page 80

10:00AM • Ore Dock – Community Space **THE FIGHT FOR PROGRESS**

block details on page 65

10:00AM • Ore Dock – The Station **THIS IS NOT A HOBBY**

block details on page 72

10:00AM • Women's Federated Clubhouse **HOME IS WHERE THE HYPE IS**

block details on page 55

12:00PM • Blackrocks Brewery **CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS**

block details on page 42

12:00PM • Bluff Street Station **BEYOND OUR SENSES**

block details on page 39

Sunday, continued

OCTOBER 18

12:00PM • The Honorable Distillery **BEHOLD, THE PHOENIX**

block details on page 37

12:00PM • Ore Dock – Community Space **A PERPETUAL SERIES OF OCCASIONS FOR HOPE**

block details on page 30

12:00PM • Ore Dock – The Station **REMNANTS**

block details on page 62

12:00PM • Women's Federated Clubhouse **RUNNERS AND CHASERS**

block details on page 63

2:00PM • Bluff Street Station **PLANT LIFE**

block details on page 61

2:00PM • The Honorable Distillery **WATER IS LIFE**

block details on page 73

2:00PM • Ore Dock – Community Space **ESTUARIES IN THE BALANCE**

block details on page 44

2:00PM • Ore Dock – The Station **ISLE OF GHOSTS**

block details on page 56

2:00PM • Women's Federated Clubhouse **ART!**

block details on page 36

See full schedule
and additional
film details at
freshcoastfilm.com



NEW!

As the festival's popularity grows beyond Marquette's biggest tent (!), an outdoor screen has been added to the lawn at Fresh Coast Basecamp for another viewing option—bring a blanket, lawn chair or sub-zero sleeping bag and don't miss any of the action!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN THE UPPER PENINSULA




DOWN WIND SPORTS

HOUGHTON ◀ MARQUETTE ◀ MUNISING ◀ ONLINE



Aaron Draplin

Aaron Draplin of the Draplin Design Co. was born in Detroit, raised in Traverse City, and currently lives and works in Portland, Oregon. He makes stuff for rock bands, comedians, restaurants, festivals and leftie politicians. He's traveled the world telling his story, with over 575 speaking fiascos under his belt. He co-created Field Notes memo books with Jim Coudal, selling their products worldwide.

His eight Skillshare classes are raging along, teaching design enthusiasts of all ages. He recently launched DDC Fonts showcasing his four typefaces. His first book titled "Pretty Much Everything" came out on May 17, 2016 on Abrams Books, and incredibly, is in its 13th printing a decade later. The DDC merch roster is up to 400+ products! You'll see them at DDC merch tables from coast to coast or in his online shop.

In the summer of 1994, he was a food court "pizza carry" in a traveling amusements fair, which took him all the way to Escanaba, Ironwood and Iron Mountain, so he's no stranger to the U.P. He owes it all to his parents. Really.

WHERE TO FIND AARON

Instagram
@DRAPLIN



YETI BUILT FOR THE WILD.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

FRESH COAST FREE!

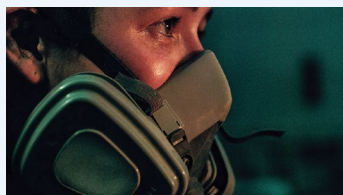
5 films in this block • 63 minutes

SHOWINGS

Thursday October 15

5:00PM Fresh Coast Basecamp at Lower Harbor Park

Tip: Film screenings and award announcements begin at 7pm.

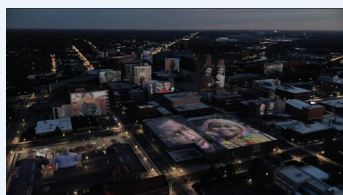


Alchemical Artistry

2026 • USA • 5 min • Ryan Sullivan

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere

This short film explores the work of local Marquette artist, Niikah Hatfield, engaging with the philosophical questions of life and what it means to be alive through the process of ceramics, creativity, and living well.



Representing Flint

2026 • USA • 6 min • Mike Ramsdell

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Staff Pick

A five-minute tribute to the last 100 years of Flint, through the lyrics and performance of Mama Söl and the Flint Symphony.

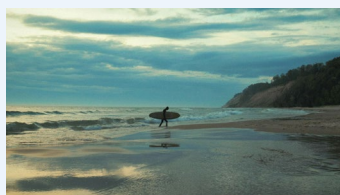


Currentcy

2026 • USA • 12 min • Ryan Christians

Michigan Premiere, Staff Pick

After a traumatic chapter left Ashley battling anxiety and depression, he discovered that the river offered more than just fish. *Currentcy* follows one man's journey as fly fishing became a path toward connection, healing, and a renewed sense of purpose.



Hometown Hype: Northern Michigan

2026 • USA • 12 min • Mike King

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance

An inside look at Northern Michigan's surf scene. *Hometown Hype* is part of a video series highlighting America's Surf Towns.



Choosing Trail

2026 • USA • 28 min • Aaron Peterson
and Darryn Schulte

*Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in
Attendance, Family Friendly, Staff Pick*

Trail towns often face similar dilemmas when access to the outdoors, affordable housing and job creation compete for the same finite resources. *Choosing Trail* explores these issues in Marquette County, Michigan through conversations with land managers, business owners and trail advocates working to preserve and grow their beloved—but changing—community.

Join us for Fresh Coast Free, the annual kickoff event for the Fresh Coast Film Festival

Our free festival kickoff starts at 5pm with Marquette's food trucks, fly casting demos, conservation orgs and a bluegrass concert at the Fresh Coast Basecamp tent in Lower Harbor Park.

This family-friendly event is open to all, so bring a blanket, lawn chair, and enjoy. Film screenings and award announcements begin at 7pm.

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BLOCK

A PERPETUAL SERIES OF OCCASIONS FOR HOPE

4 films in this block • 52 minutes

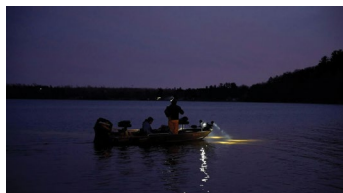
SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

2:00PM The Honorable Distillery

Sunday, October 18

12:00PM Ore Dock – Community Space



Spring Fish Harvest with the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin

2025 • USA • 4 min • Bonnie Willison

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly, Has Subtitles

Spearfishing brings Ojibwe families together, honors ancestors, and provides food for the community. Despite this, spearfishing is often misunderstood outside of Indigenous communities. Hear from the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin about what spearfishing means to them, and how they scientifically manage the fishery.



Currentcy

2026 • USA • 12 min • Ryan Christians

Michigan Premiere, Staff Pick

After a traumatic chapter left Ashley battling anxiety and depression, he discovered that the river offered more than just fish. *Currentcy* follows one man's journey as fly fishing became a path toward connection, healing, and a renewed sense of purpose.

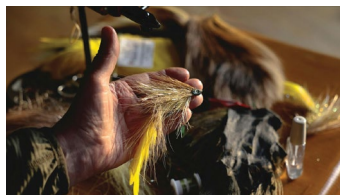


At the Altar of the Golden God

2024 • USA • 13 min • Erik Sudheimer

Adult Language, Staff Pick

In this episode of *SHORELUNCH*, we find the crew prowling the river shallows of the Pacific Northwest in search of monster carps! There's also a legendary Chinese-American sandwich of legends. Join us for lunch (and rabid squirrels) at the altar of the golden god!



Jac

2026 • USA • 23 min • Mike Brooks

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, First Time Filmmaker

At 86 years old, Michigan fly fishing legend Jac Ford still paddles rivers across Michigan and Montana, guiding clients and teaching fellow guides his craft. In *Jac*, the master angler reveals some of his secrets, and shares a lifetime of wisdom for living a long, happy life.



We'll see you out there.

BLOCK

AANIKOObIJIGAN [ANCESTOR/GREAT-GRANDPARENT/GREAT-GRANDCHILD]

1 film in this block • 80 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

7:00PM Fresh Coast Basecamp



Aanikoobijigan [ancestor / great-grandparent / great-grandchild]

2026 • USA • 80 min • Adam Khalil and Zack Khalil

Subject in Attendance, Staff Pick

In the sterile storage of museums and archives, our ancestor's remains struggle to find their way home. The film follows eleven indigenous repatriation specialists that make up Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance, fighting to rebury and return ancestors from settler-colonial libraries, archives, and museums. Winner of the 2026 Sundance NEXT Audience Award.

#FreshCoasting tip: Food trucks and beverage tent open at 6:00pm Friday and Saturday. New, an outdoor screen has been added to the lawn for additional viewing—bring a blanket, lawn chair or sub-zero sleeping bag and don't miss any of the action!

Get involved in the life of our lake!

Lake Superior and its five national parks are home to moose and other wildlife, rich cultural heritage, and some of the most spectacular natural beauty in the country.

For 20 years, National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation has helped people protect what makes this lake and its parks so extraordinary. Join us for what's next!

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3. Isle Royale National Park
4. Keweenaw National Historical Park
5. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore



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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

ADVENTURE, CONSERVATION, INSPIRATION: A DECADE OF FRESH COAST AND FRIENDS

A compilation of short films and special guests • 90 min

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

7:00PM Fresh Coast Basecamp



Ope, we made it 10 years. Time to look back at our driving themes of Adventure, Conservation and Inspiration and hear from some special guests old and new, including *Crime Pays But Botany Doesn't*'s Joey Santore and hip-hop and spoken word artist Mama Söl, featured in *Representing Flint*.

#FreshCoasting tip: Food trucks and beverage tent open at 6:00pm Friday and Saturday. New, an outdoor screen has been added to the lawn for additional viewing—bring a blanket, lawn chair or sub-zero sleeping bag and don't miss any of the action!



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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

ART!

4 films in this block • 57 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM Bluff Street Station

Sunday, October 18

2:00PM Women's Federated Clubhouse



Joe Graci, artist.

2023 • USA • 2 min • Josh LeClair

Family Friendly

Inspired by the seasons and elements of the Upper Peninsula, Joseph Graci carves fine art that is textural, unique, and sense-awakening. This short film follows him as he works on his art in his studio and spends time in the expansive outdoors that inspires it.

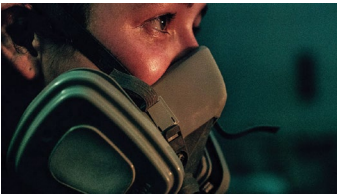


Art in a Changing Landscape: Detroit and the Disconnected Logic of Funding

2026 • USA • 24 min • Steve Panton

Filmmaker in Attendance, First Time Filmmaker

Artists, researchers, and activists explore the relationship between their lived experiences and the patterns of uneven development in Metropolitan Detroit and its art ecosystem.

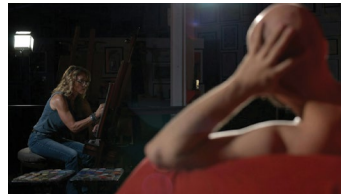


Alchemical Artistry

2026 • USA • 5 min • Ryan Sullivan

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere

This short film explores the work of local Marquette artist, Niikah Hatfield, engaging with the philosophical questions of life and what it means to be alive through the process of ceramics, creativity, and living well.



Life Model Protégé

2026 • USA • 26 min • Joseph Vignieri

First Time Filmmaker, Michigan Premiere, Nudity

Life Model Protégé is a glimpse behind the curtain at the unique world of figure art. Meet models who pose in the nude and the artists who draw them.

BLOCK

BEHOLD, THE PHOENIX

3 films in this block • 46 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM Ore Dock – Community Space

Sunday, October 18

12:00PM The Honorable Distillery

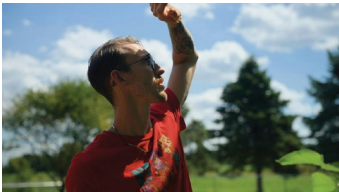


If I Go

2020 • USA • 5 min • Annette Summersett

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance

A music video for the song 'If I Go' which touches on themes of life, death, rebirth, mental health and mother nature. Featuring various beautiful, natural U.P. locations such as The Huron Islands, Montreal Falls, Point Abbaye, and Manitou Island.



Sincerely, Sage Jo

2026 • USA • 21 min • Jacob Wilkins

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly, Student Filmmaker

After their life takes an unexpected turn, Megan and Mitchell start a business creating keepsakes for families' most important moments.



Stone Cold Phoenix

2026 • USA • 20 min • Nate Sheppard

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere

Stone Cold Phoenix is an intimate look at the life and stylings of Shelley Novotny, a northern Wisconsin artist who creates stunning wearable art pieces to showcase the understated beauty of the world and people around her. This film explores how communal art (and cold water immersion!) can transform us through the ashes of trauma into something new and more beautiful.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

BEST DAY EVER

1 film in this block • 48 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM Blackrocks Brewery



Best Day Ever

2025 • USA • 48 min • Ben Knight, Berne Broudy

Has Subtitles, Family Friendly, Staff Pick

Best Day Ever follows the stories of two adaptive mountain bikers as they navigate the relentless challenges of their disabilities and embrace the tremendous support, friendship, and joy they find in their rural Vermont riding community.

BLOCK

BEYOND OUR SENSES

4 films in this block • 52 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

12:00PM Women's Federated Clubhouse

Sunday, October 18

12:00PM Bluff Street Station



What We Learn from Banding Wisconsin's Birds

2025 • USA • 4 min • Bonnie Willison & Bijit Khadka

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly

For four decades, volunteers with the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology have visited Wisconsin's Baraboo Hills before dawn, gently netting and banding birds one by one. Year after year, the data adds up to something bigger - a long-term window into how bird populations are shifting across the country.



A Touch of Wildness: Sandhill Cranes in America

2026 • USA • 6 min • Joe Brown

Michigan Premiere

This short documentary tells the story of sandhill cranes in America.



Brac

2026 • USA • 15 min • Armin Korsos

Michigan Premiere, Filmmaker in Attendance

On a small Caribbean island, the native Brown Booby is disappearing, not from climate change but from feral cats people brought generations ago. Chicago-based filmmaker Armin Korsos follows the stories of the conservationists caught between action and inaction, asking when human-caused damage becomes our responsibility to fix, and what it means if we choose not to.



Beyond Our Senses: Bank Swallows

2026 • USA • 27 min • David Andrew Busse

Filmmaker in Attendance, Staff Pick

The bank swallow looks unremarkable, but it lives in a sensory world so different from our own that it might as well be another universe. Filmed with sweeping beauty and intimate detail, the film follows the colony through a season of triumph and loss.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

BIKES!

3 films in this block • 40 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

12:00PM Ore Dock – Community Space

Saturday, October 17

12:00PM Bluff Street Station



Northwoods

2026 • USA • 4 min • Ethan Lewis Sperber

Filmmaker in Attendance, Adult Language

Spanning between Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota lies 650 miles of trees, lakes, and trails, what some call the North Woods, where most folks don't expect to see anyone on a bicycle. A posse of Midwestern boys decided it'd be a good idea to bike through this area of the country that sometimes gets overlooked.



A Drop in the Bucket

2026 • USA • 8 min • Rachel Roff

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Representative in Attendance

Kendsie and Matt have been living car-free forever, and now they've added two kids to the mix without losing any of their optimism. The filmmaker knew she had to capture the joy it's brought her family and so many others along the way.



Choosing Trail

2026 • USA • 28 min • Aaron Peterson and Darryn Schulte

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Staff Pick

Trail towns often face similar dilemmas when access to the outdoors, affordable housing and job creation compete for the same finite resources. *Choosing Trail* explores these issues in Marquette County, Michigan through conversations with land managers, business owners and trail advocates working to preserve and grow their beloved—but changing—community.

BLOCK

CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP

3 films in this block • 51 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

2:00PM Bluff Street Station

Saturday, October 17

12:00PM The Honorable Distillery

**BIG JIM: An American on Everest**

2026 • USA • 10 min • Jim Aikman

Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere

"Big Jim" Whittaker was a legendary Pacific Northwest mountaineer who became the first American to summit Mount Everest on May 1, 1963. Featuring rarely seen 16mm footage from the 1963 American Everest Expedition, archival images from the Whittaker family collection, and interviews filmed in Jim's late 80s, the film is both an intimate portrait of an extraordinary life and a celebration of the adventurous spirit that helped define a generation of American climbing.

**Keep on Strokin' - Building a Solo Community**

2026 • USA • 27 min • Shawn Connelly

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere

After crushing the fastest known time paddling the Wisconsin River, Kyle Parker takes on his next adventure: canoeing from Washington to Florida. Throughout his solo tip to tip journey, he discovers community and connection on and off the water.

**Endless Ride - The Art Behind Moonscape Skatepark Design**

2026 • USA • 14 min • Nick Nummerdor

& Andrew J. Morgan

Filmmaker in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, Adult Language

Endless Ride follows artist Billy Coulon of Evergreen Skateparks and his crew making public parks as skateable art pieces all over the United States.

BLOCK

CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS

3 films in this block • 49 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

12:00PM Ore Dock – Community Space

Sunday, October 18

12:00PM Blackrocks Brewery

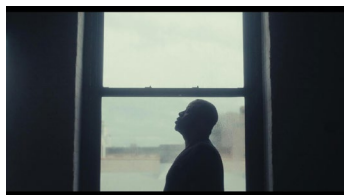


Conservation Connections

2026 • USA • 6 min • Aaron Peterson and Haley Holland

Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance

Since 1972 the Little Traverse Conservancy has preserved over 82,000 acres in northern Michigan. Today every LTC sign is an invitation and a reminder that all conservancy-owned lands are open to you to enjoy.



The Book of George

2025 • USA • 15 min • Danny Schmidt

Adult Language, Michigan Premiere, Adult Themes, Staff Pick

From Brooklyn's concrete jungle to the heart of the Everglades, Black wildlife photographer George McKenzie Jr. is transforming his lens into a beacon of change. A rare gem in the predominantly white canvas of wildlife photography, McKenzie is empowering kids of color to shift their gaze to conservation.



Saving Sturgeon the Tribal Way

2026 • USA • 28 min • Kathy Johnson

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly, Staff Pick

The film explores the lake sturgeon's traditional role in Anishinaabe culture as told through interviews with community members across Michigan and examines how traditional beliefs have guided and revolutionized lake sturgeon restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.



Fresh Coast

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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

ESTUARIES IN THE BALANCE

1 film in this block • 55 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

12:00PM Ore Dock – The Station

Sunday, October 18

2:00PM Ore Dock – Community Space



Estuaries in the Balance: Freshwater Nurseries of Lake Superior

2026 • USA • 55 min • John Shepard, John Thain

Michigan Premiere, Representative in Attendance

Two iconic Lake Superior estuaries are among the planet's most biologically productive environments. The pristine Bad River Sloughs have been sustained through time by the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The much maligned St. Louis River estuary is the heart of the Fond du Lac Band's traditional homeland. Both face an uncertain future.

BLOCK

FRESH COAST FLASHBACK VOLUME I

A compilation of short films • 90 min

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM PWPL – Heritage Room

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM PWPL – Heritage Room



Fresh Coast Flashback Volume I

60 min

Reelin' in the Years with some of the best short films to flow through the Fresh Coast.

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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

FRESH COAST FLASHBACK VOLUME II

A compilation of short films • 90 min

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM PWPL – Shiras Room

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM PWPL – Shiras Room



Fresh Coast Flashback Volume II

60 min

Reelin' in the Years with some of the best short films to flow through the Fresh Coast.

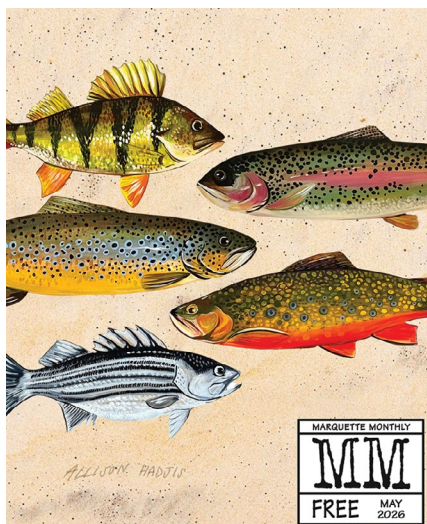
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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

FRONTIER TO FREEDOM

1 film in this block • 119 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

2:00PM PWPL – Community Room

Saturday, October 17

2:00PM Bluff Street Station



Frontier to Freedom

2026 • USA • 119 min • Keith Patterson

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance

Frontier to Freedom is the origin story of Michigan from 1600-1837. Through a blend of expert interviews, archival imagery, and stunning visuals, the film traces our evolution from a vast wilderness inhabited by Indigenous peoples to its history of war and conflict on the American frontier, and the complex socio-political forces that shaped its path to statehood.

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FRESH COAST CHECKLIST

- ☐ Thank a volunteer
- ☐ Tag #FreshCoasting
and @FreshCoastFilm
- ☐ Buy Fresh Coast swag
- ☐ Pick up after yourself
- ☐ Save next year's dates
October 14 – 17, 2027
- ☐ Discuss a film with
a new friend
- ☐ Introduce yourself
to a filmmaker
- ☐ Adventure on an
outdoor tour
- ☐ Eat and drink at a
local restaurant

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

GOOD GRIEF

1 film in this block • 38 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM Women's Federated Clubhouse



Good Grief: The 10-Steps

2024 • USA • 38 min • Katie Flint

Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere

The rapidly changing climate weighs heavily on Andrea, a sensitive and passionate professor who has taught climate science for over 20 years. She knows she can't navigate these feelings alone. The film follows participants in the Good Grief Network, an innovative support program, as they lean into their painful feelings and, in the process, discover joy, connection, and a renewed sense of possibility.

After the film join the co-founders of The Good Grief Network to continue the conversation.

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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

GROUNDLED

1 film in this block • 85 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

2:00PM Ore Dock – The Station



Grounded

2026 • USA • 85 min • Nathan Buck and Claire Hannah Collins

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly

A group of high school students at a boarding school in Northern Michigan set out to make a film about regenerative farming, only to get tangled in the contradictions between what they learn and the system that feeds them.

FRESH COAST FILMMAKER PANELS

Join Fresh Coast filmmakers, film subjects, and friends for panel discussions on Saturday and Sunday morning.

Grab a coffee and gather in The Delft Marquee Room (upstairs, connected to Donckers) for inspiring morning conversations. Panels are presented in collaboration with Interlochen Public Radio and the Points North Podcast.

**Saturday,
October 17 +
Sunday,
October 18**

8:30 – 9:00am
Coffee

9:00 – 9:45am
Conversation

BLOCK

HOME IS WHERE THE HYPE IS

4 films in this block • 55 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM Blackrocks Brewery

Sunday, October 18

10:00AM Women's Federated Clubhouse

**The People Mover**

2025 • USA • 4 min • Jesus Arzola-Vega

Has Subtitles

If a train in Detroit could talk, what would it say? This short film showcases the possible musings of Detroit's tiny public transit system.

**Hometown Hype: Northern Michigan**

2026 • USA • 12 min • Mike King

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance

An inside look at Northern Michigan's surf scene. *Hometown Hype* is part of a video series highlighting America's Surf Towns.

**Rabinski**

2025 • USA • 15 min • Ryan Belville

Adult Language, Filmmaker in Attendance

The city of Detroit is 138 square miles. You may know Midtown or Downtown, but Rabinski has been all around. Follow Dan as he traverses the back roads, alleys, and dense wilderness of the Detroit you've never seen. Armed with only his bicycle and a camera, Rabinski takes you on a journey that even the locals have a hard time finding.

**Skate Rat Since '88: The Kristian Svitek Story**

2025 • USA • 24 min • Danny Mizicko

Michigan Premiere, Staff Pick, Filmmaker in Attendance

A documentary chronicling the life and career of Kristian Svitek, a professional skateboarder hailing from Cleveland, Ohio. Known for his fearless style and dedication, Svitek has been a significant figure in shaping Ohio's skateboarding culture.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

ISLE OF GHOSTS

1 film in this block • 65 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM Ore Dock – The Station

Sunday, October 18

2:00PM Ore Dock – The Station



Isle of Ghosts

2026 • USA • 65 min • Chris Ozminski

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Work in Progress

Michipicoten Island in Lake Superior is the little known sibling to famous Isle Royale. Soak in the rugged wilderness. Explore seldom seen relics and natural wonders. Get to know your seasoned off-trail guides, Michael Neiger and Chris Ozminski. This is a special sneak preview of the nearly completed film.

WEDDING & EVENT VENUE

BLUFF STREET STATION

MARQUETTE, MI



bluffstreetstation.com

BLOCK

JOIN US TOMORROW

5 films in this block • 47 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM Women's Federated Clubhouse

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM The Honorable Distillery



Join Us Tomorrow

2026 • USA • 9 min • Martha Shue

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, First Time Filmmaker, World Premiere

Casual friends meet at a Lake Superior beach on a beautiful September morning. Soon they're dipping regularly while their friendship grows as they show up for each other, and themselves dipping through the winter, in the icy lake.

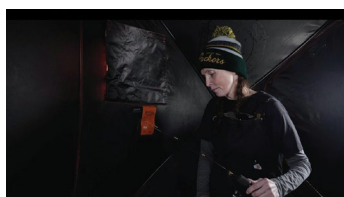


Rodeo On Ice

2026 • USA • 5 min • Lindsey Hagen

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere

Lifelong equestrian Britta Nancarrow seeks to progress as a professional competitive skijorer. Join along as she trains with Michigan skier Mike King and snowboarder Sandra Hillen, taking their on-snow skills to the next level at their very first competition.

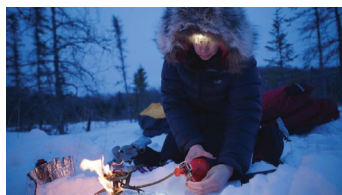


Beneath the Ice

2026 • USA • 4 min • Amara Johnson

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Student Filmmaker

The filmmakers mother, Jennifer Johnson a fish biologist with the Michigan DNR, discusses her connection with ice fishing.

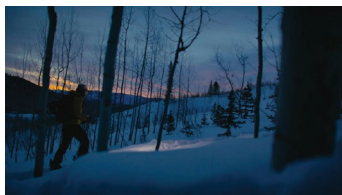


Cold Blooded Kari

2026 • USA • 15 min • Jeremiah Schuster

Filmmaker in Attendance (Saturday only), Subject in Attendance (Saturday only), Michigan Premiere, World Premiere

Cold Blooded Kari follows Minneapolis ultra winter athlete Kari Gibbons on her journey toward the legendary 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail Invitational on foot. Driven by an obsession with winter and the pursuit of endurance, Kari has become a respected leader in the growing community of female ultra winter athletes.



Forever in the Mountains

2025 • USA • 14 min • Grace Eggleston

*Filmmaker in Attendance, Has Subtitles,
Staff Pick*

When her best "pow day" friend is diagnosed with breast cancer at a young age, Stephanie turns her grief into purpose. Set deep in the Colorado Rockies, *Forever in the Mountains* tells the powerful origin story of the nonprofit Tits Deep for Breast Cancer. Join Stephanie as she navigates grief, finds sisterhood, and works to save young lives in the mountains.

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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

LOVE STORIES

2 films in this block • 50 minutes

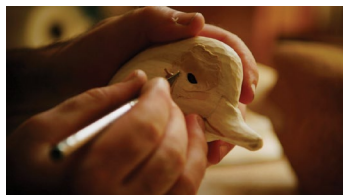
SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

2:00PM The Honorable Distillery

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM Ore Dock – Community Space

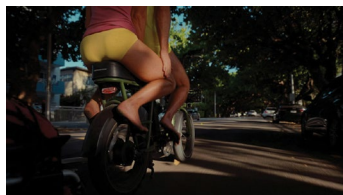


Carving a Legacy

2026 • USA • 19 min • Josh Heese

Filmmaker in Attendance, World Premiere, Staff Pick

Carving a Legacy follows Luke Costilow, an award-winning duck decoy carver and wildlife conservationist, and the often-overlooked role of hunters as stewards of the environment.



Neon Reef

2026 • USA • 31 min • Alex Mitow

Filmmaker in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, First Time Filmmaker, Nudity, Staff Pick

Part nature documentary, part queer love letter to community and action, *Neon Reef* immerses you in the sun-drenched, surreal beauty of Miami's underwater world. Dive past the waves that break on the pulsing neon shores of America's glitziest beach town with this unlikely reef warrior couple as they dive, strategize, schmooze politicians, and rally a diverse community to defend the coral reef at their doorstep.

LOVE FRESH COAST?



Help fuel the Adventure, Conservation,
and Inspiration you see on screen.

Donate today to keep the stories—
and the spirit—alive for years to come.

BLOCK

PLANT LIFE

4 films in this block • 46 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

12:00PM Women's Federated Clubhouse

Sunday, October 18

2:00PM Bluff Street Station



Why Native Plants?

2025 • USA • 6 min • Cecelia Gould

First Time Filmmaker, Student Filmmaker

Native plants improve outcomes for the environment, but are increasingly eliminated in favor of more "typical" garden plants. Learn how to make an impact on your local environment, and potentially yourself, by planting native species.



Restoring Wild Rice in the Lake Winnebago Watershed

2025 • USA • 4 min • Bonnie Willison

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly

Lake Winnebago, Wisconsin's largest inland lake, used to teem with wild rice. What happened to the rice, and how do we help restore it? An intertribal, interdisciplinary team is blending traditional ecological knowledge and western science to answer these questions.



Organic Network

2025 • USA • 13 min • Elena Shepard

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly, Representative in Attendance, Student Filmmaker

Organic Network features interviews from urban farmers and experts in Flint, Michigan on the impact of the water crisis, COVID, benefits of local farming, and how the lives of the farmers have changed over the years.



Plant Life

2026 • USA • 23 min • Brett Marty and Josh Izenberg

Has Subtitles, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, Staff Pick

Plant Life captures Dr. Joanne Chory at a pivotal moment: as her Parkinson's advances and carbon levels surge, she pursues her most audacious experiment yet. Having revolutionized plant biology once already, she and her team are re-engineering crops to draw down carbon dioxide at planetary scale — a scientific race against time that may determine both her legacy and our future.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

REMNANTS

3 films in this block • 45 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM The Honorable Distillery

Sunday, October 18

12:00PM Ore Dock – The Station



Akiing Gikendaasowin: Knowledge of the Land with Patrick Concannon

2026 • USA • 3 min • Mark Wilson of New Leonard Media

Filmmaker in Attendance, Has Subtitles, Family Friendly, Representative in Attendance

Patrick Concannon reflects on his ancestral land near North Lake Leelanau, where hunting, gathering and caring for the land connect family across generations. This film is part of the Leelanau Conservancy's Indigenous Knowledges Project, dedicated to elevating Anishinaabe voices.



Finding A Way

2026 • USA • 20 min • Jason Whalen

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly

The Midwest has a rich natural heritage of beautiful forests, sprawling prairies and clear and clean lakes and rivers. While the human footprint across America's heartland clashes with nature, protection and restoration of our

most sensitive habitats is how humans can find a way to help biodiversity persist within our working landscapes.



Remnants

2025 • USA • 22 min • Michael Catenaci

Filmmaker in Attendance

In the aftermath of a devastating wildfire, a family of sixth-generation ranchers in central California is forced to grapple with how society has changed, and with it, government policies and attitudes that pose an existential threat to their business and their lifestyle.

BLOCK

RUNNERS AND CHASERS

4 films in this block • 55 minutes

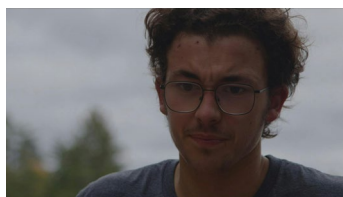
SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

12:00PM Blackrocks Brewery

Sunday, October 18

12:00PM Women's Federated Clubhouse

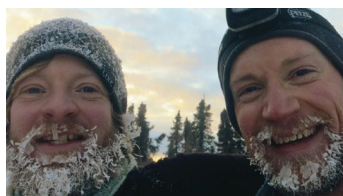


Still Running

2026 • USA • 10 min • Dylan Dubé

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, Student Filmmaker, Family Friendly

A student documentary exploring what drives people to keep going, and the people who show up to support them, *Still Running* follows the Anderson Lake Backyard Ultra, a grueling endurance race in the heart of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.



Cold Sober

2026 • USA • 14 min • Ryan Rumpca

Filmmaker in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Making Waves Recipient

After years of addiction derailed his dreams, one man returns to Alaska to face 100 miles of sub-arctic wilderness and everything he left in.

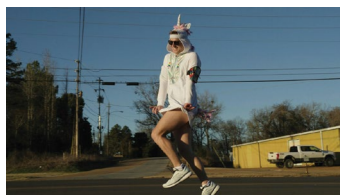


Half Marathon All Canoe

2025 • USA • 15 min • Jacob White

Filmmaker in Attendance, Has Subtitles, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere

On the mend from a knee replacement, ultra marathoner Dane Rauschenberg attempts to break a record in the half marathon portage category – even though he's never before lifted a canoe!



Miss Adventure

2026 • USA • 16 min • Mikah Meyer & James 'Q' Martin

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Work in Progress, Making Waves Recipient, Staff Pick

Mikah Meyer grew up a Midwest pastor's son, hidden in a religion-sealed closet. After his social media crowns Mississippi "The Most Homophobic State in America," Mikah attempts to run across it in flamboyant colors. Alongside his college mentor, Larry, they confront traumas from their shared time in America's Bible Belt. Together, they try to exist loudly, so the next generation has an easier road to travel.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING

3 film in this block • 56 minutes

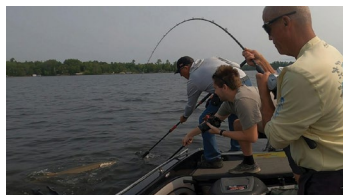
SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

12:00PM Blackrocks Brewery

Sunday, October 18

10:00AM Bluff Street Station

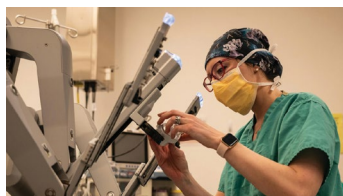


How Technology is Ruining Fishing... or Saving It

2025 • USA • 19 min • Chris Parr

Filmmaker in Attendance

Explore the rise of forward-facing sonar, the most controversial technology in modern fishing. Is this innovation... or are we crossing the line between sport and simulation?



Robots to the Rescue

2025 • USA • 15 min • Christy Frank

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere

When previously used surgical robots and other medical equipment find new life in the Great Lakes region, a small Toledo company's commitment to reuse and sustainability helps train the next generation of veterinary surgeons, while giving rescue dogs a second chance at adoption.



I Spent 7 Days Evading America's 82 Million Surveillance Cameras

2026 • USA • 22 min • Chris Parr

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Staff Pick

Existing in public without hitting a database seems impossible thanks to the 82 million surveillance cameras, 100,000 Flock license plate readers, and millions of Ring doorbells active in America. So in order to learn about them, I spent 7 days trying to avoid them.

BLOCK

THE FIGHT FOR PROGRESS

4 films in this block • 54 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

2:00PM Ore Dock – Community Space

Sunday, October 18

10:00AM Ore Dock – Community Space



Black Nite

2025 • USA • 7 min • Finn Ryan, Craig Eley

Filmmaker in Attendance, Adult Language, Michigan Premiere, Adult Themes

Before Stonewall there was The Black Nite, a Milwaukee gay bar where LGBTQ activists and allies brawled with a group of homophobic sailors. This video ode to the location tells the story of that night.



The Fight for Progress: Wisconsin's Push for Lead Pipe Replacement

2026 • USA • 17 min • Nels Lindquist

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere

Lead poisoning is an ongoing public health emergency. This short documentary goes into the trenches with the workers and advocates fighting to replace lead pipes in Wisconsin, while revealing the human stakes of a water crisis that continues to put children at risk.

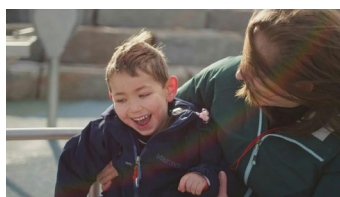


UNFINISHED

2026 • USA • 5 min • Jason Lindsey

Filmmaker in Attendance

UNFINISHED is a five-minute documentary built entirely from photographs of American flags in ordinary places: farms, storefronts, closed main streets. With no faces or partisan narration, the flag stands as a constant witness, present in both celebration and struggle, to the distance between American promise and lived reality.



Dragon Mom

2026 • USA • 25 min • Harrison Buck

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere

Dragon Mom follows Laura, a mother learning to navigate the emotional, physical, and societal complexities of raising a child who lives with severe disability. Alongside her family, Laura must confront the realities of ableism, advocate for accessibility, and redefine what strength and connection look like.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

THE FISHERMAN'S TALE

1 film in this block • 98 minutes

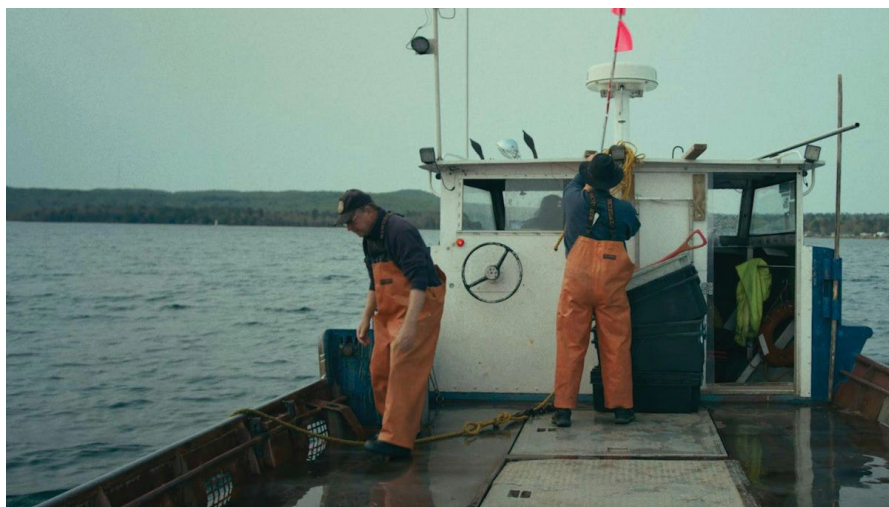
SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

2:00PM Ore Dock – The Station

Saturday, October 17

2:00PM PWPL – Community Room



The Fisherman's Tale

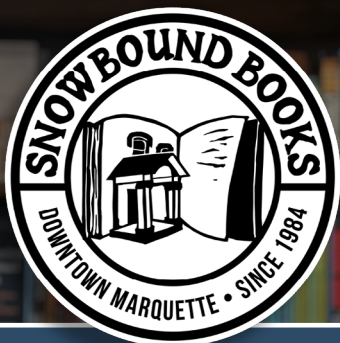
2026 • USA • 98 min • Nate Chitwood

Michigan Premiere, Staff Pick, Filmmaker in Attendance

The last commercial fishermen of the Great Lakes struggle to survive as they face unprecedented ecological disasters, a changing climate, and outdated governmental regulations.

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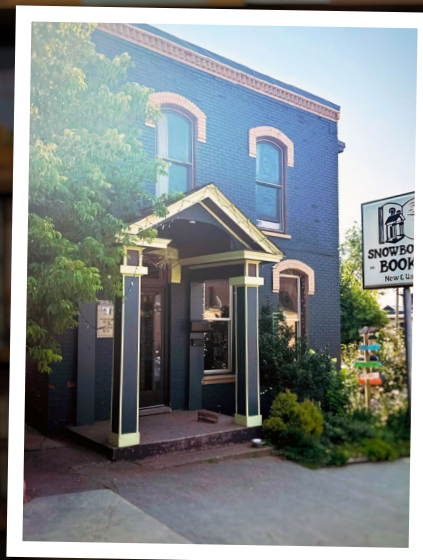


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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

THE KIDS ARE (LOWKEY) ALRIGHT.

5 films in this block • 53 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

10:00AM PWPL – Community Room

Saturday, October 17

12:00PM Ore Dock – The Station



Fish for the Future

2026 • USA • 4 min • Adriana Alexander

Family Friendly, First Time Filmmaker, Student Filmmaker

This short documentary builds on the Fish for the Future project put together by the Wisconsin Sierra Club to explore why the Great Lakes are critical and how to preserve them for future generations. The independent filmmaker was a seventh-grade student at the time.

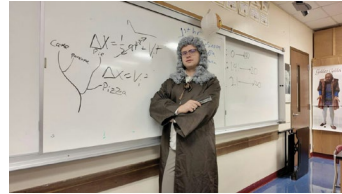


The Deep Dive

2025 • USA • 12 min • Nancy Donnelly

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Representative in Attendance, Staff Pick

In Michigan's Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, teams from around the world compete in the MATE International ROV Competition. In this competition, the Thomson family from Alpena competes brother against sister against sister against father. Who will triumph in this test of engineering skills in the Great Lakes?



Tall Jessie

2026 • USA • 5 min • Adam Burns

Family Friendly, Filmmaker in Attendance

An eccentric coach uses his outsider status to develop a new play to implement in the annual Troy Athens powder puff football game.



Normal

2025 • USA • 7 min • Keall Emmers

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Student Filmmaker

Normal is a short reflexive documentary about growing up with divorced parents and living between two homes. Using personal narration, archival footage, and interviews with my parents, the film reflects on how something that seems difficult or overwhelming to others became my everyday reality - and how hearing their perspectives changed the way I understand my own childhood.



Boys of Summer

2026 • USA • 25 min • Annabel Edwards,
Mito Habe-Evans

*Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere,
First Time Filmmaker*

Two boys arrive at a remote summer camp in the Vermont woods. Free from screens and societal expectations, they learn to open up, support one another, and redefine what it means to be a boy.



Catch a **special Fresh Coast laser light show** on the Lower Harbor Ore Dock this weekend starting at 8:30pm. *Best place to watch?* Fresh Coast Basecamp, of course!

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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

THE NATURAL WORLD OF THE BAY

1 film in this block • 60 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM Ore Dock – The Station



The Natural World of the Bay

2026 • USA • 60 min • Daniel Larson

Filmmaker in Attendance, Michigan Premiere

Lake Michigan's Green Bay is the world's largest freshwater estuary, where the warm, nutrient-rich water of the Lower Fox River mixes with the cool water of the lake, creating an aquatic environment that supports a productive fishery, wetlands and a migratory flyway. The film turns to the people who care for this world of fish and birds as they seek understanding and look for solutions.

NEW! FILMMAKER WORKSHOPS

Designed for filmmakers but open to everyone, gather for peer-to-peer conversations around distribution, sound design and more.

Friday and
Saturday at 12pm

PWPL - Shiras
Room

BLOCK

THE SEARCH FOR ANNA & LEVI

1 film in this block • 39 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

2:00PM Women's Federated Clubhouse



The Search for Anna & Levi: A Lost History of Black Homesteaders in Leelanau County

2025 • USA • 39 min • Joe VanderMeulen

Representative in Attendance

The Search for Anna & Levi uncovers the overlooked story of Anna and Levi Johnson, early Black homesteaders in Leelanau County. Through descendants, historians, and regional experts, the film connects their family story to the broader history of African American settlement in the Midwest.

Friday: So Now What?

So you made a film, now what? Gather for a peer-to-peer conversation around distribution. Filmmakers Keith Patterson, Lindsey Hagen and Mike King will share their experiences, everything from selling a film to booking an indy theater tour.

Saturday: Sounds Complicated

Join experienced audio professionals from a variety of backgrounds for a peer-to-peer learning opportunity around sound capture, creation and post production.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

THIS IS NOT A HOBBY

3 films in this block • 49 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

12:00PM Bluff Street Station

Sunday, October 18

10:00AM Ore Dock – The Station



Finding The Universe

2025 • USA • 8 min • John Berry Jr

Michigan Premiere, First Time Filmmaker, Adult Language, Subject in Attendance, Filmmaker in Attendance

Finding the Universe follows photographer John Berry as he journeys into the Colorado Rockies to capture a time-lapse of the Milky Way over his favorite alpine lake. Along the way, he reflects on personal struggles, creative perseverance, and the quiet, demanding work behind filming the night sky in the mountains.



Mall Video Store

2026 • USA • 23 min • Andrew J. Morgan and Nick Nummerdor

Filmmaker in Attendance, Adult Language

Mall Video Store is a fun and nostalgic short documentary about Harrison Lange, owner of Static Tape Video, an independent video store located inside a Michigan shopping mall. Passionate about movies and physical media, Harrison spends his days rescuing VHS tapes, tracking down forgotten collections, and creating a place where movie lovers can connect through a shared love of film.



Into the Dark

2025 • USA • 18 min • Fiona Otway

Michigan Premiere, Adult Language, Family Friendly

For over a decade, artist Pete Mauney has been ritualistically trekking into the middle of nowhere, in the middle of the night, all alone. The desolate darkness brings him into confrontation with everything he can't control. But when the landscape slowly starts to shimmer and sparkle, the magic begins.

BLOCK

WATER IS LIFE

4 films in this block • 57 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM PWPL – Community Room

Sunday, October 18

2:00PM The Honorable Distillery



Do Changing Lake Levels Affect Wisconsin's Forests And Wetlands?

2025 • USA • 6 min • Bonnie Willison

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly

Scattered around the shores of the Great Lakes are unique ridge and swale ecosystems, created over thousands of years and home to many rare species. Researcher Steve Loheide wants to know what's happening beneath these landscapes - how shifting Great Lakes water levels ripple underground, and what that could mean for this fragile ecosystem's future.



Raised by the Canoe

2026 • Canada • 17 min • Cathrine Paul

Has Subtitles, Michigan Premiere

Amid modern distractions and challenges faced by Indigenous peoples, staying connected to culture can be challenging. Meet the Terry Lee Canoe Club as it experiences a powerful resurgence as the next generation strives to nurture and

reestablish the canoe culture of their region of British Columbia, Canada.



The Right to Know: Groundwater Contamination in Wisconsin's Farm Country

2026 • USA • 17 min • Nels Lindquist

Filmmaker in Attendance, Michigan Premiere

In America's Dairyland, many families only learn that the water coming from their wells is toxic once it's far too late. *The Right to Know* follows people living with nitrate and bacterial contamination caused by factory farming, and shows how knowing what's in your water can be a matter of life and death.



Water is Life

2025 • USA • 17 min • Richard Mack, John Manos

Filmmaker in Attendance, First Time Filmmaker

Water is Life covers issues facing the Great Lakes in brief yet explains how people around the region are doing something when it comes to the challenges they face. This is a synopsis of the longer documentary still in production.

BLOCK

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF A LISTENING PARTY??

1 episode in this block • 45 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

2:00PM Women's Federated Clubhouse



Podcast Listening Party with Points North

2026 • USA • 45 min • Dan Wanschura, Ellie Katz

Filmmaker in Attendance

A small village west of Milwaukee is known for one thing: frog jumping. This yearly cultural competition has been happening for over 70 years and brings out hundreds of participants. But all that tradition is about to end, as one woman from the Wisconsin DNR considers her own legacy.

Plus, sometimes you just feel an inexplicable connection to someone from the past. That's how Ellie Katz felt when she read about George E. Bernier, a sled-dog mailman in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in the 1870s.

This immersive audio listening party will transport you through time and space through two never heard before episodes of Points North. Discussion with Points North producers Ellie Katz and Dan Wanschura will follow.

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BLOCK

WISDOM KEEPERS

5 films in this block • 41 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

12:00PM PWPL – Community Room

Saturday, October 17

12:00PM PWPL – Community Room



Flag Song

2026 • USA • 6 min • Dusan Harminc

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Staff Pick

A short form film created around a poem titled *Flag Song*, written by the Indigenous Nations Poets Fellows and Faculty at their retreat at Amerind Museum and University of Arizona Poetry Center in the spring of 2026.



Women of Wampum

2025 • Canada • 11 min • Dr. Kelsey Leonard and Alejandro Miranda

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, First Time Filmmaker

Across the salt-sprayed shores of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, a gathering of Indigenous women comes together to rematriate wampum as a living system of justice, truth, and inherent relationship. Through practices of teaching, making, and collective remembrance, the film examines how patriarchal disruption,

colonial extraction, and climate-driven coastal change threaten not only living shores but the relationships that sustain them.



Ziinzibaakwad: Maple Sugaring with Tanya Raphael

2026 • USA • 8 min • Mark Wilson

Filmmaker in Attendance, Has Subtitles, Family Friendly, Representative in Attendance

For Tanya Raphael, maple season is a time for family, friends, and tradition. This film is part of the Leelanau Conservancy's Indigenous Knowledges Project, dedicated to elevating Anishinaabe voices.



Yooper Wisdom | Documentary Series Preview

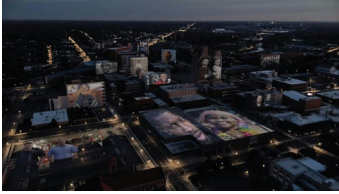
2026 • USA • 10 min • Kelley Wolf Griffith

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere

After losing her corporate job in New York City, Christina "Maz" ventures into the remote Upper Peninsula searching for a way back to her art and herself. Guided by Yooper



Wise Women, a collective of healing artists deeply connected to nature, she enters a transformative world where the wilderness becomes her guide. This is a sneak preview of the upcoming documentary series *Yoooper Wisdom*.



Representing Flint

2026 • USA • 6 min • Mike Ramsdell

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Staff Pick

A five-minute tribute to the last 100 years of Flint, through the lyrics and performance of Mama Söl and the Flint Symphony.



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FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

WITCHY BOOTS

1 film in this block • 57 minutes

SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

2:00PM Ore Dock – Community Space



Witchy Boots

2026 • USA • 57 min • J.S. Phillips

Filmmaker in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, Adult Language, Adult Themes

Witchy Boots is a spirited and empowering documentary that explores both historical and modern women that shape the craft beer industry. From trailblazing founders accused of witchcraft to contemporary voices carving space in the male-dominated field, the film captures the movement toward inclusion, creativity, and sisterhood inside the brewhouse.

BLOCK

WITH INTENTION

4 films in this block • 54 minutes

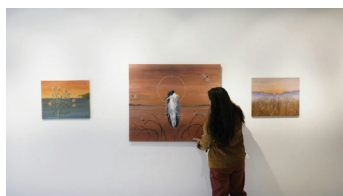
SHOWINGS

Saturday, October 17

10:00AM Bluff Street Station

Sunday, October 18

10:00AM Blackrocks Brewery

**Consider the Leaf, Study the Heron**

2026 • USA • 3 min • Nick & Chris Loud

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Staff Pick

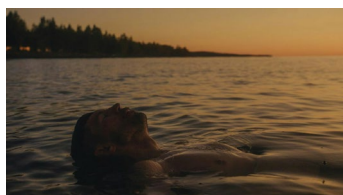
This portrait of Northern Michigan artist and musician Dana Falconberry follows her from inspiration to finished piece as she combines paint and traditional chain-stitching to create a multi-layered scene.

**Listen**

2026 • USA • 15 min • Taliesin Black-Brown

Staff Pick, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere

Listen is a sensory immersion that dissolves the boundaries between us and the more-than-human world. It follows Alaskan author Hank Lentfer as he records forgotten sounds of the natural world and cares for his mother with dementia.

**The Heat That Holds Us: Sauna Culture of the Great Lakes Region**

2026 • USA • 15 min • Jesse Roesler

Filmmaker in Attendance, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere, Nudity

The Heat That Holds Us explores the enduring sauna culture of the Great Lakes region, tracing its evolution from century-old public steam rooms to breathtaking modern architectural marvels.

**The Art of Hold Shaping**

2026 • USA • 21 min • Dean Tucker & Quinn Costantini

Family Friendly

An intimate documentary exploring the world of Dan Yagmin as the creative force behind Decoy Holds. It's a portrait of an artist shaping not just holds, but the way we experience climbing itself.

FILM BLOCK DETAILS

BLOCK

WORK LIFE'S WORK

4 films in this block • 53 minutes

SHOWINGS

Friday, October 16

12:00PM The Honorable Distillery

Sunday, October 18

10:00AM The Honorable Distillery



Work, Life

2025 • USA • 11 min • Jeremiah Schuster

Filmmaker in Attendance (Saturday and Sunday only)

Set in New Brunswick, Canada, *Work, Life* is about skater Eric Kaffine and his unique approach to seeking a balanced life.



ABR: Trail to Foundation

2026 • USA • 9 min • Loye Miller

Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere, World Premiere

In 1994, Eric Anderson returned to his home town with a dream of building an outdoor themed business with his father. This video tells the story of how a family's dream became a reality and how the owners gave it away to keep the Ironwood, Michigan property in its natural state for all to enjoy.



The Bridge

2026 • USA • 18 min • Brian Ducoffe

Filmmaker in Attendance, Family Friendly, Michigan Premiere

Drafted by the Detroit Tigers 50 years ago, Mike Wilson never made it to the Major Leagues. Instead, he devoted his life to coaching youth baseball in Detroit. Now overseeing historic Hamtramck Stadium, the former Negro League ballpark where he fell in love with the game, Mike's story reveals how mentorship, community, and baseball can shape generations.



The Good Neighbor

2026 • USA • 15 min • Kate Stapleton

Filmmaker in Attendance, Subject in Attendance, Adult Language, Michigan Premiere, Staff Pick

A cowboy doctor has spent a lifetime paying house calls to the Old Order Amish community in Southwestern Wisconsin—but what will they do when he dies?



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Fresh Coast Film Festival is proud to fund the Making Waves commitment grant to aid filmmakers sharing stories from and about the Great Lakes region and Upper Midwest.

Projects in production or post production that align with the festival's themes of Adventure, Conservation and Inspiration will be considered. Fresh Coast promotes and encourages diversity both behind and in front of the camera.

The application period will be from January through April via the festival website. A committee will review applications and announce chosen projects annually during the October festival. Selected projects will receive monetary support and access to the Fresh Coast network of filmmakers for guidance and support.

Making Waves is in memory of festival co-founder Aaron Peterson's son Josiah Peterson, a kind and curious boy who left this world too early. It is our hope that selected projects reflect Josiah's sense of fairness, childlike wonder and unquenchable thirst for knowledge.

Making Waves is supported by

YETI + Finn Ryan Productions





MAKING WAVES

2026 Film Screenings



Miss Adventure

Directed by Mikah Meyer



Cold Sober

Directed by Ryan Rumpca

Screening in 2027

A Hmong Soldier's Suitcase

Directed by
Nkaujoua
Xiong

Biskaabiiyang

Directed by
Claire Collins

She Speaks for the Trees

Directed by
Jesse Roesler

The Cleanup Club

Directed by
Sarah Griffith

The Only Coast

Directed by
Rishi Sethi

Previously Funded Making Waves Projects

A Bird in the Hand

Directed by
Christy Frank
and Alex
Goetz

Edgeland

Directed by
Ben Weaver

Michigan's Skiing Legacy

Directed by
Ryan Busch

Sueños De Una Monarca (Dreams of a Monarch)

Directed by
Julián Trejo
Bax

An Invitation to Wonder: Waubesa Wetlands

Directed by
Ben Albert

Claiming Connections

Directed
by Nina
Ignaczak

When Hope Breaks Through

Directed by
Matthew
Wagner

Learn more at freshcoastfilm.com/making-waves.

All trips are included with the purchase of a Festival Pass.

Outdoor Tours

ADVENTURE. CONSERVATION. INSPIRATION.

The ability to gather and watch the best adventure films in the industry all in one location is both an amazing and inspiring opportunity. The Fresh Coast Film Festival, situated in the beautiful Upper Peninsula of Michigan, is more than watching films. We offer the ability to get out and adventure during the morning and afternoon, doing what we love and then gathering in the afternoon and evening to be inspired by the art of filmmaking. Whether you explore on your own, or join one of our guided tours, the experiences of the U.P. will stay with you forever!

All trips are included with the purchase of a Festival Pass. Space is limited for the trips and will be booked on a first come first served basis.



HOTEL SUPERIOR

FRI | OCTOBER 16 | 8:00AM

FCFF HQ / Marquette Commons

Built in 1891, the Hotel Superior was conceived as a luxury health resort hotel, built with the belief that Marquette's fresh air, clean water and lake breezes could attract affluent summer visitors. What ever

happened to this 5 star hotel?



MARQUETTE LIGHTHOUSE TOUR

FRI | OCTOBER 16 | 8:00AM

Marquette Lighthouse

One of the icons of the city, the beautiful red Marquette Harbor Lighthouse stands tall above the waters of Lake Superior and is by far

the most photographed lighthouse in the Great Lakes. This historical tour will discuss the importance of the Life Saving Station and Coast Guard in Marquette as well as describe the rich history of this building.



ROCK CLIMBING SUNSET GULLY - MORNING

FRI | OCTOBER 16 | 8:00AM

Down Wind Sports

Sunset Gully is the name of the crag cliff near Sugarloaf Mountain and is a favorite of many Upper Peninsula climbers due to the wide range of

climbing grades. This crag makes the perfect classroom setting for those wishing to learn to climb!



SUNRISE WITH BUGSY

FRI | October 16 | 7:45AM

Shiras Park

Michigan photographer, Buggy Sailor, has been watching and photographing daily sunrises since January 1, 2019 on a quest to photograph more sunrises. Buggy is the founder of the Marquette-based

apparel company U.P. Supply Co. and Official Unofficial Ambassador of the Upper Peninsula. Come join Fresh Coast co-founder Buggy as he documents another sun rising out of Lake Superior!

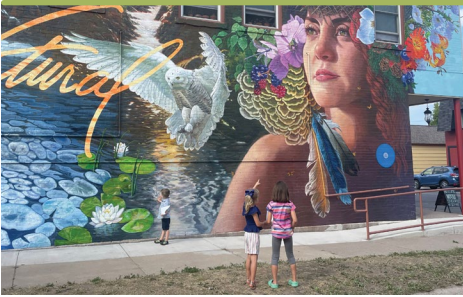


JOHN BURT HOUSE

FRI | OCTOBER 16 | 4:00PM

FCFF HQ / Marquette Commons

On this tour you'll trace the footsteps of one of Marquette's early pioneers, reflect on how his ambitions shaped the city and visit the oldest structure in Marquette!



MARQUETTE MURAL TOUR

FRI | OCTOBER 16 | 4:00PM

Natural Mural – BeWell Building

Discover Marquette's vibrant artistic spirit on a mural walk. Immerse yourself in a kaleidoscope of colors and narratives, where each piece

of public art tells a unique story of community and creativity. Led by the City's Arts & Culture Manager, this easy stroll offers insight into the local history and current culture of Marquette. Start your morning with a fun conversation and gain a whole new appreciation for our beloved and beautiful downtown!



QUEEN CITY GROUP RUN

SAT | OCTOBER 17 | 8:00AM

Queen City Running Co.

Don't forget to pack your running shoes! Come on out and stretch your legs before a fun day of watching films with the staff of Queen City Running! This scenic run along the shores of Lake Superior will be the

perfect start for your Fresh Coast day.



CULTURAL TRAIL TOUR

SAT | OCTOBER 17 | 8:00AM

City Cultural Trailhead
(501 S Front Street)

Join us for a guided walk along Marquette's downtown harbor area, highlighting three sites along the city's new Shoreline Cultural Trail. Along the way, we'll explore

stories that connect land, water, and community, with a special stop at The Seven Grandfather Teachings sculpture by Anishinaabeg artist Jason Quigno. The story of this powerful public artwork is also featured as a short in the festival. This is your chance to step into the screen's scene and experience it for yourself – fresh coasting at its finest!

All trips are included with the purchase of a Festival Pass.



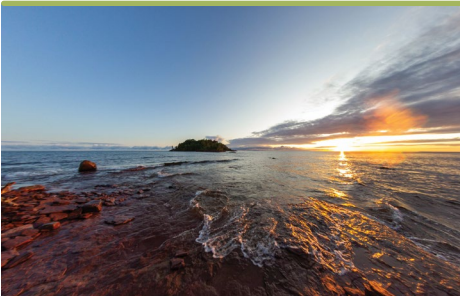
DONCKERS CANDY KITCHEN TOUR

SAT | OCTOBER 17 | 8:00AM

Donckers

This historic candy shop is a Marquette landmark and a favorite store for decades of Marquette children. Come learn about the craft

of making candy!



SUNRISE WITH BUGSY

SAT | OCTOBER 17 | 7:45AM

Little Presque Isle

Michigan photographer, Buggy Sailor, has been watching and photographing daily sunrises since January 1, 2019 on a quest to photograph more sunrises. Buggy is the founder of the Marquette-based

apparel company U.P. Supply Co. and Official Unofficial Ambassador of the Upper Peninsula. Come join Fresh Coast co-founder Buggy as he documents another sun rising out of Lake Superior!



THE GRANDEST HOUSE MARQUETTE HAS EVER SEEN – LONGYEAR MANSION

SAT | OCTOBER 17 | 8:00AM

Down Wind Sports

Stroll back in time to when Marquette was the home to a

65 room mansion. Come learn of its fate and interesting story of where it is now.



ROCK CLIMBING SUNSET GULLY - AFTERNOON

SAT | OCTOBER 17 | 4:00PM

Down Wind Sports

Sunset Gully is the name of the crag cliff near Sugarloaf Mountain and is a favorite of many Upper Peninsula climbers due to the wide range of

climbing grades. This crag makes the perfect classroom setting for those wishing to learn to climb!



THE FIRST TOURIST & FATHER OF WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

SAT | OCTOBER 17 | 4:00PM

FCFF HQ / Marquette Commons

This Marquette resident pioneered the use of flash photography and camera traps to capture stunning

images of animals in their natural habitats way back in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Come find out who this award winning photographer was!



BEGINNING BIRD WATCHING ALONG THE SONGBIRD TRAIL

SUN | OCTOBER 18 | 8:00AM

Down Wind Sports

Step onto the Songbird Trail, and the name becomes immediately clear – not through signs or maps,

but through sound. Within moments of leaving the trailhead, you're surrounded by a rich, living orchestra of northern Michigan's forests. As we walk, the soft mulch of pine needles quiets your steps as we walk along the river towards Lake Superior. Binoculars will be provided as we see how many species we can identify!

All trips are included with the purchase of a Festival Pass.



MARQUETTE HARBOR TOUR

SUN | OCTOBER 18 | 8:00AM

Cinder Pond Marina Boat Launch

Join the crew of the 32' Cornish Pilot Gig, The Lark, for a Fresh Coast harbor tour that will showcase Marquette and the ore dock from

the water. You will be paddling during this 2 hour tour where you will see the iconic Marquette waterfront features. Weather permitting – dress appropriately.



SUNRISE WITH BUGSY

SUN | OCTOBER 18 | 7:45AM

McCarty's Cove

Michigan photographer, Buggy Sailor, has been watching and photographing daily sunrises since January 1, 2019 on a quest to photograph more sunrises. Buggy is the founder of the Marquette-based

apparel company U.P. Supply Co. and Official Unofficial Ambassador of the Upper Peninsula. Come join Fresh Coast co-founder Buggy as he documents another sun rising out of Lake Superior!

Film Index

A Drop in the Bucket	40	Do Changing Lake Levels Affect Wisconsin's Forests and Wetlands? . . .	73
A Touch of Wildness: Sandhill Cranes in America	39	Dragon Mom	65
Aanikoobijigan [ancestor / great-grandparent / great-grandchild]	32	Endless Ride - The Art Behind Moonscape Skatepark Design	41
ABR: Trail to Foundation	80	Estuaries in the Balance: Freshwater Nurseries of Lake Superior	44
Adventure. Conservation. Inspiration. A Decade of Fresh Coast and Friends. . .	34	Finding A Way	62
Akiing Gikendaasowin: Knowledge of the Land with Patrick Concannon. . . .	62	Finding The Universe	72
Alchemical Artistry	28, 36	Fish for the Future	68
Art in a Changing Landscape: Detroit and the Disconnected Logic of Funding	36	Flag Song	76
At the Altar of the Golden God	30	Fresh Coast Flashback Volume I	45
Beneath the Ice	58	Fresh Coast Flashback Volume II	46
Best Day Ever.	38	Forever in the Mountains.	59
Beyond Our Senses: Bank Swallows . .	39	Frontier to Freedom	48
BIG JIM: An American on Everest	41	Good Grief: The 10-Steps.	52
Black Nite.	65	Grounded	54
Boys of Summer.	69	Half Marathon All Canoe	63
Brac.. . . .	39	Hometown Hype: Northern Michigan	28, 55
Carving a Legacy	60	How Technology Is Ruining Fishing... or Saving It	64
Choosing Trail	29, 40	I Spent 7 Days Evading America's 82 Million Surveillance Cameras	64
Cold Blooded Kari	58	If I Go	37
Cold Sober	63, 83	Into the Dark	72
Conservation Connections	42	Isle of Ghosts.	56
Consider the Leaf, Study the Heron. . .	79	Jac	30
Currentcy.	28, 30	Joe Graci, artist.	36

Join Us Tomorrow	58	Tall Jessie	68
Keep on Strokin' - Building a Solo Community	41	The Art of Hold Shaping	79
Life Model Protégé	36	The Book of George	42
Listen	79	The Bridge	80
Mall Video Store	72	The Deep Dive	68
Miss Adventure	63, 83	The Fight for Progress: Wisconsin's Push for Lead Pipe Replacement	65
Neon Reef.	60	The Fisherman's Tale	66
Normal	68	The Good Neighbor	80
Northwoods	40	The Heat That Holds Us: Sauna Culture of the Great Lakes Region	79
Organic Network	61	The Natural World of the Bay	70
Plant Life	61	The People Mover	55
Rabinski.	55	The Right to Know: Groundwater Contamination in Wisconsin's Farm Country	73
Raised by the Canoe	73	The Search for Anna & Levi: A Lost History of Black Homesteaders in Leelanau County.	71
Remnants.	62	UNFINISHED	65
Representing Flint.	28, 77	Water is Life	73
Restoring Wild Rice in the Lake Winnebago Watershed	61	What We Learn From Banding Wisconsin's Birds	39
Robots to the Rescue	64	Why Native Plants?	61
Rodeo On Ice	58	Witchy Boots	78
Saving Sturgeon the Tribal Way.	42	Women of Wampum.	76
Sincerely, Sage Jo.	37	Work, Life.	80
Skate Rat Since '88: The Kristian Svitak Story	55	Yoopers Wisdom Documentary Series Preview.	76, 77
Spring Fish Harvest with the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	30	Ziinzibaakwad: Maple Sugaring with Tanya Raphael	76
Still Running	63		
Stone Cold Phoenix	37		



Sponsors

We are overwhelmed with gratitude for the generosity and vision of the Marquette community. Fresh Coast would not be possible without generous financial and in-kind support from the following:

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Marquette Food Co-op

Michigan Outdoor Summit

Northwoods Test Kitchen

Sanctuary Selections Film Competition

Snowbound Books

WNMU Public TV 13



Acknowledgments

A Special Thanks goes to the following people who have worked hard all year to make sure that the festival happens. These folks are the backbone of the festival and without them Fresh Coast would not happen.

Fresh Coast Film Festival Board of Directors

Aaron Peterson, Bugsy Sailor, Bill Thompson, Andrea Pink, April Lindala, Jacob Rosenburg, Jamie Dolan, John Miller, Joseph Beyer

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Rebekah Carlson, Ava Larson

Additional Thanks To...

Jacque Medina, Erika Rice, Roe Radke, Samantha Marier, Nick Erickson, Candy Fletcher, Tieka Knight, Walt Lindala

This activity is supported in part by awards from:



FRESH COAST TRIVIA!

Ten years. Ten questions. How well do you know Fresh Coast? The answers are hiding all around the festival, so keep your eyes open, follow the clues, and turn your weekend into a Fresh Coast scavenger hunt. Find all ten and see just how Fresh Coast you really are.

1.

2.

3.

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10.





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10 YEARS

of Fresh Coast highlights

2016

Spring 2016, Aaron, Bill, and Bugsy meet at Third Street Bagel

2017

The GRAMMY Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers perform

2026

Expanded roadshow program with satellite festival in Traverse City

2025

Producer, film subject and Detroit Poet Laureate, Jessica Care Moore performs at Lower Harbor

2021

Introduction of Fresh Coast Basecamp @ Lower Harbor

2018

Collaboration with Culture of Cult art show at Ore Dock Brewng Co.

2024

Moved the FCFF box office to the Marquette Commons

2022

Back-to-back evenings of mayhem and hunched over laughter with Nate P. and Keil Orion Troisi

2023

Introduced the Making Waves grant for emerging filmmakers

2018

Five-time Emmy-nominated Executive Producer and Director J.J. Kelley delivers keynote

2021

Joe Pera debuts an episode of *Joe Pera Talks With You* in a standing room only tent

2023

First ever Fresh Coast Road Show with *Friends of Grand Rapids Parks*

2016

Fresh Coast is born, with inaugural festival and official 501(c)3 status

2025

Received first National Endowment for the Arts grant

2024

Introduced two filmmaker panels in collaboration with Interlochen Public Radio + Points North

2017

Our first poster designer is Geoffrey Holstad

2025

Upper Peninsula Roadshow made possible by Flagstar Foundation ft. Ojibwe artist Jonathan Thunder

2024

Added four new venues

Proud Supporter of Fresh Coast Film Festival



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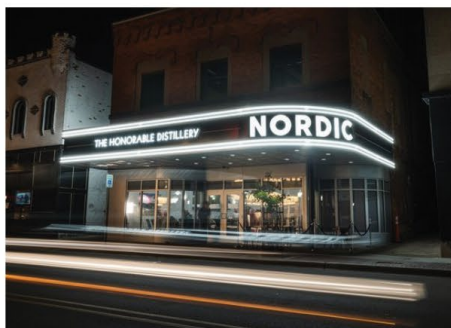
&

COCKTAILS

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Thank You

Thank you for attending the 2026 Fresh Coast Film Festival.

Thank you for believing that we can grow something amazing out of our very humble beginnings. Please take the stories and experiences you've had over the weekend and share them with your community. Keep the spirit of #FreshCoasting alive and let's gather together again next year for more adventures.

A HUGE thank you goes to the Fresh Coast volunteer army. The Fresh Coast Film Festival would not be possible without the many hands and hearts that support it.

Hey volunteers—you're awesome. We love you.



Get ready for an epic 11th festival!

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