

Foo Foo Fest Grant Application

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Name of Organization

LGBTQ Film Festival, Inc.

Organization Location

400 South Jefferson Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

Contact Name

Sid Williams-Heath

Contact Phone Number

(601) 562-8746

Contact Email

sid.williamsheath@gmail.com

Name of Existing/Proposed Event

STAMPED: Film Festival

Date(s) of Existing/Proposed Event

11/11/2021

Additional Dates for Existing/Proposed Event (if needed)

Additional Event Date 1

Event Date

11/12/2021

Additional Event Date 2

Event Date

11/13/2021

Website (If any)

<https://www.stampedfilmfest.com>

Funding Amount Requested

\$9,000.00

Please provide an overview for your vision and marketing plan to promote your event

The Stamped LGBTQ Film Festival is here to add color and diversity to Foo Foo Festival 2021 to create a well-rounded and inclusive festival environment to ensure all demographics are attracted to Pensacola this fall. This three-day film festival is fun and educational for children and adults alike, closing with a family-friendly film day to showcase how normalized and celebrated it is to see community members and tourists alike – seeing a diverse line up of souls on the big screen that look just like you.

Stamped highlights the artistic contributions both nationally and internationally of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer films and filmmakers. The unique ability of film to transcend stereotypes and relate to the viewer opens the door to a dialogue about the LGBTQ experience, building a stronger and more open Pensacola. Because of the unique target audience of the festival, Stamped has a rich history of bringing in tourists from all over the country to participate in the festival.

The vibrant three-day festival runs Thursday and Friday evenings from 5-9pm and concludes with a family-friendly showcase on Saturday full of food, games, activities, and films running from 12-9pm. All demographics are welcome within the historic walls of the Pensacola Cultural Center.

The festival exists as a conduit to provide a vibrant and educational experience to the Gulf Coast region, specifically Pensacola. This festival focuses on LGBTQ+ stories, with a goal of expanding the region's

diversity and acceptance of diverse identities and attracting recurring out of town tourists who appreciate an inclusive and accepting community. This mission is driven by featuring short and feature-length documentaries and fiction films with LGBTQ themes and /or directors and actors. Similar festival initiatives have drawn visitors from Nashville, Atlanta, Miami, Mississippi, New York City, Boston, St. Louis, and Vegas who were strictly visiting Pensacola for the film festival experience. And as the quality begins impacting the quantity for the better, Stamped begins to benefit tourism in Escambia County even more. While the event has proven to be extremely successful locally (with more than 1,200 guests last year), because of the unique message and content of the LGBTQ festival, visitation is certainly to be expected, with few festivals in the United States encompassing so much art in just a few days.

One of the greatest aspects of hosting Pensacola's only LGBTQ film festival and celebration of inclusion and diversity... is the partnerships. Whether that partnership be in the form of the Red Ribbon Charitable Foundation, Inc., Pensacola Little Theatre, Northwestern Mutual, Sunday's Child, Memorial Weekend Pensacola, Joshua Aaron Jones, The Perry Foundation, the Cabaret, Sole Inn and Suites, Gay Grassroots, OASIS Florida, The Vineyard and countless others, cross-promotion and partnership is the name of the game for Stamped. Stamped hosts this series of vendors throughout the festival that promote the event locally. In 2019, the Escambia County Health Department reported their highest one-day quantity of blood tests in history as a vendor of the Stamped Film Festival. In addition to the marketing efforts locally for the festival, the sheer promotion and visibility attained from our business and organizational partners alone is at an all-time high.

All of these wonderfully-involved organizations contribute to the cooperative marketing efforts for our celebration experience. Stamped will measure the event's success by the number of guests in attendance – surveyed to dictate whether local or out-of-town –with a potential of accommodating over 2,000 guests. Because of the spaciousness of the theatre, the festival can accommodate nearly 350 guests at any given point with distancing and safety precautions to appease all COVID concerns.

All of us at Stamped are proud to represent the community at large in our tourism initiatives to show our tourists and partners that Pensacola is an inclusive and accepting community focused on growth, cultural progression, and fun.

Budget Requirements - Grant may not cover more than 85% of program budget. Budget amendments must be approved in advance. Please upload your budget.

Budget_Stamped.pdf

Certification: Sign your name - By signing my name here, I certify that I have read and agree that all statements contained herein, and in the application submission, are true and complete to the best of my knowledge, and I agree to the terms of this grant program as outlined in the guidelines. I also certify that submission of this funding proposal is authorized by the applicant organization's Board of Directors.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. L. Allen", is written over a horizontal line.