

Maryland Film Festival Artistic Director

OVERVIEW

The Maryland Film Festival (MdFF) seeks a visionary and experienced artistic director and film programmer to set the artistic vision, curatorial and strategic direction for the all aspects of year-round programming of the organization as it embarks on its 27th year. Reporting to the Executive Director, the Artistic Director will lead the programming team and the annual process of developing and offering innovative, year-round, curated and guest curated film series, special events, performances and festivals; programming theatrical runs of films and immersive and multi- media experiences; guiding the programming and evolution of the critically acclaimed, 5-day international film festival; and overseeing the development of resources and support services offered to Baltimore area content creators. The Artistic Director is responsible for the offer of programs that drive participation and revenue generation, expand the organization's brand, and build film culture in Baltimore.

The ideal candidate will bring substantial knowledge and passion for films, filmmaking, the independent film movement and the networks that support it; significant curating and programming experience; knowledge of new, emerging, mid-career and established content creators; established relationships with film distributors and sales agents; enthusiasm for and experience in connecting narrative, audience and technology; excellent management experience and capabilities; and a proven ability to cultivate support for the organization's artistic goals and priorities.

Direct reports: Director of Festival Programming, Festival Operations Manager, Programming Coordinator, and Programming Associate (Part-time)

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Vision, Strategy, and Leadership

- Establish a shared the artistic vision, and the curatorial and strategic direction for all aspects of the organization's programming.
- Working with the programing team and input from the Executive Director, develop an annual programming plan and budget to advance the organization's mission and achieve the priorities and objectives of the five-year strategic plan that incorporates year-round programming for the SNF Parkway Theatre - film series, theatrical runs, membership and staff screenings, special events, co-productions, guest hosted programs, and more - and the 5-day, international Maryland Film Festival.
- Work closely with the Director of Festival Programing to guide the development and evolution of the annual 5-day Maryland Film Festival programming.

Operations

- Together with the programming team and Parkway Operations Director develop a schedule of artistically and culturally diverse screenings and events for the Parkway Theatre that align with the curatorial direction, programming plan and budget; activate underserved and untapped audiences; engage and attract members, and expand the organization's brand.
- Oversee the booking of films, print traffic, confirmation and arrangements for guest participation and reporting for all programming.
- Establish and maintain relationships with film directors, producers, distributors, sales agents and other content creators.

- Meet regularly with university and other education, community, and cultural partners to develop and implement joint programming.
- Nurture and expand existing partner organizations and individuals in the Baltimore area and beyond who desire to collaborate in the presentation and promotion of year-round programming.
- Work closely with the development team to identify and help secure funds and sponsors to support annual and long-term programming plans.
- Work closely with the marketing team to promote and market all programs to audiences and advance the institutional marketing of the organization.
 - Together with the programming team participate in building the organization's social-media presence
 - Give interviews to local, national and global media pertaining to the year-round programming, the Parkway, films and filmmakers.
 - Engage in the community's arts and cultural scene.
- Stay current on best practices and the issues and trends in film culture, independent film and the wider film industry.
- Prepare and give presentations to service and business organizations, at industry gatherings, and various training sessions.

Team Development and Management

- Oversee the day-to-day activities of the Programming Department, including budgeting, planning and staff development.
- Recruit and manage department staff to support the development and execution of the programming strategy and plans
- Mentor and optimize programming staff talent and expertise using a consistent, supportive and collaborative approach.
- Establish and monitor staff performance, and develop goals, assign accountabilities, set objectives, establish priorities, conduct performance appraisals, and administer salary adjustments, as directed by the Executive Director.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The ideal candidate will have:

- A palpable passion for films and the art and science of filmmaking; the ability to hold her, his, or their own in professional and industry orbits regionally and internationally;
- A record as an accomplished and effective curator and programmer; fundraiser; the charisma and credibility to integrate seamlessly into Industry and leadership circles, locally and internationally, and engage their active interest and support;
- A strong professional track record in programming; demonstrated experience conceptualizing and executing an artistic vision and plans;
- A history of success as a respected leader in recruiting and retaining professional staff;
- The ability to develop constructive and cooperative working relationships with others; is adept at creating a positive, collaborative and entrepreneurial work environment;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills; the ability, as a seasoned communicator, to effectively bridge filmmaking and film going audiences to the mutual satisfaction of each;
- A record as a proven multitasker capable of juggling numerous and distinct priorities and relationships with grace under pressure in a variety of circumstances;
- A track record of balancing revenue goals with programmatic goals to offer invaluable and unique cultural experiences

- Knowledge of and experience with immersive media.
- Proficiency in MS Office including Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat, and Adobe Photoshop.
- Personable self-confidence without arrogance;
- Experience and familiarity with Baltimore and the film and cultural community a plus;
- An advanced degree in film studies or a related field is preferred.

Salary and Benefits

MdFF provides a competitive salary and compensation package.

TO APPLY:

Please send cover letter, resume, one writing sample, three professional references and salary requirements to info@mdfilmfest.com. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

About the Maryland Film Festival

The mission of the Maryland Film Festival (MdFF) is to bring films, filmmakers, and audiences together in a friendly, inclusive atmosphere that reflects the unique aspects of our community, while participating in and adding to the larger film dialogue across the country and across the world. Film for Everyone.

Founded in 1993 as the nonprofit Producer's Club of Maryland, MdFF owns and operates the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Parkway Theatre, a 1915 Renaissance Revival style theatre, renovated and reopened in May 2017, as well as the annual five-day Maryland Film Festival.

In the fall of 2018 MdFF adopted a five-year plan (2019-2023) to fully realize its role in Baltimore and the field as a respite for filmmakers, a world-class destination for cinema, and a stalwart advocate for the democratizing the power of story, as told through film, and expressed through each individual storyteller's voice. The SNF Parkway functions as a multi-disciplinary film, community, and education hub serving a broad cross-section of the Baltimore public and beyond. MdFF works to leverage the powerful assets of the Johns Hopkins University, Maryland Institute College of Art, and surrounding campus communities to function as a vibrant, regional nerve center for dialogue, discussion, and debate on the key issues of the day, with film as the central axis in broad public discussions. Through programming, education and community ventures, MdFF is establishing a year-round a platform for "all" voices that are reflective of the diverse population of greater Baltimore and the nation.

To achieve this new strategic vision and plan, MdFF is making a major investments in capacity building and infrastructure, including significant investments in institutional advancement and programming.

Since 2017, the SNF Parkway has welcomed more than 110,000 moviegoers and screened 800 films, from over 60 countries. MdFF has created a world-class cinema program with films from every era, regional and genres, with a focus on supporting emerging filmmakers, and offering audiences an immersive new window into the art form. Many films and events are not offered anywhere else in Baltimore. MdFF is becoming a vibrant regional nerve center – a civic commons for great film, dialogue, emerging voices and innovators.

For more information about MdFF and the SNF Parkway, visit www.mdfilmfest.com.

