

31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL



MARCH 16-26, 2023

TICKETS & UPDATES AT [DCEFF.ORG](https://dceff.org)

100+ LIVE AND VIRTUAL FILMS

Reclaim Your Water: Natasha Smith, directed by Faith E. Briggs Photo credit: Brie Lakin

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Cover Image

Reclaim Your Water: Natasha Smith, directed by Faith E. Briggs. Photo credit: Brie Lakin.

Materials for the 2023 DCEFF, including posters and programs, were sustainably produced and printed using recycled paperstock in a 100% wind-powered facility with no carbon footprint.

WELCOME TO THE 31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL!

After three years of virtual events, we are delighted to return to theaters to present our first-ever hybrid Festival, featuring both in-person and online exclusive presentations.

The occasion to uplift stories of the built and natural environment, to center the actors and activists confronting the ongoing threats to the planet's survival, and to celebrate the resilience and hope that sustain us is made even more significant this year, as we recognize the importance of our DCEFF community.

It's impossible to return to in-person events without acknowledging the opportunities we've had to build our Festival community over these last years. Since 2020, DCEFF virtual programming has reached every continent on Earth — yes, even Antarctica. The convening power of the Festival has never been more evident. Far from pausing our mission, we've instead extended the reach of our films and created even more ways to share achievements and action.

Nor have our filmmakers halted their work. The accomplishments of environmental advocacy and the caliber of storytelling have only grown more pronounced in our 2023 slate of films. *Deep Rising*, our Opening Night selection, is directed by DCEFF alum Matthieu Rytz (*Anote's Ark*). A pointedly current, grippingly spun examination of extraction companies granted contracts for deep-sea mining, *Deep Rising* exemplifies the ceaseless investigation and artistry glimpsed in environmental filmmaking.

This return to venues across Washington, D.C. is one we've long anticipated. Some of these partners have been part of the Festival's fabric since our inaugural 1993 edition, including National Geographic Society, the National Gallery of Art, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, American University School of Communication, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, among many other valued venue partners. As we return to our in-person events, we are more conscious than ever of the importance of these shared spaces.

In addition to our film screenings, for the first time in-person we present The Forum — conversations that hone in on topics germane to our film programming, made intimate and immediate in the context of four panel discussions.

We are also proud to introduce a brand new initiative at the 2023 Festival: the DCEFF Vantage Grant, a commitment grant awarded to an emerging BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) filmmaker. Made possible through the support of Prince Charitable Trusts, the Vantage Grant is a pledge to uphold those bringing voice to stories of the environment, and to realize their works with funding and training.

The programs of the 2023 Festival will startle us, make us tender, wary, enraged, enraptured. We encourage you to carry these feelings with you after you leave the screening — whether in-person or virtual — and continue to probe and learn. If these eleven days of Festival events only whet your appetite, please plan to join us for our all-virtual Earth Day Encore series, taking place April 18-23, 2023.

Our gratitude to our filmmakers, our partners and co-presenters, our Friends of the Festival, our sponsors, our volunteers, our Board of Directors and Advisory Council, and our audience — we are so glad to count you among our community.



Christopher Head

Executive Director

P.S. Support from our donors makes this Festival possible. Your gift empowers us to bring filmmakers from around the world together and keep many of our screenings free and accessible to the public. All gifts made now through the end of the Festival will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$25,000 by DCEFF Board member and longtime supporters Bill and Jane Stetson.

31ST ANNUAL
**ENVIRONMENTAL
FILM FESTIVAL**
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL
MARCH 16-26, 2023

2	.....	Welcome
4	.....	Special Presentations
8	.....	Feature Films
18	.....	Quick Guide Schedule
22	.....	Shorts Programs
40	.....	DCEFF Vantage Grant
42	.....	Forum
46	.....	Venue and Transportation Guide
48	.....	Sponsors and Donors

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

HOW TO FEST

While this guide is current as of publication, programs are subject to change. For the most up-to-date event information, please visit our website at [DCEFF.org](https://dceff.org).

RESERVATIONS AND SEATING POLICY

Unless otherwise noted, all seats must be reserved in advance. This includes all passholders and members of our Friends of the Festival program. You must arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled show time to guarantee your seat. Patrons without reservations will be asked to join a standby line. All empty seats will be released to the standby line on a space-available basis.

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

Eager for more DCEFF programming? Visit our website at [DCEFF.org](https://dceff.org) for exclusive virtual screenings. Please note that some virtual films may be subject to geoblocking, or restricted availability based on geographic location. Select virtual films may have a maximum number of views permitted. We encourage you to pre-order and RSVP to programs early for best availability. DCEFF honors the requests of our filmmakers and distributors to limit the streaming availability of their work, and is not able to override these restrictions.

DCEFF COVID POLICY

We are delighted to be returning to theaters for the first time in three years to celebrate the 31st Annual Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital. As we gather to share stories of the built and natural world and the ongoing, urgent challenges to its health, we also look to protect the well-being of our community by practicing the following precautions:

The wearing of masks is required at all DCEFF programs, regardless of vaccination status or programming venue. Please note that at their discretion, venue partners may take your temperature upon arrival.*

We encourage you to evaluate your own risk when considering whether to attend in-person programming. For those in our community who would prefer to participate in virtual Festival programming, online programs will be available from March 17-26, 2023. Our Watch Now platform is also available 365 days a year to discover work from past Festivals, with many films available to stream at no cost.

Please continue to assess your health throughout the duration of the Festival. If you are not feeling well or have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus, we ask that you stay home. We are happy to refund tickets for those guests whose health prevents them from attending an in-person screening.

Your cooperation in making our return to in-person events as safe and accessible as possible is appreciated by our staff, volunteers, and venue partners.

*Masks will be made available for screenings at the Naval Heritage Center at no cost. For full COVID information for all venues, please visit our website at dceff.org/covid.

31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

OPENING PRESENTATION



Deep Rising (USA, 2022, 93 min.)

Directed by Matthieu Rytz

D.C. Premiere

Exposes the destructive machinations of a secretive organization empowered to extract massive amounts of metals from the deep seafloor.

Thursday, March 16, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$15, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Matthieu Rytz (Director)



FLO STONE AND ROGER D. STONE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ARTISTRY IN FILMMAKING

Established for DCEFF's 30th anniversary in honor of Founder Flo Stone and her husband, Roger D. Stone. This award recognizes both Flo and Roger's enthusiasm and passion for originality and innovation in filmmaking. The award includes a \$25,000 cash prize. This award is funded by the Farvue Foundation and the Wallace Genetic Foundation.

Geographies of Solitude (Canada, 2022, 113 min.)

Directed by Jacquelyn Mills

D.C. Premiere

Co-presented with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

An immersion into the rich ecosystem of Sable Island, a remote sliver of land in the Northwest Atlantic, the film follows Zoe Lucas, a naturalist and environmentalist who has lived there for over 40 years.

Saturday, March 18, 7:00 PM | Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Jacquelyn Mills (Director) and Kathleen Broyles (Creative Consultant)

All tickets for this program have been generously subsidized by the Farvue Foundation and Wallace Genetic Foundation.

WILLIAM W. WARNER BEAUTIFUL SWIMMERS AWARD

Established in memory of William Warner by the Warner/Kaempfer family for the 2015 Festival, the William W. Warner Beautiful Swimmers Award recognizes a film that reflects a spirit of reverence for the natural world. William Warner was the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Beautiful Swimmers*, a study of crabs and watermen in the Chesapeake Bay. The award includes a \$10,000 cash prize.

Delikado (Philippines/Hong Kong/Australia/USA/UK, 2022, 94 min.)

Directed by Karl Malakunas

In the idyllic Philippine tourist destination of Palawan, a small troop of environmental crusaders risk their lives to catch those responsible for destroying forests and wildlife.

Friday, March 24, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Karl Malakunas (Director), moderated by Gregory McGruder (Director, Global Special Events, National Geographic Society; Board of Directors, Vice Chair, DCEFF)



Delikado

AWARD WINNER: THE ERIC MOE AWARD FOR BEST SHORT ON SUSTAINABILITY

Established for the 2014 Festival by Julia and Richard Moe in memory of their son, Eric, to honor his strong interest in film and his commitment to sustainability, the Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability recognizes a short film for its inventive solutions to balancing the needs of humans and nature. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.

For the Bees (USA, 2022, 16 min.)

Directed by Chloë Fitzmaurice

D.C. Premiere

Khaled came from war-torn Yemen to Oakland, CA to pursue beekeeping and a better life. But with an increasing amount of uncertainties, life's not always as sweet as honey.

Sunday, March 19, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Chloë Fitzmaurice (Director, *For the Bees*) and Resita Cox (Director, *Freedom Hill*), moderated by Gregory McGruder (Director, Global Special Events, National Geographic Society; Board of Directors, Vice Chair, DCEFF)



For the Bees Photo/Dan Williams

CLOSING NIGHT AND SHARED EARTH FOUNDATION AWARD FOR ADVOCACY

Established for the 2014 Festival, the Shared Earth Foundation Award for Advocacy recognizes a film that inspires advocacy in response to a compelling environmental challenge. The award includes a \$10,000 prize.



To the End (USA, 2022, 94 min.)

Directed by Rachel Lears

Follows four exceptional young women — Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, activist Varshini Prakash, climate policy writer Rhiana Gunn-Wright, and political strategist Alexandra Rojas — as they grapple with challenges of leadership and power and work together to enact the most sweeping climate change legislation in U.S. history.

Sunday, March 26, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$25, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Rachel Lears (Director), Alexandra Rojas (Executive Director, Justice Democrats), and John Paul Mejia (National Spokesperson, Sunrise Movement)



31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

FEATURE FILMS



After Sherman Photo/Ashley Emile

After Sherman (USA, 2022, 91 min.)

Directed by Jon Sesrie Goff

Co-presented with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

An exploration of coastal South Carolina's history of racial trauma through the lens of Gullah culture and land preservation.

Saturday, March 18, 2:00 PM | Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required



All of Our Heartbeats are Connected Through Exploding Stars

All of Our Heartbeats are Connected Through Exploding Stars (Japan/USA/France, 2021, 76 min.)

Directed by Jennifer Rainsford

D.C. Premiere

Co-presented with the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and the Embassy of Sweden

With the 2011 tsunami as a backdrop, this documentary is a staggering essay on how humans and nature rebuild after trauma.

Saturday, March 25, 2:00 PM | Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Free, reservations required



All That Breathes

All That Breathes (India/USA/UK, 2022, 94 min.)

Directed by Shaunak Sen

Presented by HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

In one of the world's most populated cities, two brothers devote their lives to the quixotic effort of protecting the black kite, a majestic bird of prey that has been falling from the sky at alarming rates.

Friday, March 17, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Nadeem Shehzad (Subject)

Alpenland (Austria, 2022, 88 min.)

Directed by Robert Schabus

U.S. Premiere

Co-presented with the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington

The unique and endangered Alps stretch across eight European countries. Rural exodus and overtourism exist close together, with the inevitable threat of climate change hovering over all.

Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 PM | Embassy of Austria, Austrian Cultural Forum
Free, reservations required



Alpenland

Blueback (Australia, 2022, 102 min.)

Directed by Robert Connolly

D.C. Premiere

Co-presented with the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

Adapted from Tim Winton's 1997 novel, this narrative feature chronicles a marine biologist's formative childhood in Australia, diving alongside and befriendng a rare blue groper as threats to her hometown bay loom large.

Sunday, March 19, 2:00 PM | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 PM | AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

\$13, reservations encouraged



Blueback

#DamBusters (USA/Netherlands, 2022, 71 min.)

Directed by Francisco Campos-Lopez Benyunes

D.C. Premiere

Co-presented with the World Wildlife Fund and the Embassy of Finland

Who are the most inspiring individuals working tirelessly to restore rivers in Europe? Follow these "DamBusters" on a journey through Spain, France, Finland, and beyond!

Saturday, March 25, 1:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Francisco Campos-Lopez Benyunes (Director) and Joshua Royte (Senior Conservation Scientist, The Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy), moderated by Michele Thieme (Deputy Director, World Wildlife Fund - U.S.)



#DamBusters

Deep in the Heart: A Texas Wildlife Story (USA, 2022, 103 min.)

Directed by Ben Masters

Co-presented with the U.S. Department of the Interior Museum

A visually stunning celebration of Texas' diverse landscapes and remarkable wildlife, narrated by Matthew McConaughey.

Friday, March 24, 7:00 PM | U.S. Department of the Interior Museum

Free, reservations required, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Josh Winkler (Producer)



Deep in the Heart: A Texas Wildlife Story



Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains

Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains (China, 2019, 152 min.)

Directed by Gu Xiaogang

Co-presented with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art

Depicts a year in the life of the Yu Family of Fuyang, providing a panoramic view of the many societal changes affecting Chinese provincial towns.

Friday, March 17, 7:00 PM | Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art

Free, reservations recommended



Fashion Reimagined

Fashion Reimagined (USA/UK, 2022, 100 min.)

Directed by Becky Hutner

Co-presented with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

Amy Powney is a rising star in the London fashion scene. When she wins the coveted Vogue award for the Best Young Designer of the Year, she decides to use the money to create a sustainable collection (from field to finished garment) and transform her entire business.

PRECEDED BY

She Run the World (India, 2022, 14 min.)

Directed by Koval Bhatia

U.S. Premiere

In India, three women are pioneers of urban sustainability by addressing waste management issues.

Friday, March 17, 7:00 PM | Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

Free, reservations required



She Run the World Photo/A Little Anarky



Good Night Oppy

Good Night Oppy (USA, 2022, 105 min.)

Directed by Ryan White

The inspirational true story of Opportunity, a rover sent to Mars for a 90-day mission but who ended up surviving for 15 years.

Sunday, March 26, 4:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Ryan White (Director), moderated by Katrina Jackson (Space Science Communicator and Video Producer)

The Grab

(USA, 2022, 104 min.)

Directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite

Co-presented with Georgetown University's Earth Commons Institute for Environment & Sustainability and the Film and Media Studies Program

Quietly and seemingly out of sight, governments, private investors, and mercenaries are working to seize food and water resources at the expense of entire populations. These groups are establishing themselves as the new OPEC, where the future world powers will be those who control not oil, but food.

Friday, March 17, 5:30 PM | Georgetown University, Lohrfink Auditorium

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Gabriela Cowperthwaite (Director), Nate Halverson (Featured Subject and Producer, *The Grab*; Investigative Journalist), and Brigadier Siachitema (Featured Subject, *The Grab*; Human Rights Lawyer)



Herbaria

(Argentina/Germany, 2022, 83 min.)

Directed by Leandro Listorti

Co-presented with the National Gallery of Art

At the intersection of botanical and film preservation, this film explores the artistic and political derivations that connect them, inviting us to witness the fascinating universe of preserving the beauty and memory of a world that insists on disappearing.

Sunday, March 19, 2:00 PM | National Gallery of Art

Free, reservations encouraged | reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Leandro Listorti (Director), moderated by Joanna Raczynska (Film Programmer, National Gallery of Art)



Historjá - Stygn för Sápmi

(Sweden, 2022, 88 min.)

Directed by Thomas Jackson

Co-presented with the Embassy of Sweden

Artist Britta Marakatt-Labba has for decades depicted the indigenous Samí people's mythology, relation to nature, and political struggle. Now she is facing one last fight: the battle for her culture against the threats of climate change.

Sunday, March 19, 3:00 PM | E Street Cinema

\$10, reservations encouraged



Hollow Tree

(USA, 2022, 73 min.)

Directed by Kira Akerman

D.C. Premiere

Coming of age in their sinking homeplace of Louisiana, three teenagers notice the Mississippi River's engineering, stumps of cypress trees, and polluting refineries. Their different perspectives — as Indigenous, white, and Angolan young women — shape their story of the climate crisis.

Sunday, March 19, 5:30 PM | E Street Cinema

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Kira Akerman (Director) and Monique Walton (Producer)





Into the Ice

Into the Ice (Denmark/Germany, 2022, 86 min.)

Directed by Lars Ostfeld

D.C. Premiere

Three pioneering glaciologists travel INTO the inland ice of Greenland. As they descend 200 meters to observe the bottom of an ice sheet, what they find may sound the alarm for our planet's climate.

Sunday, March 19, 8:00 PM | E Street Cinema

\$10, reservations encouraged



King Coal Photo/Curren Sheldon

King Coal (USA, 2023, 78 min.)

Directed by Elaine McMillion Sheldon

D.C. Premiere

The cultural roots of coal continue to permeate the rituals of daily life in Appalachia even as its economic power wanes. The journey of a coal miner's daughter exploring the region's dreams and myths, untangling the pain and beauty.

Saturday, March 18, 8:00 PM | E Street Cinema

\$10, reservations recommended | Post-screening discussion with Elaine McMillion Sheldon (Director, Producer, Co-Editor), Curren Sheldon (Director of Photography, Co-Producer), Molly Born (Co-Producer), Clara Haizlett (Associate Producer), and Dominic "Shodekeh" Talifero (Breath Artist), moderated by Sam Plakun (Program Manager, DCEFF)



Nkashi Photo/National Geographic Society

Nkashi: Race for the Okavango (USA/Botswana, 2023, 71 min.)

Directed by Sarah Joseph

U.S. Premiere

Co-presented with the National Geographic Society

Follow the triumphs and challenges of three mokoro (dugout canoe) polers who are competing in the annual Nkashi Classic, a time-trial mokoro race that since 2018 has attracted people from all over the Okavango Delta - one of the most unique wetlands in the world.

Monday, March 20, 7:00 PM | National Geographic Society

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Sarah Joseph (Director and Producer), Thalefang Charles (Producer), and Dustin Sylvia (Producer and Editor), moderated by Vanessa Serrao (Executive Producer; Vice President, National Geographic Society Impact Story Lab)



Path of the Panther Photo/Carlton Ward

Path of the Panther (USA, 2022, 89 min.)

Directed by Eric Bendick

D.C. Premiere

Co-presented with the National Geographic Society

Introduction by Carlton Ward Jr.

Drawn in by the haunting specter of the Florida panther, photographer Carlton Ward and a coalition of biologists, ranchers, conservationists, and Indigenous Peoples find themselves on the front lines of an accelerating battle between forces of renewal and destruction that have pushed the Everglades to the brink of ecological collapse.

Thursday, March 23, 6:30 PM | National Geographic Society

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Eric Bendick (Director), Tori Linder (Producer, Impact Producer), and a panel of special guests

The Plastic Bag Store (USA, 2020, 58 min.)

Directed by Robin Frohardt

D.C. Premiere

Inventive puppetry, shadow play, and intricate handmade sets tell the darkly comedic, sometimes tender story of how the overabundance of plastic waste we leave behind might be misinterpreted by future generations.

Saturday, March 18, 3:00 PM | E Street Cinema

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Robin Frohardt (Director)



The Plastic Bag Store

Powerlands (Navajo Nation, 2022, 76 min.)

Directed by Ivey-Camille Manybeads Tso

Co-presented with the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

A young Navajo filmmaker investigates displacement of Indigenous people and devastation of the environment caused by the same chemical companies that have exploited the land where she was born.

PRECEDED BY

Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn) (USA, 2022, 16 min.)

Directed by Lauren Stevens, Tracy Rector, Kavita Pillay, Roger Paul, Chris Newell, Adam Mazo, Taylor Hensel, and Jacob Bearchum

Through song and stories, Waponahkik (the people of the dawn land) bring gratitude to the sun where it first looks their way.

Sunday, March 19, 2:00 PM | Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Ivey-Camille Manybeads Tso (Director), moderated by Cynthia Benitez (Film Programmer, Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian)



Powerlands

Racist Trees (USA, 2022, 85 min.)

Directed by Sara Newens and Mina T. Son

Cut off from the glitz and glamor of Palm Springs, and overshadowed by towering sixty-foot Tamarisk trees - a species so invasive, they have been officially categorized as a pest by the U.S. Department of Agriculture - lies the historically Black Lawrence Crossley neighborhood.

Saturday, March 18, 5:30 PM | E Street Cinema

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Sara Newens (Co-Director)



Weckuwapok (The Approaching Dawn)



Racist Trees



Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island

Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island

(USA, 2022, 76 min.)

Directed by Heidi Hutner

D.C. Premiere

Covers the never-before-told stories of Three Mile Island in the wake of 1979's nuclear accident: four intrepid homemakers, two lawyers who took the local community's case all the way to the Supreme Court, and a young female journalist who was caught in the radioactive crossfire.

Saturday, March 25, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Heidi Hutner (Director) and Judith Helfand (Senior Consulting Producer)



The Scale of Hope Photo/Mike Jones

The Scale of Hope

(USA, 2022, 67 min.)

Directed by Josh "Bones" Murphy

D.C. Premiere

Presented by the Hollomon Price Foundation

Co-presented with Grist

Follows former Obama White House Climate Advisor, Molly Kawahata, as she prepares for a climb in the Alaska Range while struggling with mental illness and working to create a new climate narrative framed around systemic change and hope.

Saturday, March 25, 4:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Molly Kawahata (Featured Subject; Former White House Climate Advisor)



Secrets of the Elephants: Desert

Secrets of the Elephants: Desert

(UK, 2023, 45 min.)

Directed by Jonathan Frisby

World Premiere

When droughts, sandstorms, and even floods threaten Namibia's last remaining desert elephants, the elephants' shared knowledge passed down from generation to generation keeps them alive. Executive produced by James Cameron.

Sunday, March 19, 4:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Bob Poole (Cinematographer), moderated by Gregory McGruder (Director, Global Special Events, National Geographic Society; Board of Directors, Vice Chair, DCEFF)



The Smell of Money

The Smell of Money

(USA, 2022, 84 min.)

Directed by Shawn Bannon

When a corporate hog farm moves in – uninvited – on land her grandfather purchased after claiming his freedom from slavery, Elsie Herring decides to fight back.

Saturday, March 18, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Shawn Bannon (Director) and Jamie Berger (Producer and Writer)

Stewart Udall and the Politics of Beauty

(USA, 2022, 78 min.)

Directed by John de Graaf

Co-presented with the National Archives

A feature biography of the most effective environmental public official in US history, a champion of social and racial justice, the arts, and international cooperation.

Friday, March 17, 1:00 PM | National Archives

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with John de Graaf (Director)



Upstream, Downriver

(USA, 2022, 30 min.)

Directed by Maggie Burnette Stogner

World Premiere

Co-presented with the Center for Environmental Filmmaking at American University

From Lowndes County, Alabama to the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho, meet community activists on the frontlines fighting for water justice and equity.

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM | American University - Center for Environmental Filmmaking

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Maggie Burnette Stogner (Director), Marissa Woods (Associate Producer), Fred Tutman (Patuxent Waterkeeper), and Julian Gonzalez (Water Attorney, Earth Justice), moderated by Jeffrey Madison (Founder, *The Climate Daily* podcast)



VS Goliath

Directed by Nate Birnbaum, Sam Eilertsen, Maggie Lemere

Sneak Preview and Panel Discussion

Co-presented with Grist

A retired schoolteacher, a former oil refinery worker, a veteran, and a group of Indigenous students come together to fight the fossil fuel industry, protect their homelands from further destruction, and imagine a more just, prosperous, future.

Saturday, March 18, 1:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with filmmakers Nate Birnbaum and Maggie Lemere and special guests Somah Haaland, Russell Chisholm, and Crystal Melo, moderated by Jessica Stahl (Co-Director, Fix Program at Grist)



Wild Canadian Weather: Cold

(Canada, 2021, 52 min.)

Directed by Chelsea Turner

Co-presented with the Embassy of Canada

No weather defines Canada more than cold; it transforms its landscapes and shapes life for wildlife and people, creating both hardship and wonder.

Wednesday, March 22, 6:00 PM | Embassy of Canada

Free, reservations required





Wild Life (USA, 2023, 93 min.)

Directed by Chai Vasarhelyi and Jimmy Chin

D.C. Premiere

Follows conservationist Kris Tompkins on an epic, decades-spanning love story as wild as the landscapes she dedicated her life to protecting.

Sunday, March 19, 1:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged



Wild Port of Europe - Nature on the Edge

(Netherlands, 2022, 87 min.)

Directed by Willem Berents

D.C. Premiere

Co-presented with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Hedgehogs, polecats, lesser black-backed gulls, kestrels, rabbits, and even seals and exotic Chinese mitten crabs. Discover the unexpected story of these and other animals living in Europe's largest and busiest port area.

Thursday, March 23, 6:00 PM | Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Free, reservations required



Wilder Than Wilderness (Planeta Česko) (Czech Republic, 2017, 83 min.)

Directed by Marián Polák

Co-presented with the Embassy of the Czech Republic

In former mines, on mountain tops, on housing estates and at railway stations, nature takes back what man stole. This wildlife film-essay focuses on the resilient power and variety of Czech nature.

Tuesday, March 21, 6:00 PM | Embassy of the Czech Republic

Free, reservations required



MONDAY, MARCH 16 – SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

QUICK GUIDE

THUR MARCH 16

7:00 PM
DEEP RISING
Naval Heritage Center

FRI MARCH 17

1:00 PM
STEWART UDALL AND THE POLITICS OF BEAUTY
National Archives

5:30 PM
THE GRAB
Georgetown University - Lohrlink Auditorium

7:00 PM
SHORTS - OUTDOORS FOR ALL I
Eaton DC

7:00 PM
DWELLING IN THE FUCHUN MOUNTAINS
Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art

7:00 PM
FASHION REIMAGINED
Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

7:00 PM
ALL THAT BREATHES
Naval Heritage Center

SAT MARCH 18

12:30 PM
SHORTS - OUR RIVERS
Eaton DC

1:00 PM
VS GOLIATH (WIP)
Naval Heritage Center

2:00 PM
AFTER SHERMAN
Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

3:00 PM
THE PLASTIC BAG STORE
E Street Cinema

3:00 PM
FORUM - CONFRONTING POWERFUL INSTITUTIONS
Eaton DC

4:00 PM
UKRAINIAN ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARY SHOWCASE
Naval Heritage Center

5:00 PM
FORUM - DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE GREEN SPACE
Eaton DC

5:30 PM
RACIST TREES
E Street Cinema

7:00 PM
SHORTS - OUTDOORS FOR ALL II
Eaton DC

7:00 PM
GEOGRAPHIES OF SOLITUDE
Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History

7:00 PM
THE SMELL OF MONEY
Naval Heritage Center

8:00 PM
KING COAL
E Street Cinema

SUN MARCH 19

12:30 PM
SHORTS - VISIONARY GREEN
Eaton DC

1:00 PM
WILD LIFE
Naval Heritage Center

2:00 PM
BLUEBACK
AFI Silver Theatre

2:00 PM
HERBARIA
National Gallery of Art

2:00 PM
POWERLANDS
Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

3:00 PM
HISTORJÁ - STYGN FÖR SÁPMI
E Street Cinema

3:00 PM
FORUM - STORYTELLING DURING TIMES OF WAR: A VIEW FROM UKRAINE
Eaton DC

4:00 PM
SECRETS OF THE ELEPHANTS: DESERT
Naval Heritage Center

5:00 PM
SHORTS - INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE I
Eaton DC

5:30 PM
HOLLOW TREE
E Street Cinema

7:00 PM
SHORTS - PROFILES & PERSPECTIVES
Eaton DC

7:00 PM
SHORTS - THE ERIC MOE AWARD FOR BEST SHORT ON SUSTAINABILITY
Naval Heritage Center

8:00 PM
INTO THE ICE
E Street Cinema

MON MARCH 20

7:00 PM
SHORTS - INTERNATIONAL SHOWCASE II
Eaton DC

7:00 PM
NKASHI: A RACE FOR THE OKAVANGO
National Geographic Society

7:00 PM
SHORTS - WILD HOPE
Naval Heritage Center

TUES MARCH 21

6:00 PM
WILDER THAN WILDERNESS (PLANETA ČESKO)
Embassy of the Czech Republic

6:30 PM
BLUEBACK (ENCORE)
AFI Silver Theatre

7:00 PM
UPSTREAM, DOWNRIVER
American University - Center for Environmental Filmmaking

7:00 PM
SHORTS - WILDLIFE PROTECTORS
Eaton DC

WED MARCH 22

6:00 PM
WILD CANADIAN WEATHER: COLD
Embassy of Canada

6:00 PM
SHORTS - CHANGING WORK IN A CHANGING CLIMATE
MLK Jr. Memorial Library

7:00 PM
SHORTS - STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Eaton DC

7:30 PM
ALPENLAND
Embassy of Austria, Austrian Cultural Forum

THUR MARCH 23

6:00 PM
WILD PORT OF EUROPE - NATURE ON THE EDGE
Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

6:30 PM
PATH OF THE PANTHER
National Geographic Society

7:00 PM
SHORTS - CONSERVATION & RESTORATION
Eaton DC

FRI MARCH 24

7:00 PM
SHORTS - CLIMATE CONNECTIONS
Eaton DC

7:00 PM
DELIKADO
Naval Heritage Center

7:00 PM
DEEP IN THE HEART: A TEXAS WILDLIFE STORY
U.S. Department of the Interior Museum

SAT MARCH 25

1:00 PM
#DAMBUSTERS
Naval Heritage Center

2:00 PM
ALL OF OUR HEARTBEATS ARE CONNECTED THROUGH EXPLODING STARS
Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

4:00 PM
THE SCALE OF HOPE
Naval Heritage Center

7:00 PM
RADIOACTIVE: THE WOMEN OF THREE MILE ISLAND
Naval Heritage Center

SUN MARCH 26

12:30 PM
DOC ACCOUNTABILITY IN ACTION
Eaton DC

2:30 PM
DCEFF VANTAGE GRANT PITCH
Eaton DC

4:00 PM
GOOD NIGHT OPPY
Naval Heritage Center

7:00 PM
TO THE END
Naval Heritage Center

31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

UKRAINIAN ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTARY SHOWCASE

Presented in partnership with Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Elva and Lawrence O'Brien Family Trust, and the Wilson Center

Join us for a special screening of the award-winning film *Heat Singers*, followed by a live moderated discussion with Kyiv-based filmmakers Nadia Parfan and Illia Gladstein. They will be joined in person by Kostiantyn Krynytskyi, Head of Energy at Ecoaction (Ukraine's largest environmental NGO), who will discuss his organization's work mapping the ongoing environmental damage caused by the Russian invasion, and the potential for a green post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

Heat Singers (Ukraine, 2019, 64 min.)

Directed by Nadia Parfan

D.C. Premiere

For many years, Ivan Vasyliovych has been the trade union leader at IvanoFrankivskTeploKomunEnergo, a municipal heating company in western Ukraine. His magnum opus, however, is the trade union choir for mechanics, repairmen, dispatchers, bookkeepers, and other employees. Is it possible to warm up cold radiators with the power of Ukrainian folk song?

PRECEDED BY

I Did Not Want to Make A War Film (Ukraine/USA, 2023, 18 min.)

Directed by Nadia Parfan

Russia's full-scale invasion found the Kyiv-based director Nadia Parfan in a small Bedouin village in the Middle East. It was warm, safe, and unbearably far from home. There, the director had a prophetic dream. She decided to return to Kyiv.

Saturday, March 18, 4:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations recommended | Post-screening discussion with Nadia Parfan (Director), Illia Gladstein (Producer, *Heat Singers*), and Kostiantyn Krynytskyi (Head of Energy Department, Ecoaction), moderated by F. Joseph Dresen (Senior Program Associate, Kennan Institute, Wilson Center)



I Did Not Want to Make A War Film

31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

SHORTS PROGRAMS



Can India Adapt to Extreme Heat?



Too Hot to Work? Qatar's World Cup Building Boom



Climate Change Forces Major Lifestyle Changes High in the Himalayan Mountains



The Vanishing Invisible Forests

SHORTS:

Changing Work in a Changing Climate

Short Films Curated by the Pulitzer Center

Co-presented with Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

Can India Adapt to Extreme Heat? (UK/India, 2022, 18 min.)

Directed by Juliet Riddell and Sidrah Fatma Ahmed

World Premiere

In the face of climate change, developed nations at COP27 are under pressure to support hard-hit countries such as India. Hear first hand the lasting impact of rising temperatures from farmers, students, business owners, factory workers, and scientists.

Too Hot to Work: Qatar's World Cup Building Boom (USA, 2022, 20 min.)

Directed by Aryn Baker, Tom Laffay, Ed Kashi, Diane Tsai

World Premiere

Climate change is encouraging individuals seeking work to take dangerous jobs in hot regions with little protections, including the labor-intensive efforts to build Qatar's World Cup stadiums.

Climate Change Forces Major Lifestyle Changes High in the Himalayan Mountains (USA, 2022, 8 min.)

Directed by Fred de Sam Lazaro

High in India's Himalayan region, receding glaciers have taken a significant toll on isolated agrarian communities. This film examines one solution designed by prominent local educator Sonam Wangchuk and his students: artificial glaciers, or ice stupas.

The Vanishing Invisible Forests (USA, 2022, 11 min.)

Directed by Andrew Robinson and Dominic Smith

Our kelp forests are largely unobserved, and now they are vanishing. To understand why, filmmakers Dominic Smith and Andrew Robinson focus on the work of scientists who dive underwater and look down from space.

Amid a Changing Climate, a Record Return of Alaska's Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon (USA, 2022, 5 min.)

Directed Hal Bernton and Loren Holmes

In a collaborative effort, *The Seattle Times* reporter Hal Bernton and *Anchorage Daily News* photographers reported from a record-shattering summer sockeye season on Bristol Bay, when more than 72 million sockeye returned from the North Pacific.

Wednesday, March 22, 6:00 PM | Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library

Free, reservations required | Post-screening discussion with Aryn Baker (Co-Director, *Too Hot to Work: Qatar's World Cup Building Boom*), Hal Bernton (Co-Director, *Amid a Changing Climate, a Record Return of Alaska's Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon*), Andrew Robinson (Co-Director, *The Vanishing Invisible Forests*), and Fred de Sam Lazaro (Director, *Climate Change Forces Major Lifestyle Changes High in the Himalayan Mountains*), moderated by Christine Spolar (Climate and Labor Editor, Pulitzer Center)



Amid a Changing Climate, a Record Return of Alaska's Bristol Bay Sockeye Salmon



SHORTS: Climate Connections

Presented by the Hollomon Price Foundation

With rising sea levels threatening to swallow towns and cities and climate change posing undeniable dangers to humanity, action is necessary. These films document the activists and people demanding change to protect and save our communities.

Where the Sun Always Shines (UK, 2022, 17 min.)

Directed by Rosie Baldwin

D.C. Premiere

When research emerges suggesting the community of Bognor Regis could end up underwater due to rising sea levels, residents grapple with what this means, both for themselves and for the place they call home.

Belle River (Canada, 2022, 11 min.)

Directed by Yannick Nolin, Samuel Matteau, Guillaume Fournier

D.C. Premiere

In Louisiana, the residents of Pierre-Part are preparing for the worst. Barring an unexpected turn of events, local authorities will soon be forced to open the floodgates of the Morganza Spillway.

The Mud on Their Hands (USA, 2022, 14 min.)

Directed by Jason Whalen

D.C. Premiere

After a lifetime of community organizing, climate activism and protecting future generations from storm surge has become Tyronne Edwards' new calling.

Rural Runners (USA, 2022, 29 min.)

Directed by Forest Woodward

Climate Activist Chloe Maxim and her campaign manager, Canyon Woodward, rewrote the strategy for progressive success in rural America winning two campaigns they were expected to lose.

Dear President Biden (USA, 2022, 40 min.)

Directed by Jon Bowermaster

D.C. Premiere

Travel across the country and meet activists with stories from the frontlines to share with President Joe Biden and demand that he make good on his promises to fight climate change.

Friday, March 24, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Jon Bowermaster (Director, Dear President Biden and "WindShipped")

SHORTS:

Conservation & Restoration

All over the country, the American landscape is at risk - abused by human practices and suffering from the effects of climate change. This short film collection looks at those working to protect these vulnerable shorelines and forests and exhibits how to heal and revive mistreated land through traditional practices.

Fire Tender (USA, 2022, 27 min.)

Directed by Roni Jo Draper

D.C. Premiere

Shares the work of Margo Robbins, a Yurok grandmother and knowledge keeper, as she seeks to return fire practices to Yurok territory to restore the land and the people.

A Prairie Almanac (USA, 2023, 29 min.)

Directed by Tessa Lauro Moran and Ben Crosbie

World Premiere

On 4,000 acres in Illinois, first worn out by farms, roads and parking lots, Americans rebuild – with fire, beast and seed – what is lost elsewhere.

Hope and Restoration: Saving the Whitebark Pine (USA, 2022, 14 min.)

Directed by Eric Liner

D.C. Premiere

Features the leading voices in the conservation and management of whitebark pine, an icon of North America's mountain landscape, and reveals what's at stake for our mountain forests and why there is still time to save whitebark pine.

Restoring Our Rivers: Communities Taking Action (USA, 2022, 15 min.)

Directed by Jason Jaacks

World Premiere

Across the American West, an unheralded movement is taking shape. People are coming together to rethink how they manage their most important resource: water.

Dear Tampa Bay (USA, 2022, 20 min.)

Directed by Katie Bryden

World Premiere

Referred to as an area with high risk and low readiness, Tampa Bay is one of the areas in our nation most vulnerable to climate change.

Thursday, March 23, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Jason Jaacks (Director, *Restoring Our Rivers: Communities Taking Action*)



Fire Tender Photo/Jenn Lee-Smith



A Prairie Almanac



Hope and Restoration: Saving the Whitebark Pine



Restoring Our Rivers: Communities Taking Action



Dear Tampa Bay Photo/Devin Pickering

SHORTS:

Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability

Established for the 2014 Festival by Julia and Richard Moe in memory of their son, Eric, to honor his strong interest in film and his commitment to sustainability, the Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability recognizes a short film for its inventive solutions to balancing the needs of humans and nature. The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize.



Freedom Hill (USA, 2022, 29 min.)

Directed by Resita Cox

D.C. Premiere

Through the story of Marquetta Dickens, this documentary explores the environmental racism that is washing away her town of 2,000 along North Carolina's Tar River.



For the Bees (USA, 2022, 16 min.)

Directed by Chloë Fitzmaurice

D.C. Premiere

Khaled came from war-torn Yemen to Oakland, CA to pursue beekeeping and a better life. But with an increasing amount of uncertainties, life's not always as sweet as honey.

Winner, 2023 Eric Moe Award for Best Short on Sustainability

Sunday, March 19, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

\$10, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Chloë Fitzmaurice (Director, *For the Bees*) and Resita Cox (Director, *Freedom Hill*), moderated by Gregory McGruder (Director, Global Special Events, National Geographic Society; Board of Directors, Vice Chair, DCEFF)

SHORTS: International Showcase I

As the climate crisis threatens “home” for people, wildlife, and plants across the globe, the need for action has become non-negotiable. This collection of international short films explores why change is necessary to protect future generations, and puts a spotlight on the people who protect their homes by living in deep connection with, and are taking responsibility for, the land they live on.

Forest/ry (Ireland, 2022, 7 min.)

Directed by Noelle Gallagher

World Premiere

The felling of sitka trees is dramatic. Seemingly a death knell to the landscape, this particular deforestation is in fact the precursor to new life.

Heart Valley (UK, 2022, 19 min.)

Directed by Christian Cargill

Follows a day in the life of Wilf Davies, a kind and inquisitive shepherd from the small village of Cellan, Wales.

Geamăna (Germany, 2022, 30 min.)

Directed by Matthäus Wörle

U.S. Premiere

Long ago, Geamăna was a Romanian village in the Apuseni Mountains, home to about 1000 people. Today, only the church spire rises from the poisonous mud of a neighboring copper mine.

Offshore (UK, 2021, 20 min.)

Directed by Hazel Falck

U.S. Premiere

Oil workers share their unique perspectives on the coming energy transition and explore what climate justice really looks like for workers and communities around the UK North Sea.

Shirampari: Legacies of the River (Peru/Spain/USA, 2022, 16 min.)

Directed by Lucía Flórez

D.C. Premiere

In one of the most remote places in the Peruvian Amazon, an Ashéninka boy must overcome his fears and catch a giant catfish using only a hook to start his journey as an adult.

Sunday, March 19, 5:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Lucía Flórez (Director, Shirampari: Legacies of the River)

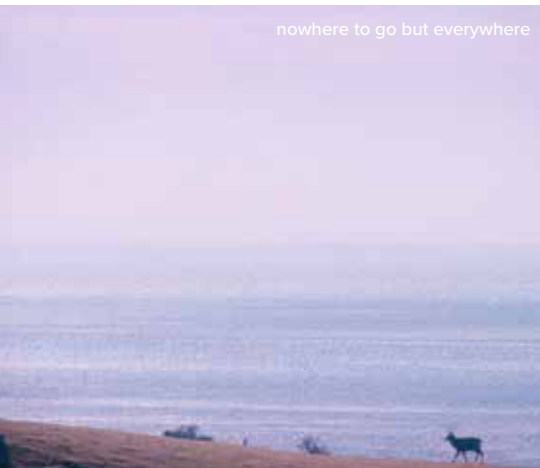




Once There Was a Sea...



Haulout



nowhere to go but everywhere



Nest Photo/Hlynur Palmason

SHORTS: International Showcase II

Sometimes change happens slowly. Other times it happens all at once, altering everything we know. These four films examine change, and what it means for people and the natural world.

Once There Was a Sea... (Slovakia/Russia, 2021, 17 min.)

Directed by Joanna Kozuch

D.C. Premiere

Once upon a time there was a sea...the Aral Sea. A film about the consequences of human decisions and actions and how they affect the daily life of one Uzbek town and its inhabitants.

Haulout (UK, 2022, 25 min.)

Directed by Evgenia Arbugaeva and Maxim Arbugaev

On a remote coast of the Siberian Arctic, a lonely man waits to witness an ancient gathering, but warming seas bring an unexpected change.

nowhere to go but everywhere (Japan, 2021, 14 min.)

Directed by Erik Shirai and Masako Tsumura

D.C. Premiere

After the devastating 2011 tsunami, Yasuo Takamatsu confronts his grief in the same ocean that stole his wife.

Nest (Denmark, 2022, 22 min.)

Directed by Hlynur Palmason

D.C. Premiere

A story of siblings building a treehouse together over the course of a year. We experience the beauty and brutality of the seasons, as we follow them through their struggles and moments of joy.

Monday, March 20, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged

SHORTS: Our Rivers

Rivers are habitats of rich biodiversity and vital to humans and wildlife. This short film program is the tale of two East Coast waterways, one in peril and the other waiting to be explored.

Troubled Tributary: Maryland's Patuxent River (USA, 2021, 27 min.)

Directed by Lia Nydes and Jess Wiegandt

Fred Tutman, Riverkeeper of the Patuxent River, advocates for environmental justice to be established throughout the watershed of this crucial Chesapeake Bay tributary.

Search for the Cooper: A River Hidden in Plain View (USA, 2022, 30 min.)

Directed by David Harp

D.C. Premiere

Tells the story of four teenagers challenged to find the source of the Cooper River that runs through Camden County, N.J.



Troubled Tributary: Maryland's Patuxent River



Search for the Cooper: A River Hidden in Plain View

Saturday, March 18, 12:30 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Sandy Cannon-Brown (Producer and Writer, *Search for the Cooper: A River Hidden In Plain View*), David Harp (Director, *Search for the Cooper: A River Hidden In Plain View*), Maggie McCann Johns (Director, Camden County Parks Department; Expedition Leader), Don Baugh (President & Founder, Upstream Alliance; Executive Producer, *Search for the Cooper: A River Hidden In Plain View*), Andrew Coleman, Jermaine Brown-Gourdine, Bella Morton, and Jaycel Santos (Student Explorers)



SHORTS: Outdoors for All I

The outdoors offer a place of reflection and pure joy, meant to be enjoyed by anyone wishing to explore it. This program discusses how history has disrupted that connection for many communities, and features the voices of those trying to change that. Watch these individuals and friends climb, fish, surf, and adventure into the wild to rewrite the map and forge paths that invite anyone to the great outdoors.

Malik (USA, 2020, 12 min.)

Directed by Max Lowe

D.C. Premiere

Unlikely friends Conrad Anker and Malik Martin bring something unique to each other's lives as their paths cross within the world of climbing.



Punchline (USA, 2022, 10 min.)

Directed by Dan Holz and Kaare Iverson

D.C. Premiere

Fly fisherman, wildlife biologist, and comedian Eeland Stribling is redefining what it means to be an outdoorsman in America.



Born Curious (USA, 2022, 19 min.)

Directed by Julia de Guzman

D.C. Premiere

J.R. Harris is an explorer, psychologist, and self proclaimed "curious dude." Even at an advanced age, he still unwinds by getting WAY out there.

The Seekers (USA, 2022, 12 min.)

Directed by Brit Hensel

U.S. Premiere

Explores how the widespread anxieties and lack of purposefulness of modern life are deeply rooted in our physical and spiritual distancing from the natural world.



Elevated (USA, 2022, 15 min.)

Directed by Palmer Morse

D.C. Premiere

A non-verbal film sharing climber Sonya Wilson's experience as a Deaf woman and outdoor advocate working to bridge the gap between the Deaf community and the outdoor industry.

Reclaim Your Water: Natasha Smith (USA, 2022, 5 min.)

Directed by Faith E. Briggs

D.C. Premiere

Natasha didn't grow up believing that "Black people don't do that" would be a limiting factor in her life. Not only does she ride dirt bikes, skate, and surf, she is passionate about sharing those skills with others.

A New Wave (Denmark, 2022, 17 min.)

Directed by Sandra Winther

D.C. Premiere

In love with the ocean, Michael February and his father reflect on what it means to represent South Africa on the world stage as a professional surfer.

Friday, March 17, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Eric Elofson (Editor, *Punchline*)



Reclaim Your Water : Natasha Smith Photo/Brie Lakin



A New Wave



Wood Hood Photo/Resonant Pictures



A Voice for the Wild Photo/Jesse Roesler



Miles to Go



Inseparable: Myia

SHORTS: Outdoors for All II

The Outdoors offers unlimited potential for us to find our voices, whether through sport, a group of friends, animals, or even a canopy of trees. This short film lineup shares the stories of healing, resilience, change, and how nature allows us to grow as people and find our purpose.

Wood Hood (USA, 2022, 16 min.)

Directed by Alex Cullen

D.C. Premiere

Follows 15 year-old DeVaughn on a weekend camping trip with Camping to Connect, a BIPOC-led mentorship program that teaches leadership, brotherhood, and inclusion in the outdoors.

A Voice for the Wild (USA, 2022, 19 min.)

Directed by Jesse Roesler

D.C. Premiere

Emily Ford and sled dog Diggins attempt to cross the secluded Boundary Waters Canoe Area during subzero temperatures to raise awareness about copper mining threats.

Miles to Go (USA, 2022, 8 min.)

Directed by James Saunders

D.C. Premiere

Trans trail runner Perry Cohen forms a team with fellow trans men with the aim to compete in trail races in states proposing and passing hateful anti-LGBTQ+ legislation.

Inseparable: Myia (USA, 2022, 12 min.)

Directed by Andrew Harrison Brown

D.C. Premiere

As one of only 30 fluent Squamish language speakers left in the Squamish Nation, Myia Antone teaches as a way to preserve her language for generations to come. Seeking to learn more, Myia uses her mountain bike as a needle weaving through her ancestral lands and language.

Wading for Change (USA, 2022, 12 min.)

Directed by Sofia Jaramillo

D.C. Premiere

For Latino conservationist and angler Jr Rodriguez to become “like the pictures he saw in magazines,” he had to leave behind what he loved the most.

Between Earth & Sky (USA, 2023, 26 min.)

Directed by Andrew Nadkarni

D.C. Premiere

While on a research climb in 2015, world-renowned ecologist Nalini Nadkarni fell fifty feet from a tree and nearly died. After making a miraculous recovery, Nalini begins to explore a new research subject: herself.

Saturday, March 18, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged





How to Play a Tree Photo/Nic Pollock



Blue Room



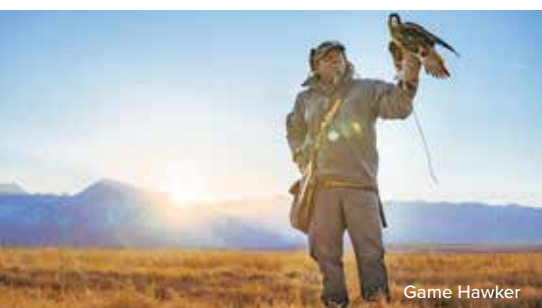
Fight or Flight



People Rising: Ivy City



"WindShipped"



Game Hawker

SHORTS: Profiles & Perspectives

Nature shapes and speaks to us in ways we don't always expect, from creating music to inciting change and innovation. These films chronicle how our environment plays a role in influencing who we are and what we do.

How to Play a Tree (Canada, 2022, 8 min.)

Directed by Nic Pollock

U.S. Premiere

Following Matti Palonen and Jurgita Žvinklytė as they construct 'tree harps' in the woods surrounding an unoccupied summer camp.

Blue Room (USA, 2022, 12 min.)

Directed by Merete Mueller

In two prisons in the Pacific Northwest, incarcerated participants in a mental health experiment watch videos of sunset-soaked beaches, wildflowers, and forests on loop.

Fight or Flight (USA, 2022, 14 min.)

Directed by Lindsey Hagen

D.C. Premiere

Chronicles the journey of the first female pilot employed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

People Rising: Ivy City (USA, 2022, 10 min.)

Directed by Ellie Walton and Amanda Padilla

World Premiere

Chronicles the fight to close National Engineering Products (NEP), a chemical facility that has polluted the air with the smell of formaldehyde and burning tar since the 1930s.

"WindShipped" (USA, 2022, 40 min.)

Directed by Jon Bowermaster

D.C. Premiere

Powered by wind and sun, the newly-restored "Schooner Apollonia" delivers goods up and down the Hudson River sans fossil fuels.

Game Hawker (USA, 2022, 25 min.)

Directed by Josh Izenberg and Brett Marty

D.C. Premiere

As an American falconry ambassador, Shawn Hayes has carved a space for himself where people of color haven't always been welcome.

Sunday, March 19, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Nic Pollock (Director, *How to Play a Tree*) and Ellie Walton (Co-Director, *People Rising: Ivy City*)

SHORTS: Student Spotlight

This program features new voices who are taking action through their work. These intimate portraits tell important stories, some even investigating and seeking answers to the issues plaguing their community and personal lives.

Îlinha (UK, 2021, 13 min.)

Directed by Jessie Knierim

D.C. Premiere

To save salmon and his Karuk identity, Jason Reed is turning to natural inspiration – the beaver. Historically, the pools created by beaver dams have provided lifesaving refuge to spawning salmon. But with a beaver population wiped out by hunting, Jason and his colleagues must build the dams themselves.

Mapping Love (USA, 2022, 30 min.)

Directed by Mary Alice McMillan

U.S. Premiere

Filmmaker Mary Alice McMillan explores the geography of her family's past to learn why every woman in her family has developed breast cancer and where her own breast cancer-related genetic mutation may have originated.

Sonora (Colombia, 2021, 23 min.)

Directed by Johnny Holder

An introspective and verité glimpse into the field work of Juan Pablo Culasso, a blind birdwatcher and sound recordist in Colombia.

Trashman (USA, 2022, 15 min.)

Directed by Lawrence Green

A personal exploration of a neighborhood trash pollution problem and what community activists in Washington, D.C.'s Ward 8 are doing to solve this issue.

Our Coast (Canada, 2021, 12 min.)

Directed by Ella Van Cleave

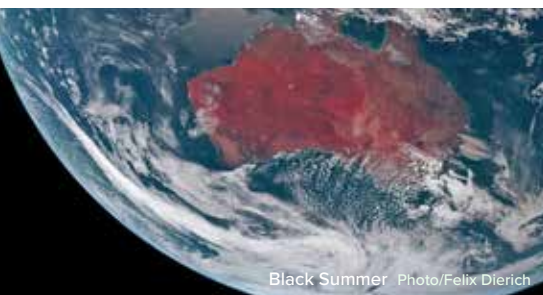
D.C. Premiere

James Lawson's ties to British Columbia's coast run deep. The young fisherman has spent his life harvesting seafood across the region's waters, but today the longevity of his way of life is uncertain.

Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with Lawrence Green (Director, *Trashman*)





SHORTS: Visionary Green

If we listen intently and look closely, nature reveals its cycles, resilience, and undeniable wonder. Take a trip through the natural world in this visually lush and poetic series of films.

Yellowstone 88 - Song of Fire (USA, 2021, 7 min.)

Directed by Jerry van de Beek and Betsy De Fries

D.C. Premiere

Summer 1988. Dry lightning sparks a fire in the drought-ridden landscape of Yellowstone Park, igniting a blaze that scorches over 1.2M acres.

Black Summer (Germany, 2022, 12 min.)

Directed by Felix Dierich

U.S. Premiere

An experimental animated film documenting Australia's catastrophic "Black Summer" bushfires via images rendered from terabytes of satellite data.

Unwitnessed (USA, 2021, 6 min.)

Directed by Jeffrey Reid

D.C. Premiere

An abstract exploration of the Earth's striking textures and cyclical rhythms, this short lays bare the Earth's imposing elements and mesmerizing patterns.

Listen Closely (Taiwan, 2022, 9 min.)

Directed by George Hiraoka Cloke

World Premiere

A poetic, ecologically conscious non-fiction short celebrating the biodiverse soundscapes of Taiwan.

Ikebana (Canada, 2021, 13 min.)

Directed by Rita Ferrando

D.C. Premiere

Reimagines the art of flower arranging, connecting different practices and perspectives through cinematic assemblage.

Wrought (Canada, 2022, 20 min.)

Directed by Anna Sigrithur and Joel Penner

D.C. Premiere

A visual exploration of decay begs questions about our relationships with other species.

Sunday, March 19, 12:30 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged

SHORTS:

Wild Hope and the Power of Positive Stories

Presented by HHMI Tangled Bank Studios

Sneak Peek!

WILD HOPE is a new series of short films highlighting the intrepid changemakers who are working to restore and protect our planet. Each half-hour episode inspires audiences with stories of bold interventions, unexpected alliances, and nature's resilience. Whether tapping oysters to clean New York City waters and prevent flooding, or growing coffee to save Mozambican rainforests, the series reveals how local action can spark powerful change — and provides a refreshing dose of hope in an increasingly cynical world.

Join us for sneak peak of two episodes including “Does Nature Have Rights?” which highlights efforts to invoke the constitutional rights of nature in a battle to save biodiversity hotspots in Ecuador.

Monday, March 20, 7:00 PM | Naval Heritage Center

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with filmmakers to follow



Wild Hope 1



Wild Hope 2



Wild Hope 3



Eco-Hack! Photo/Phil Briggs



Bring the Salmon Home



Range Rider Photo/Anastasia Pinea



Heart of Maui



Joy

SHORTS: Wildlife Protectors

From creating 3-D printed tortoise shells to organizing historic runs, the conservationists in this series are protecting at-risk and endangered wildlife at all costs. Through their innovation and deep love for these species, forest birds, tortoises, gorillas, and wolves are getting a chance to continue thriving in their natural habitats.

Eco-Hack! (USA, 2022, 16 min.)

Directed by Brett Marty and Josh Izenberg

D.C. Premiere

Tired of watching desert tortoise populations decline in the Mojave Desert due to human activity, biologist Tim Shields decides to make a last ditch effort to save the species.

Bring the Salmon Home (USA, 2021, 15 min.)

Directed by Shane Anderson

D.C. Premiere

Captures the emotions, courage, and determination of Klamath River tribal communities as they host a 300+ mile run to cultivate support for the biggest river restoration project in history.

Range Rider (USA, 2022, 30 min.)

Directed by Colin Arisman

D.C. Premiere

As wolves repopulate Washington State, conflict is heating up with rural ranching communities. Range rider Daniel Curry's job is to create a buffer between wolves and the cattle herds that graze on public lands.

Heart of Maui (USA, 2022, 8 min.)

Directed by David Ehrenberg

D.C. Premiere

Follows two biologists working to save rare and endemic forest birds in Haleakalā, Maui's national park.

Joy (Spain, 2022, 22 min.)

Directed by Aner Etxebarria Moral

D.C. Premiere

The story of a young ranger who combines the education of her two children with her commitment for the protection of mountain gorillas in Uganda's Mgahinga Gorilla National Park.

Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations encouraged | Post-screening discussion with David Ehrenberg (Director, *Heart of Maui*)



31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

DCEFF VANTAGE GRANT

Made possible through the support of Prince Charitable Trusts

In an effort to reinforce the importance of supporting the creative and informative works of BIPOC creators, DCEFF is pleased to introduce the DCEFF Vantage Grant to provide pitch training and funding to emerging BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) filmmakers.

The DCEFF Vantage Grant, made possible through the support of Prince Charitable Trusts, will award \$12,500 to a qualifying filmmaker to assist with a short film or first feature in any stage of production that addresses a timely environmental issue. All other finalist teams will receive \$500.

Following a period of open submissions, six finalist projects have been selected to attend the 2023 Festival and participate in a live pitch. The Vantage Grant extends DCEFF's commitment to expanding the storytelling pipeline, amplifying the voices, and supporting the works of BIPOC creators.

Ali's Return

Team: Sara Elbanna (Director, Writer) and Hayat Aljowaily (Producer)

25 years ago, unable to secure water for his land, my father left Egypt to pursue the "American dream." Now, disenchanted with his life in diaspora, he plans to return for the first time with the purpose of reconnecting with his native land and village.

Birder by the Lake

Team: Erika Valenciana, Mitchell Wenkus (Co-Directors)

Birder By The Lake is an often humorous, sometimes heartbreaking 15-minute documentary illustrating the quirky yet dedicated people who process bird collisions in Chicago and the city's vast biodiversity that makes it a significant stopover for migratory birds.

Brown Grove

Team: Ashley Luke (Director, Producer)

Brown Grove follows the journey of an African American community fighting to preserve their sacred land, community, and historical memory in rural Hanover County, Virginia. In recent years, a warehouse distribution center was permitted, clearing more than 200 acres of wetlands and residential homes to construct the site. The environmental impact on the community has altered historic burial grounds, marshes, and quality of life — all within miles of residents' homes.

Dear You

Team: Aurora Brachman (Director, Writer) and Emma D. Miller (Producer)

Grace James, a dancer and steadfast optimist from the island nation of Kiribati, flees domestic abuse and the imminent threat of climate change to seek asylum in the US. *Dear You* follows Grace as she fights for stability and a sense of purpose in the face of an uncertain future.

Drowned Land

Team: Colleen Thurston (Director, Producer)

Deep in the Choctaw Nation of rural Oklahoma rages a fight to preserve the Kiamichi River, reckoning with a cycle of land loss for the Indigenous diaspora and the community at large.

From Kudzu

Team: Hope Davison, Nash Consing, and Melanie Ho (Co-Directors, Co-Producers)

A poetic and personal documentary, *From Kudzu* explores the identities of three Asian American filmmakers from the U.S. South. Through a road trip tracing a plant's rise and fall mitigated by the hand of the U.S. Government, the filmmakers illustrate their placement, movement and history of their racial identities in proximity to Kudzu.

Pitch Mentor and Emcee: Judith Helfand (Co-Creator of Chicken & Egg Pictures, Filmmaker, and Professor at the Columbia University School of Journalism)

Sunday, March 26, 2:30 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations recommended

31ST ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

FORUM

Established to celebrate DCEFF's 30th anniversary in 2022, The Forum is a unique space for leading thinkers and advocates to share space with filmmakers and other storytellers to address the most important environmental issues of our day.

Accountability in Environmental Film A Case Study With Working Films



Pat Aufderheide



Hannah Hearn

Join the Documentary Accountability Working Group (DAWG) and Working Films for a panel discussion on ethical, non-extractive storytelling within documentary filmmaking. This panel will cover DAWG's core values of ethical storytelling and will provide a glimpse into their Framework for Values, Ethics, and Accountability in Nonfiction Filmmaking, in particular how these issues resonate in environmental filmmaking. They will be joined by filmmakers who model and explore what accountability looks like in practice, from reflection and pre-production through the release of their film.

Moderator:

Pat Aufderheide (DAWG member, University Professor of Communications at American University)

Hannah Hearn (DAWG member; Impact Coordinator & Fellowships Lead at Working Films)

Sunday, March 26, 12:30 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required

Confronting Powerful Institutions

There is a strong tradition in documentary filmmaking, just as there is in journalism, to hold power to account. Numerous films across the 2023 slate are confronting powerful institutions, corporations, or governing agencies. This panel asks, what are the risks – legally, reputationally, bodily – involved in daring to speak truth to power? How might films serve as agents for positive change and shine a light on corruption or collusion through impact and engagement strategies? Can documentaries actually change the conversation? We'll hear from filmmakers and film protagonists who dared to stand up and speak out.

Moderator:

Sarah Graddy (Senior Communications Advisor, Agriculture and Climate, Environmental Working Group)

Panelists:

Shawn Bannon (Director, *The Smell of Money*)

Jamie Berger (Producer and Writer, *The Smell of Money*)

Gabriela Cowperthwaite (Director, *The Grab*)

Nate Halverson (Featured Subject and Producer, *The Grab*; Investigative Journalist)

Brigadier Siachitema (Featured Subject, *The Grab*; Human Rights Lawyer)

Saturday, March 18, 3:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required



Shawn Bannon



Gabriela Cowperthwaite



Jamie Berger



Sarah Graddy



Brigadier Siachitema



Nate Halverson

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Green Space

A staggering number of short films in this year's lineup explore a legacy of exclusion from nature and natural resources amongst BIPOC communities, and introduce a number of extraordinary individuals and organizations reclaiming nature for traditionally disenfranchised groups. This panel will hear from the filmmakers, organizers, and activists who are connecting communities of color to outdoor spaces and building a coalition of diverse outdoor leaders.

Panelists:

Melody Mobley (Forester, Teacher, Writer)

Tyrhee Moore (Founder and Executive Director, SoulTrak; Board of Directors, DCEFF)



Melody Mobley



Tyrhee Moore

Saturday, March 18, 5:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required

Storytelling During Times of War: A View from Ukraine

Presented in partnership with Trust for Mutual Understanding, the Elva and Lawrence O'Brien Family Trust, and the Wilson Center

How can filmmaking survive as a practice during times of war, precisely when the power and importance of visual storytelling is most urgently needed? When infrastructure is crumbling, how can filmmakers function and operate, getting their stories out while mitigating the risks associated with filming in a warzone? Ukrainian filmmakers Illia Gladshtein, Nadia Parfan, and Zoya Laktionova will share their unique experiences and insights. They will be joined in person by Kostiantyn Krynytskyi, Head of Energy at Ecoaction (Ukraine's largest environmental NGO), who will discuss his organization's work mapping the ongoing environmental damage caused by the Russian invasion, and the potential for a green post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

Panelists:

Kostiantyn Krynytskyi (Head of Energy Department, Ecoaction)

Zoya Laktionova (Documentary Filmmaker)

Nadia Parfan (Co-Director, *Heat Singers*)

Illia Gladshtein (Producer, *Heat Singers*)



Kostiantyn Krynytskyi



Nadia Parfan



Zoya Laktionova



Illia Gladshtein

Sunday, March 19, 3:00 PM | Eaton DC

Free, reservations required

VENUE & TRANSPORTATION INFO

AFI SILVER THEATRE AND CULTURAL CENTER

8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

Metrorail: Silver Spring

Metrobus: S2, S4, 70

Metrobus Extra: S9, 79

Capital Bikeshare: Fenton Street & Ellsworth Street and Silver Spring Metro

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Doyle/Forman Theater, School of Communication, Center for Environmental Filmmaking

201 McKinley Building, 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Tenleytown-AU Station

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36, H2, H4

Capital Bikeshare: Ward Circle at American University Station and American University East Campus

EATON DC

1201 K Street, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: McPherson Square or Metro Center

Metrobus: D4, D6, G9

Capital Bikeshare: 12th Street & L Street, NW

EMBASSY OF AUSTRIA

3524 International Court, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Van Ness-UDC

Metrobus: H2

Capital Bikeshare: Van Ness-UDC Station, NW

EMBASSY OF CANADA

501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial or Judiciary Square

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

Capital Bikeshare: 6th Street & Indiana Avenue, NW

EMBASSY OF CZECH REPUBLIC

3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Van Ness-UDC

Metrobus: H2

Capital Bikeshare: Connecticut Avenue & Tilden Street, NW

EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

4200 Linnean Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Van Ness-UDC

Metrobus: H2

Capital Bikeshare: Van Ness-UDC Station, NW

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Lohrfink Auditorium, Hariri Building

Main campus: 37th & O Street, NW, Washington, DC

DC Circulator: Georgetown-Union Station Route

Capital Bikeshare: 37th Street & O Street, NW

LANDMARK'S E STREET CINEMA

555 11th Street, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Metro Center or Gallery Place-Chinatown

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

Capital Bikeshare: 10th Street & E Street, NW

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY

901 G Street NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Metro Center or Gallery Place-Chinatown

Metrobus: 63, 64, 80, P6

DC Circulator:

Capital Bikeshare: 9th Street & G Street, NW

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

701 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 8th Street & D Street, NW



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

6th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC

Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial or Judiciary Square

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 4th Street & Madison Drive, NW

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

1600 M Street, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Farragut North, Farragut West

Metrobus: S1, S2, S4

Metrobus Extra: S9

DC Circulator: Georgetown - Union Station Route

Capital Bikeshare: 15th Street & M Street, NW

NAVAL HERITAGE CENTER

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Archives-Navy Memorial

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

Capital Bikeshare: 8th Street & D Street, NW

SMITHSONIAN'S HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN

Independence Avenue & 7th Street SW,
Washington, DC

Metrorail: Smithsonian or L'Enfant Plaza

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: Independence Avenue & L'Enfant Plaza, SW/ Department of Energy Station

SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART

1050 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC

Metrorail: Federal Triangle, Smithsonian, or L'Enfant Plaza

Metrobus:

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: Independence Avenue & L'Enfant Plaza, SW/ Department of Energy Station

SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

10th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC

Metrorail: Smithsonian

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 36

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 10th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW

SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Fourth Street & Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, DC

Metrorail: L'Enfant Plaza

Metrobus: 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 34 36

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 4th Street & C Street, SW

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR MUSEUM

1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC

Metrorail: Farragut West

DC Circulator: National Mall Route

Capital Bikeshare: 18th Street & C Street, NW



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital gratefully acknowledges the following foundations, corporations, individuals, and public agencies that have generously supported the 2023 Festival.

\$100,000+

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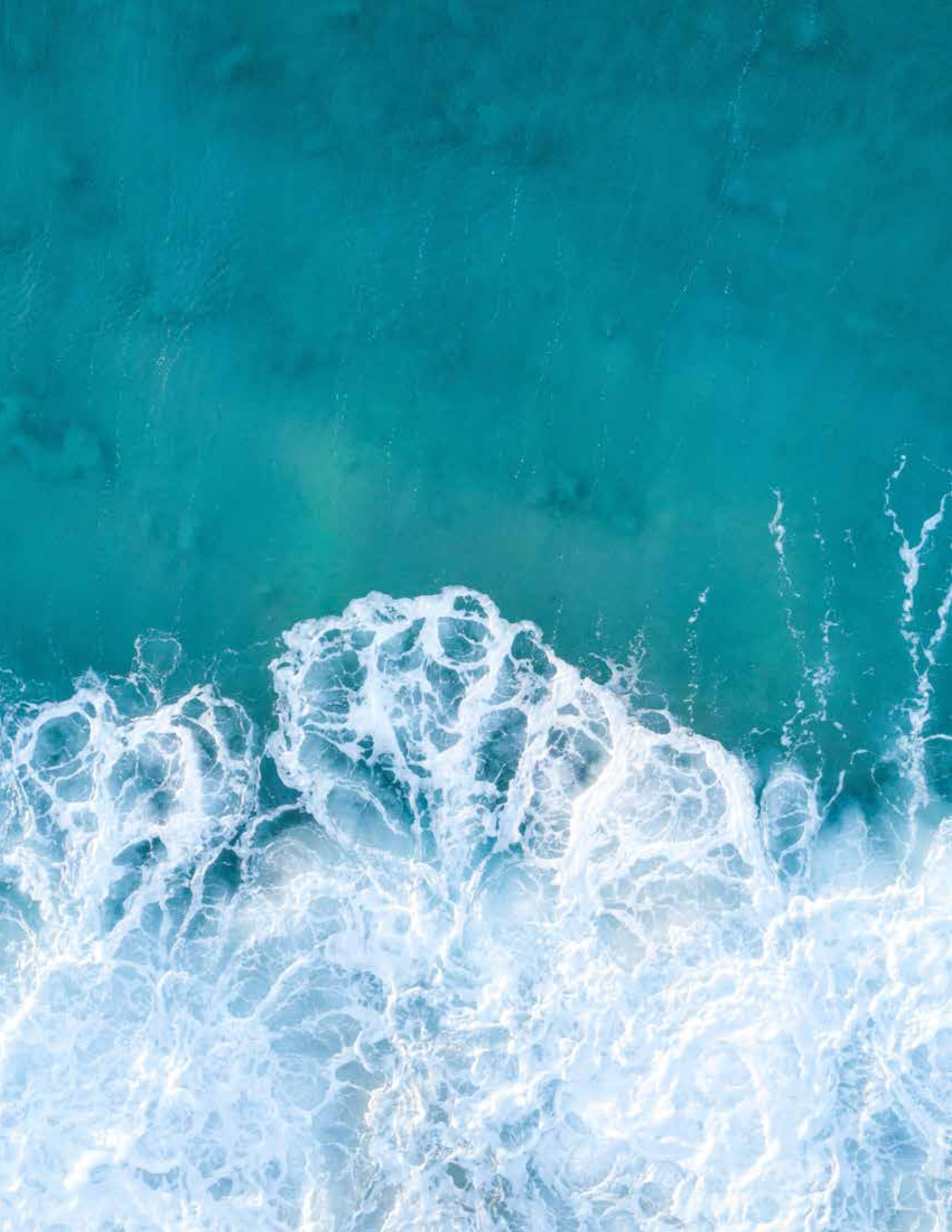
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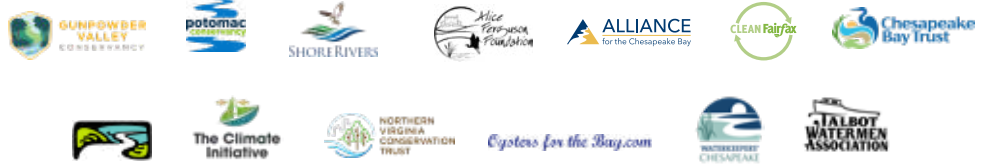
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A Journey to a Sustainable Future



Join us in supporting the 13 local non-profits partners that help to make our **2023 Protecting the Natural Beauty of the Chesapeake Bay** a success. Through these partnerships we highlight and promote each organizations goals and missions. Examples include combating climate change, protecting our rivers and streams from pollution, supporting local shellfish populations and improving the health of the critical waterways and estuaries. Please join us in our efforts to reduce our environmental impact and fight climate change both by supporting these organizations and by reducing our own environmental impact by using sustainable services and products.

When we all work together, the cumulative effect of our effort can accomplish much!

To learn more about sustainable practices,
and to request your 2023 calendar, visit ecoprint.com.

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Learn more: earthxfilm.org

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