

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OCEAN CITY FILM FESTIVAL CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR 10TH SEASON
INCLUDING FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MARYLAND**

OCEAN CITY, MD — *March 25, 2025* — The Ocean City Film Festival is accepting submissions of films for their 10th season that will return to the resort March 5-8, 2026. The Early Bird deadline for submissions is May 31, 2025. New for next season is the Maryland High School Film Showcase that will feature films produced by high school students across the state.

Complete rules and entry forms are posted at <https://filmfreeway.com/OceanCityFilmFestival>

A production of the Art League of Ocean City, the festival was founded in 2017 and has become a recognized annual event that attracts international, national, and regional artists working in film. The festival holds gold-rated status on Film Freeway, the industry standard for film festival acceptance that serves as a central hub to more than 12,000 festivals worldwide. The Ocean City festival creates both community engagement and networking opportunities for filmmakers at all levels in their careers.

For the 10th season, the festival expands once again to include films directed and produced by high school students in Maryland, with the goal of mentoring young talent and giving them a showcase for their films while they interact with filmmaking veterans.

The festival annually screens approximately 100 films, both short films shown in blocks and feature-length films, submitted from around the world. Local venues screen the films, including exclusive premieres of locally-produced films, receptions, happy hours, coffee get-togethers, industry panels, and an awards ceremony.

“The 10th anniversary will be a celebration of the success of our festival, and we have special events planned for this big anniversary in 2026,” B.L. Strang-Moya, creative director of the Film Festival, said. “Local and regional content has always been and will continue to be the primary focus of our festival while also giving a platform to artists from all over the world. Our program is consistently diverse and equitable in the array of unique artists we showcase.”

Submission categories include narrative features, narrative shorts, documentary features, documentary shorts, and the Maryland High School Film Showcase.

Submissions will be judged by a panel of film experts, and submitting early will give applicants a greater chance at selection. The early bird deadline is May 31, 2025 with a \$40 entry fee for feature films, \$15 for shorts. The regular deadline is Sept. 1, 2025 with a \$45 entry fee for feature films, \$25 for shorts. The late deadline is Oct. 31, 2025 with a \$50 entry fee for feature films, \$35 for shorts. The Film Festival will notify filmmakers of their acceptance on Dec. 1, 2025.

High school students who wish to submit may do so at no cost by contacting the Film Festival for instructions at oceancityfilmfest@gmail.com.

General information about the Film Festival is available at OCMDfilmfestival.com.

The Art League of Ocean City is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the visual arts to the community through education, exhibits, scholarship, programs and community art projects.

###