



BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL | 871 SENECA STREET | BUFFALO, NY 14210 | BETTERCITIESFILMFESTIVAL.COM

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FIRST+MAIN FILMS ANNOUNCES THE WINNING FILMS FROM THE 2020 BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL

***Segregated By Design* wins Grand Prize, *The Great Disconnect* wins Best Feature Film,
and *Cycling Toward a Better Future* wins Best Short Film.**

Buffalo, NY — November 25, 2020 — Today First+Main Films announced the winning films for the 2020 Better Cities Film Festival.

The Grand Prize was awarded to *Segregated by Design*, an epic animated documentary revealing the dark history of unconstitutional US housing segregation based on Richard Rothstein’s seminal book, "The Color of Law." The Best Feature Film was awarded to *The Great Disconnect*, a compelling documentary exploring the causes and solutions to today’s “age of loneliness,” including urban design. The Best Short Film was awarded to *Cycling Toward a Better Future*, an inspiring story about the Pikala bicycle initiative in Marrakesh, Morocco.

Film entries were judged by an international panel of esteemed urbanists, architects and filmmakers including Jan Gehl, Christopher Leinberger, Tami Door, Trinity Simons, Ethan Kent, Mick Cornett, and Rama Perparim.

In addition to the Grand Prize winners, awards were given to the following best in category films: Better Environment – *Degrowth in the Suburbs*; Better Planning & Design – *Vision 2030*; Better Transport – *Spokespeople*; Better Communities – *Good White People*; Better Economies For All – *It’s Not Fair*; Better Technology & Innovation – *Starting Small*.

Special film festival awards were given to the following films: Spirit of the Festival Award – *Detroit 48202*; Hero Award – *Motherload*; Best Student Film – *People’s Struggle*; Best Animation – *Segregated by Design*; Best Civic Story – *Space Needle: A Hidden History*; Best Human Story – *Last Stop for Lost Property*; Emerging Ideas Award – *Working Cities Wednesdays*; Best Urban Arts Award – *Colossal*. *Space Needle: A Hidden History* won the Audience Favorite award.

Awards in new categories for 2020 were: Best Architecture Film – *Instruments in the Architecture: Building the Pianodrome* ; Best Bicycle Film – *There & Then*; Best Housing Film – *Living Patrimony*; Best

Engineering Film– *Blue Goes Green*; Best Next Gen Film – *Making our Place*; Best Water Film – *L’Eau Est La Vie (Water is Life)*; Best World Games Film – *White Elephants*.

“We’re proud to honor these filmmakers, who use their talent and passion to tell stories about creating better places. Their work is beautiful and poignant and reflects the Better Cities Film Festival mission to inspire and empower communities.” said Dr. Chris Elisara, co-founder of First+Main Films. “During this pandemic we need these stories even more to lift our spirits and inspire us to build better places for a better future.”

Because of the ongoing global pandemic, the festival transitioned to a virtual presentation. “The online format of the festival had its benefits, but we are looking forward to hosting the 2021 festival in Detroit with all our local partners.” said festival director Joshua Paget. “The festival’s mission is about communities, and we were glad to be able to foster community in news ways.” In this community spirit, the festival donated one dollar per ticket to their local venue partner, Cinema Detroit, an independent movie theatre severely impacted by public health measures. The festival also offered revenue sharing for creators, with twenty-five percent of all ticket sales paid to filmmakers.

First+Main Films will extend the festival’s impact by enabling civic groups and organizations to host a Better Cities Film Festival *Best of Fest* screening in their own town. “This year’s winning films will be shown in cities across the globe, providing communities everywhere with inspiration and ideas to become better places.” said John Paget, co-founder of First+Main Films. More information on how to host a local screening is available at the official website: www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com.

Attachments: List of award winners.

Better Cities Film Festival

Better Cities Film Festival curates the best films from around the world on the theme of making cities and towns better places to work, live and play. The 2020 *Better Cities Film Festival* took place online October 8-11, 2020. More info at: www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com.

First+Main Films

Founded by John Paget and Chris Elisara in 2010, *First+Main Films* is a creative studio specializing in storytelling for cities, towns, and neighborhoods through films that foster civic pride, build community and spark imagination. More info at: www.firstmainfilms.com

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OFFICIAL AWARDS from the 2020 BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL
October 8-11, 2020

BEST OF FEST Segregated by Design

BEST FEATURE The Great Disconnect

BEST SHORT Cycling Towards a Brighter Future

AUDIENCE FAVORITE Space Needle: A Hidden History

SPIRIT OF THE FEST AWARD Detroit 48202: Conversations Along a Postal Route

HERO AWARD Motherload

BETTER PLANNING AWARD Vision 2030: Future of SoCal

BETTER ECONOMIES AWARD It's Not Fair

BETTER ENVIRONMENT AWARD Degrowth in the Suburbs

BETTER TRANSPORTATION AWARD Spokespeople

BETTER COMMUNITIES AWARD Good White People

BETTER TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION AWARD Starting Small

BEST STUDENT FILM The People's Struggle

BEST ANIMATION Segregated by Design

BEST CIVIC STORY Space Needle: A Hidden History

BEST HUMAN STORY Last Stop for Lost Property

EMERGING IDEAS AWARD Working Cities Wednesday

URBAN ARTS AWARD Colosal: Cerro la Campana

BEST ARCHITECTURE FILM Instruments in the Architecture: Building the Pianodrome

BEST BICYCLE FILM There & Then

BEST HOUSING FILM Living Patrimony

BEST ENGINEERING FILM Blue Goes Green: Net Zero Police Station

BEST NEXT GEN FILM Making our Place

BEST WATER FILM L'Eau Est La Vie (Water is Life)

BEST WORLD GAMES FILM White Elephants