ABOUT BETTER CITIES FILM FESTIVAL

Better Cities Film Festival curates and presents the very best films on the theme of making better cities, towns, and neighborhoods.

We honor the top films and filmmakers with awards, and screen those films to a vast audience around the world through our flagship event (a four-day film festival in Detroit), and through satellite screening events in a growing number of host cities.

Better Cities Film Festival was originally founded by Joshua Paget in 2013 as the New Urbanism Film Festival. Discussions and decisions about urban planning and design are too often limited to the university classroom or in city council chambers. The festival was launched with a vision to move that conversation onto the silver screen and into the streets, engaging the broader community in the vital work of placemaking and neighborhood revitalization.

During its five-year run in Los Angeles, the festival received over 700 submissions from all over the world, and screened over 200 films, pairing them with experts who helped lead post-film discussions about the local built environment.

In its second year, by popular demand, the festival took a new turn: community groups and organizations wanted to use the power of film to help revitalize and improve their hometowns. It was time to “take the show on the road.” We instituted a way for other cities and towns to host local screenings. In some cases, they wanted to screen the “best of the fest” – a reel of the top award-winning festival films. In other cases, by special request, we dug through our vast archives and curated custom playlists of films especially relevant to the current issues facing a particular host city.

By 2018, the festival had enjoyed a five-year run in Los Angeles, and sold-out screenings in over 30 cities around the world, ranging from international hotspots like Shen Zhen and Milan, to smaller domestic cities and towns like Laredo and Oxnard.

In 2019, First+Main Films acquired the New Urbanism Film Festival, relaunching and rebranding it as Better Cities Film Festival, with the goal of expanding it to more cities and more audiences. Founder Josh Paget remains as the festival director and driving creative force.

First+Main Films recently partnered with UN-Habitat to produce the UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival at the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, February 8-13, 2020.

WEBSITE URL
www.bettercitiesfilmfestival.com

PRINCIPALS

Chris Elisara, Founder / Producer
First+Main Films
760-822-2817
chris@firstmainfilms.com

Joshua Paget, Founder / Festival Director
Better Cities Film Festival
info@bettercitiesfilmfestival.com

John Paget, Founder / Creative Director
First+Main Films
716-867-6488
john@firstmainfilms.com