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

10 FEBRUARY 2020, ABU DHABI - Today First+Main Films launches the UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival at the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi. The four-day film festival runs from Feb. 10-13, and will feature compelling documentary and fictional films from around the world on urban issues including the theme of this year’s World Urban Forum: Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation. Screenings will take place at the World Urban Forum Expo Urban Cinema, and will include post-film discussions with relevant experts.

Film entries will be judged by a panel of esteemed urbanists, architects and filmmakers, and awards will be presented to the best feature-length film, best short film, and the best films in six categories: Better Communities (Soufra), Better Environment (Detroit Hives), Better Economies For All (Eastpoint Project), Better Planning & Design (City Dreamers), Better Transport (Cycologic), and Better Technology & Innovation (Pushing Zero). Special awards include: Best Student Film, for Dinosaur on Oxford Street; Spirit of the UN-Habitat Better Cities Festival awarded to the highly acclaimed documentary The Biggest Little Farm; and City Dreamers, the award winning film about the urban contributions of four pioneering women architects, is a double award winner earning the UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival Hero Award. The overall best feature film and best short film awards will be announced on February 12th.

“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.

UN-Habitat’s Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif said the UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival would give those attending the World Urban Forum new perspectives on urban issues. “This new film festival partnership will bring an exciting dimension to the World Urban Forum,” said the Executive Director. “It is particularly timely to launch this Festival as the theme this year is all about culture and innovation.”

After WUF10, First+Main Films will extend the impact of the festival by enabling host cities to screen a Best of Fest reel of the top award winning films from the World Urban Forum. “It was important to create 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.

**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**
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.

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

**MEDIA CONTACT:**
Chris Elisara, Founder / Producer
First+Main Films and Better Cities Film Festival
760-822-2817 | chris@firstmainfilms.com