



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

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## **BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL 2021 SCREENS IN DETROIT OCTOBER 7-10<sup>th</sup>**

**Unique annual film festival spotlights the world's most inspiring stories about making cities, towns, and neighborhoods better places for everyone.**

*Detroit, MI — October 1st, 2021* — *First+Main Films* announced the official selections and program schedule for the 2021 Better Cities Film Festival, screening October 7-10 in Detroit, Michigan.

*Better Cities Film Festival* curates and exhibits the best films from around the world, all focused on the theme of making cities and towns better places to live, work and play.

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual festival will present over 80 films at Cinema Detroit, an independent cinema arthouse theatre. Screenings include films of all lengths and genres: features, shorts, documentaries, narratives, and animation. Feature-length films selected to screen include: *Mending Walls*, *Alice Street*, *The Place that Makes Us*, *The Twelve*, and *Aayi Gayi*. The heart of the festival are the short films blocks that have been curated into special categories including: *The Next Detroit*, *Covid Cities*, *Addicted to Architecture*, *Jane Jacobs Lives*, *Live From Italy!*, *I Am Your Density*, *Unlikely Environmental Heroes*, *Come Together*, *Infrastructure Week*, *Under the Dome*, and *What's So Funny About Urbanism*. “The diverse array of short film block categories reflects the range of challenges and opportunities facing cities and communities today,” said Josh Paget, the festival’s founder and director. “The films offer insightful, sometimes imaginative ways to make our cities and towns better places.”

The full schedule, along with film synopses and ticket information is available at: <http://www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com/detroit2021>. Festival passes are available as single screening tickets or all-access passes. Tickets will also be available at the door.

An annual event, *Better Cities Film Festival* was originally founded in 2013 in Los Angeles. Since that time, it's received over 700 film submissions and emerged as a platform for a new genre of films about placemaking. "Our mission has been to find and share stories that will inspire other cities and communities to become better," said John Paget, co-founder of First+Main Films, which produces and operates the festival.

The festival's flagship event was held annually in Los Angeles, with additional screening events in over fifty other U.S. cities and international screenings in Milan, Italy, and Abu Dhabi, UAE. After an all-virtual event in 2020, *Better Cities Film Festival* will make its debut in Detroit, Michigan in 2021.

"We love Detroit and wanted to base our flagship festival here," said Chris Elisara, co-founder of First+Main Films, producers of the festival. "The story of Detroit, and its resilience and revitalization, is emblematic of our film festival's purpose and theme, so it's the perfect home for the *Better Cities Film Festival*. Local leaders recruited the film festival to Detroit, and we're excited about the developing partnerships in the city, and seeing the festival expand and grow there."

In addition to its flagship four-day event, *Better Cities Film Festival* is a 'traveling' festival. The *Better Cities Best of Fest* reel is available for screening to community groups anywhere. "We believe these stories can help towns everywhere – so we've created a way for any community to screen these films and inspire conversation and change in their hometowns," said Elisara.

At the conclusion of the festival on October 10th, *Better Cities Film Festival* will announce awards for winning films, including the Best of Fest, the Audience Choice, and the top short films in each category. Drawing on the *Better Cities Film Festival's* partnership with the United Nations, several of the award-winning films will be additionally honored by being selected for a special worldwide online screening hosted by the *UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival*. The online screening is part of the United Nations' Urban October and World Cities Day (October 31st).

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**Official 2021 Better Cities Film Festival Page:**  
<http://www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com/detroit2021>

**About Better Cities Film Festival**

BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL collects, curates and presents the best films from around the world on the theme of making cities and towns better places to work, live, and play. It presents these films at its annual four-day flagship festival in Detroit, Michigan, and in “Best of Fest” screenings in towns across America.

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

**About Cinema Detroit**

CINEMA DETROIT is metro Detroit’s only truly independent cinema, located in the heart of the city at 4126 Third Street, 48201. Established in 2013, it is also the only first-run 7-day-a-week movie theater in Greater Downtown.

More info at: <http://www.cinemadetroit.org>

**About First+Main Films**

FIRST+MAIN FILMS is a creative studio that works nationwide, specializing in storytelling for cities, towns, and neighborhoods through films that foster civic pride, build community and spark imagination.

More info at: <http://www.firstmainfilms.com>.

**For more information, press only:**

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