



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

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## FIRST+MAIN FILMS ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR 2022 BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL

*Submissions now open for the world's premiere film festival about placemaking.*

**Buffalo, NY — February 1, 2022** — First+Main Films announced today that submissions for films to enter the 2022 Better Cities Film Festival open on Feb. 1st, 2022. The festival accepts films of any genre and length on the theme of place and placemaking, including stories about revitalizing cities, towns, and neighborhoods. Filmmakers can submit their work for consideration at the official website: [www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com](http://www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com). Official selections will have the opportunity to be screened at the annual flagship event in October in Detroit, Michigan, as well as special exhibitions at UN-Habitat's 2022 World Urban Forum in Poland.

As part of its call for entries, First+Main Films announced two special categories for films:

*Faithful: Stories From the Crossroads of Faith & Cities*, and the *UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival*.

In 2020, Better Cities Film Festival developed a unique partnership with UN-Habitat to create the *UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival*. Every two years UN-Habitat convenes a World Urban Forum where over ten thousand government representatives, urban experts, civil society, and other stakeholders gather to focus on the future of cities. The inaugural *UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival* premiered in 2020 at the Tenth World Urban Forum Abu Dhabi. In 2022, it returns to the Eleventh World Urban Forum in Poland.

Films submitted before March 31 will be eligible for screening at this global event. “The World Urban Forum is the leading international conference on cities. We’re honored and proud to partner with UN-Habitat to bring Better Cities Film Festival to this venue, as it presents a fantastic opportunity and unique audience for filmmakers,” said John Paget, founder at First+Main Films.

“*Faithful: Stories From the Crossroads of Faith & Cities* is a new special category of films inspired from the perspective that the world’s religions share a common cause with the *raison d’être* and spirit of the Better Cities Film Festival, which is to help make our cities, towns, and villages places of thriving for all people,” explained festival co-founder Chris Elisara. Films submitted for this category can be about anything related to faith and the pursuit of making cities better, and will be eligible for special awards and screening opportunities.

“We’re excited to launch the 2022 festival with the call for submissions. We look forward to seeing the inspiring stories that filmmakers are finding and telling about making their cities or neighborhoods better. We exist to elevate those filmmakers and provide a platform and audience for their stories,” said Josh Paget, founder of the festival. “Our mission is to find and share stories that will inspire other cities and communities to become better.”

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### **Better Cities Film Festival**

Founded in 2013 in Los Angeles, *Better Cities Film Festival* collects, curates and presents the very best films on the theme of making better cities, towns, and neighborhoods. The *Better Cities Film Festival* “Best of Fest” reel is a traveling one-night show, available to organizations and groups for screening in cities and towns anywhere.

### **Film Entries**

Films can be of any length or genre, with story or subject matter relevant to the festival theme. Filmmakers can submit their work for consideration at the official website: [www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com](http://www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com).

### **UN-Habitat**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

### **World Urban Forum**

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the leading conference on cities. WUF was established in 2001 by the United Nations to address one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. Convened by UN-Habitat, the Forum is a high level, open and inclusive platform for addressing the challenges of sustainable urbanization.

**First+Main Films**

First+Main Films a creative studio specializing in storytelling for cities, towns, and neighborhoods through films that foster civic pride, build community and spark imagination.

**For more information, press only:**

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**To submit a film or host a screening, contact:**

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**For more information on First+Main Films, visit :**

[FirstMainFilms.com](http://FirstMainFilms.com)