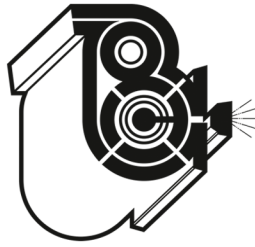


**UN HABITAT  
BETTER CITIES  
FILM FESTIVAL**



**WORLD  
URBAN  
FORUM**  
ELEVENTH SESSION  
KATOWICE, POLAND | 26-30 JUNE 2022



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 27 JUNE 2022

**FIRST+MAIN FILMS LAUNCHES  
UN-HABITAT BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL  
AT THE 11<sup>th</sup> WORLD URBAN FORUM**

*A vision for better cities and towns through the power of film.*

27 JUNE 2022, KATOWICE, POLAND – First+Main Films, in partnership with the United Nations agency focused on sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat, kicked off the UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival today in Katowice, Poland. Films will screen daily at the Urban Cinema inside the exposition hall of the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) from 26-30 June 2022.

*Better Cities Film Festival* curates and presents the best documentary and narrative films from around the world on urban issues including the theme of this year's *World Urban Forum: Transforming our Cities for a Better Urban Future*. For this edition of the festival, 37 films featuring nineteen countries were selected from the 245 submissions.

On the final day of the forum, awards will be presented to the best overall films, as well as the top films in six categories: Better Environment, Better Planning & Design, Better Economies For All, Better Transportation, Better Innovation & Technology, and Better Communities. Screenings include post-film discussion and conversation with filmmakers, leaders and experts from among the *World Urban Forum* participants. The full schedule of films is available within the WUF11 app and at this web link:

[wuf.unhabitat.org/programme](http://wuf.unhabitat.org/programme)

The *World Urban Forum* is the world's largest and most important conference on urban issues. It is held every two years and attracts thousands of participants including ministers, mayors, policymakers, academics, community activists, artists and journalists.

*UN-Habitat's* Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif said the *UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival @WUF11* would give participants new perspectives on urban issues. "This film festival will bring an exciting dimension to the World Urban Forum," said the Executive Director. "These films infuse the forum with ideas, inspiration and imagination that will help us transform our cities."

"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 WUF11 the *UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival's* “Best of Fest” reel will become a traveling festival available for screenings at other UN-Habitat and UN events and cities, and towns around the world.

“We look forward to ‘taking the show on the road’ after WUF11 and creating a way for communities everywhere to screen these stories and inspire conversation and change in their hometowns,” said John Paget, co-founding partner of *First+Main Films*.

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**First+Main Films**

*First+Main Films* is the creative studio specializing in storytelling for cities, towns, and neighborhoods through films that foster civic pride, build community and spark imagination.  
More information at: [www.FirstMainFilms.com](http://www.FirstMainFilms.com)

**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.  
More info at: [www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com](http://www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com).

**UN-Habitat**

*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.  
[unhabitat.org/](http://unhabitat.org/)

**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.  
[wuf11.katowice.eu/](http://wuf11.katowice.eu/)

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