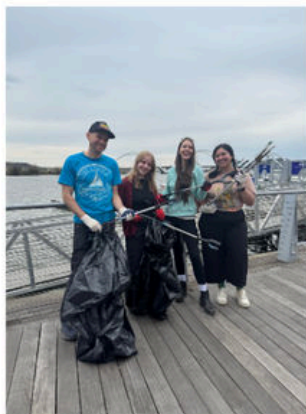
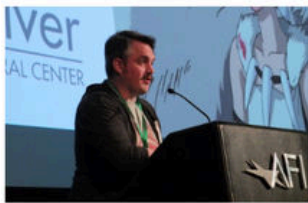


DCEFF[®]

2025 HIGHLIGHTS



10,000+

Festival Attendees

78

Films Screened

25

Total Venues

155

Filmmakers &
Special Guests

45

Free Events

\$30,000

Awarded to Filmmakers

Our 2025 Festival was an incredible experience.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for the 2025 Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital. From March 20th through 29th, our programs were seen by over 10,000 audience members!

Who comprises that audience? Filmmakers (more than 60 this year) and attendees, moderators, and venue partners alike. Combined, these are the people that make this the **largest and longest-running environmental film festival in the United States**. Whether this was your first or your thirty-third Festival with us, you were seated among some of the **most informed, passionate people around**.

Just because the lights have now come up, doesn't mean the work is over. We hope you will **take inspiration** from what you experienced at DCEFF and **put it toward doing good in your communities and beyond**.



Monica Schorn
Executive Director



Thursday, March 20

The 33rd Annual Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital opened at the US Navy Memorial with the DC Premiere of *The White House Effect* preceded by a special message from Senator Edward Markey. The climate-focused screening was followed by a conversation (pictured above) with Natural Resources Defense Council President Manish Bapna, director Pedro Kos, producer Noah Stahl, moderated by *Washington Post* Deputy Climate and Environment Editor Juliet Eilperin.

“*Strong collaboration between elected officials, frontline advocates, and storytellers, like those amongst us today, create an immovable foundation for the fight which is ahead... So thank you to the DC Environmental Film Festival and all of the incredibly talented filmmakers showcasing their stories over the days ahead. You are inspiring an entire generation to stand up and to fight for the future.*

-- US Senator Ed Markey



Friday, March 21

This March saw the return of our **Annual Youth Program** presented by the **Lucas Kaempfer Foundation**. We screened *Searching for Amani* for an audience of almost 200 **DC Public School** students and followed that with panel discussion (pictured) on conservation and climate journalism. The lively conversation, moderated by Bloomberg Senior Reporter **Jennifer Hijazi**, featured film subjects **Simon Ali** and **Haron Lengus**, and producer **Peter Goetz**.

More March 21 Highlights

A **sold out** screening of Yellowstone wolf documentary *Mollie's Pack*, followed by a discussion with director **Thomas Winston** and members of Mollie's family, moderated by **Kristen Brengel**, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs at **National Parks Conservation Association**.

Programming at NYU DC kicked off with special work-in-progress screening of the next film from director **Roger Sorkin** and the American Resiliency Project *Clean Economy NOW*.



Saturday, March 22

Saturday afternoon featured the US Premiere of *A Life Among Elephants*, this year's Flo Stone and Roger D. Stone Award for Outstanding Artistry in Filmmaking winner. The post-screening conversation (pictured) featured director Nigel Pope and Save the Elephants representatives Saba Douglas-Hamilton (Conservation Ambassador), Kennedy LeMayian (Conservationist & Program Officer), and Frank Pope (CEO), moderated by Bill Gardner, Founder and Executive Producer of Ocean Rock Studios.





Saturday, March 22 (continued)

Saturday evening was headlined by a special sneak preview screening of *The American Southwest*, the new film by Ben Masters (*The River and The Wall*). The screening was followed by a stacked panel conversation with Masters, American Rivers representative Sinjin Eberle, cinematographer Ryan Olinger and (Pictured) producer Len Necefer, narrator Quannah Chasinghorse, moderated by the *Washington Post*'s Dana Hedgpeth.

“

This film brought me to tears and it made me so inspired to continue my work.

-- Quannah Chasinghorse

More March 22 Highlights

Bring Them Home screened at Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

This year's International Shorts program with the Trust for Mutual Understanding featured films from Kosovo curated by DokuFest. We were joined by DokuFest staff Eroll Bilibani (Head of Education), Alba Çakalli (Festival Producer), and Jeton Jagxhiu (Researcher).



Sunday, March 23

We capped off opening weekend of DCEFF 2025 celebrating the finalists of the 2025 Eric Moe Award For Best Short On Sustainability. We were joined by the team from this year's winner *Keeper*, (pictured) director **Hannah Rafkin** and beekeepers/film subjects **Sean and Alaura Flynn**. The post-screening discussion also included **Allison Argo**, director of *Frozen Frames: Murphy's Yellowstone*, and moderator **Greg McGruder** of National Geographic Society and the DCEFF Board of Directors.

More March 23 Highlights

Our screening of *Chasing Time*, presented by the **Wayne Hollomon Price Foundation** was followed by an inter-generational conversation focused on "Passing the Baton" with filmmaker **Sarah Keo**, moderated by **Maggie Burnette Stogner** from American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking.

The GALA Hispanic Theatre played host for our **World Premiere of *Drowned Land***, which was a finalist for DCEFF's 2023 Vantage Grant.



Monday, March 24

Monday night featured a special sold out program presented by HHMI Tangled Bank Studios highlighting their new *Wild Hope* series short *Mission Impossible*. The screening was followed by a conversation with film subject and Impossible Foods Founder Pat Brown (pictured above with the Veg Society of DC), HHMI's Head of Studio Jared Lipworth, and Pepin Tuma, Director of Policy for the Good Food Institute.

More March 24 Highlights

We returned to Georgetown University for the 3rd year in a row for a screening with their Earth Commons Institute of Pebble Mine documentary *Unearth*. We were joined by members of the film team and activist Christina Salmon for the post-screening conversation.

Programming at the Miracle Theatre kicked off with the DC Premiere of *Fatal Watch*, followed by a Q&A with co-directors Katie Carpenter and Mark Benjamin, producer Carole Tomko, and Dr. Daniel Pauly.



Tuesday, March 25

We returned to the **Miracle Theatre** for a special co-presentation of ***Firebreak*** alongside Hip Hop Caucus. Film subjects and founders of the **Forestry & Fire Recruitment Program** **Brandon Smith** and **Royal Ramey** were on hand for a post-screening conversation with director **Kenzie Bruce** and cinematographer **Chris Janjic**, moderated by Hip Hop Caucus President & CEO **Rev. Lennox Yearwood**. (pictured: Kenzie Bruce, Rev Yearwood, Royal Ramey, Chris Janjic in front of the theatre's marquee)

More March 25 Highlights

The US Premiere of ***Been Here Stay Here*** co-presented with **Grist**, featuring a conversation with filmmaker **David Usui** and film subjects **Dr. Dave Schulte** and **James "Ooker" Eskridge**, moderated by Rare's Chief Development Officer **Annie Schouw**.

The World Premiere of ***Upstream, Downriver: Uniting For Water Justice*** at American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking.



“

I think and believe this Film Festival, for many reasons, is one of the most important film festivals we have in this country and in the world. We must support this Festival...you have become the first responders here in DC to tell our stories.

-- Rev. Lennox Yearwood



Wednesday, March 26

Mike Gunton, Executive Producer of NBC's *The Americas*, joined us for a screening of an episode from the Tom Hanks-narrated series titled "The Andes". Enrique Ortiz, Senior Program Director for the Andes Amazon Fund, introduced the program, which concluded with a conversation between Gunton and *Washington Post* travel writer Natalie Compton. (pictured: DCEFF Board Member and National Wildlife Federation Executive VP Mustafa Santiago Ali, Mike Gunton, and Ranger Rick)

More March 26 Highlights

Our screening of HHMI Tangled Bank Studios' *Turtle Walker* at the Miracle Theatre was followed by a conversation between director Taira Malaney and Christina Larson of the *Associated Press*' Global Health & Science team.

We teamed up with the Embassy of Finland and Johns Hopkins University for a screening of *Once Upon a Time in a Forest* at the Hopkins Bloomberg Center.



Thursday, March 27

For a sold out audience (pictured) at the US Navy Memorial, the team from **National Geographic's Pristine Seas** gave a special presentation on their approach to **storytelling for impact** and how their efforts directly translate into conservation. The unique program included Pristine Seas executive producer **Scott Ressler**, senior producer **Alex Verville**, producer **Steve Spence**, and senior editor **Brian Newell**, and **Greg McGruder** of National Geographic Society and the DCEFF Board of Directors.

More March 27 Highlights

This year's **Pulitzer Center** shorts program and journalist panel discussion at the **MLK Memorial Library** focused on how global manufacturing shapes local environments.

This evening featured a lineup heavy on **international programs**, with screenings about crows, soil, and green architecture at the **Embassies of Austria and the Netherlands** and the **Italian Cultural Institute**.



Friday, March 28

On Friday afternoon, we concluded three days of impact programming at the **Reservoir Center for Water Solutions**. This included the shorts showcase and conversation about the Anacostia and Potomac rivers titled **Protecting our Local Waterways** (pictured above): Elizabeth Lee Green, Producer, *Reviving the Forgotten River*). This was followed by a river cleanup event in collaboration with Surfrider's DC chapter (pictured below).





Friday, March 28 (continued)

Friday night concluded with the presentation of our 2025 William W. Warner Voice of Nature Award to *Lowland Kids* as part of a special *Impact Preview* screening focused on sea-level rise and climate refugees. After the film, the packed audience stuck around for a conversation and Q&A (pictured) with producer William Crouse, director Sandra Winther, and the subjects of the film Juliette, Howard, and Chris Brunet. The discussion was moderated by *Washington Post* climate and science reporter Sarah Kaplan.

More March 28 Highlights

We hosted the World Premiere of *Raising Aniya* with the National Academy of Sciences. Director John Fiege, film subjects Aniya Wingate and Gretchen Batiste, producers Walter Hull and Chris Lucas, and editor Sofia Chang were in attendance for a conversation moderated by Pete Nelson, Director of Communications for the Gulf Research Program at The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.



Saturday, March 29

DCEFF 2025 closed with this year's Shared Earth Foundation Award for Advocacy winner *Out of Plain Sight*. Directors Rosanna Xia and Daniel Straub, cinematographer Austin Straub, and film subject Dr. David Valentine were joined by DCEFF Board Member Greg McGruder for an in-depth discussion (pictured) of the new *Los Angeles Times* documentary and how Xia's shocking reporting on toxic waste dumping was brought to the big screen.

“

“To make a documentary like this where it honors journalism, it celebrates the messiness of science... this is ultimately a film that doesn't tie up things. It's a film that introduces the questions we should be asking.”

-- Rosanna Xia



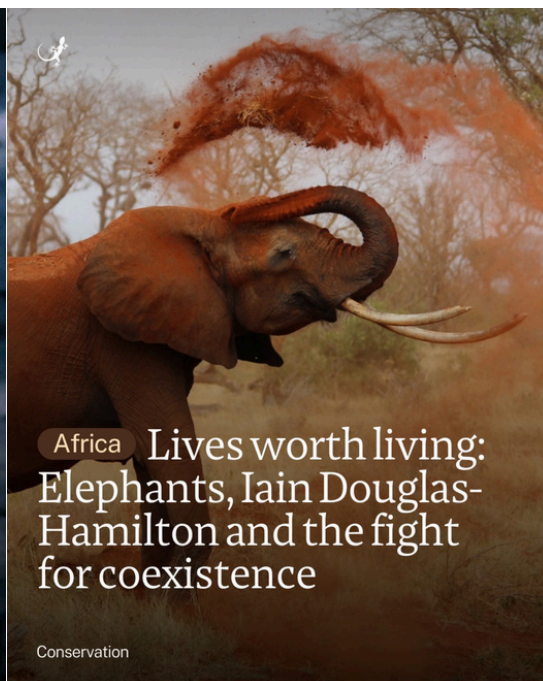
To see more highlights from DCEFF 2025, check out the full [photo gallery](#).

For the full lineup of programs, see this year's [Festival Guide](#).

To learn more, visit dceff.org and follow us on Instagram, Bluesky, & LinkedIn.

DCEFF was very excited to add Mongabay as one of our Media Partners for the 2025 Festival. In March, their team of conservation journalists produced **eight outstanding interviews** with filmmakers featured in this year's lineup, including *Mollie's Pack*, *Turtle Walker*, *A Life Among Elephants*, *Plastic People*, and more.

To read these, check out the [special landing page](#) Mongabay created for the Festival.



Thank you to this year's sponsors!

PRESENTING



SHARED EARTH
FOUNDATION

LEAD



Bill and Jane Stetson

PREMIERE



DC COMMISSION ON ARTS & HUMANITIES

THE CURTIS & EDITH MUNSON FOUNDATION

REVADA
FOUNDATION

Elva and Lawrence O'Brien Family Trust

Lucas Kaempfer Foundation

Joseph W. Kaempfer Jr.

WALLACE GENETIC
FOUNDATION

MAJOR



PRISTINE SEAS



Wayne Hollomon Price Foundation
Catalyst Foundation

Resilience Creative

THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN
CAFritz FOUNDATION

hhmi | Tangled
Bank
Studios

PARK
FOUNDATION

Trust for
Mutual
Understanding

OFFICIAL

Darlene Anderson



Julia and Richard Moe

Sally S. & Decatur H. Miller Private Foundation

Gwyn Whittaker

Moccasin Lake Foundation

MEDIA

Grist

MONGABAY
NEWS & INSPIRATION FROM NATURE'S FRONTLINE

PLANET
FORWARD

Pulitzer Center