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First+Main Films Announces Winners of the *UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival* at World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi

***Soufra* and *Briançon* awarded Best in Show**

12 FEBRUARY 2020, ABU DHABI - Today First+Main Films announced the winning films from the UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival at the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi. The Grand Prize Best Feature Film award goes to *Soufra*, a documentary film about the world's most unlikely entrepreneur living in a Syrian refugee camp, and the Grand Prize Best Short Film award goes to *Briançon*, a documentary about an historic French town that tackles issues of preservation of urban life and architectural heritage.

The UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival, currently running from February 10-13, features compelling documentary and fictional films about urban issues, including the theme of this year's World Urban Forum, Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation.

Film entries were judged by a panel of esteemed urbanists, architects and filmmakers. In addition to the Grand Prize winners, UN-Habitat Better Cities Awards were given to the following best in category films: Better Environment - *Detroit Hives*; Better Planning & Design - *City Dreamers*; Better Transport – *Cycologic*; Better Communities – *Soufra*; Better Economies For All - *Eastpoint Project*; Better Technology & Innovation - *Pushing Zero*.

Special film festival awards were given to the following films: UN-Habitat Spirit Award - the highly acclaimed documentary *The Biggest Little Farm*; Best Civic Story Award - *Saving the Burg*; Best Student Film Award - *Dinosaur on Oxford Street*; Best Arts & Culture Film Award - *The Art of Recovery*; Resilience Film Award - *Nepal Ecocity Network*; Best Bicycle Film Award – *Heart and Soul*; Emerging Ideas Award - *Growth Below*; Safer Cities Award - *Knife Crime*.

City Dreamers, a feature documentary about the urban contributions of four pioneering women architects, is a double award winner, earning the UN-Habitat Hero

Award.

“The inaugural UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival at WUF10 has been an immense success, best exemplified by the Grand Prize winning short film, *Briañon*, and Grand Prize feature film, *Soufra*,” said Victor Kisob, UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director, “UN-Habitat is proud of these, and all of the festival’s award winners, and we foresee the tremendous ripple effects these films will have by showcasing their solutions on a global stage through this new media partnership and platform.”

“First+Main Films launched Better Cities Film Festival, because we believe in the power of storytelling to inspire and empower cities and communities. We are proud to partner with UN-Habitat in order to bring the festival to the world’s leading conference on cities,” said Dr. Chris Elisara, co-founder of First+Main Films.

After WUF10, First+Main Films will extend the impact of the festival by enabling cities around the world to host their own UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival or “Best of Fest” screening of the top award-winning films from the 10th World Urban Forum. “Better Cities Film Festival will work with host cities around the world, enabling communities everywhere to screen these stories and inspire conversation and change in their hometowns,” said John Paget, co-founding partner of First+Main Films.

Attachments: Graphic of award winners; 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* will take place in Detroit, October 8-11th.
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 neighbourhoods through films that foster civic pride, build community and spark imagination.
More info at: www.firstmainfilms.com

UN-Habitat and World Urban Forum

UN-Habitat works in over 90 countries supporting people in cities and human settlements for a better urban future. Working with governments and local partners, its high impact projects combine world-class expertise and local knowledge to deliver timely and targeted solutions. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a dedicated Goal on cities, SDG 11 – to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The World Urban Forum (WUF) is the leading conference on cities. Convened by UN-Habitat, the Forum is a high level, open and inclusive platform for addressing the challenges of sustainable urbanization.

More info on UN-Habitat and World Urban Forum at: <https://wuf.unhabitat.org>

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LIST OF AWARD WINNERS

UN-HABITAT BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL @ WUF10

Abu Dhabi, Feb. 10-13, 2020

GRAND PRIZE AWARDS

Best Feature Film: Soufra

Best Short Film: Briançon

UN-HABITAT BETTER CITIES AWARDS

Better Environment: Detroit Hives

Better Planning and Design: City Dreamers

Better Transport: Cycologic

Better Communities: Soufra

Better Economies for All: Eastpoint Project

Better Technology and Innovation: Pushing Zero

SPECIAL AWARDS

UN-Habitat Spirit Award: The Biggest Little Farm

UN-Habitat Hero Award: City Dreamers

Best Civic Story Award: Saving the Burg

Best Student Film Award: Dinosaur on Oxford Street

Best Arts and Culture Film Award: The Art of Recovery

Best Resilience Film Award: Nepal Ecocity Network

Best Bicycle Film Award: Heart and Soul

Emerging Idea Award: Growth Below

Safer Cities Award : Knife Crime

**UN HABITAT
BETTER CITIES
FILM FESTIVAL**



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المنتدى العالمي للمدن
World Urban Forum

The Tenth Session of the
World Urban Forum

10-13 FEBRUARY 2020 ABU DHABI

OFFICIAL AWARDS

GRAND PRIZES

Best Feature Film **SOUFRA**
Best Short Film **BRIANÇON**

UN-HABITAT BETTER CITIES AWARDS

Better Environment **DETROIT HIVES**
Better Planning & Design **CITY DREAMERS**
Better Transport **CYCOLOGIC**
Better Communities **SOUFRA**
Better Economies for All **EASTPOINT PROJECT**
Better Technology & Innovation **PUSHING ZERO**

SPECIAL AWARDS

UN-Habitat Spirit Award **THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM**
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Best Civic Story Award **SAVING THE BURG**
Best Student Film Award **DINOSAUR ON OXFORD STREET**
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Best Resilience Film Award **NEPAL ECOCITY NETWORK**
Best Bicycle Film Award **HEART & SOUL**
Emerging Ideas Award **GROWTH BELOW**
Safer Cities Award **KNIFE CRIME**

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