

# Humanities Film Festival Guidelines and Fact Sheet

## WHAT IS THE HUMANITIES FILM FESTIVAL?

The Humanities Film Festival, hosted by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, is an opportunity for CNMI residents to showcase their humanities-themed filmmaking talents to a wide audience.

## WHAT IS THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL?

This year's theme is **"Soudelor and the Winds of Change in the CNMI"**.

Natural disasters can have a profound impact on a community by bringing out the best and the worst in members of that community. For every moving tale of volunteerism there is an equally saddening tale of opportunism. This was seen in the wake of 2005's Hurricane Katrina as stories of neighbors helping neighbors were met with stories of looting and property destruction. Such experiences can fundamentally change a community and alter perspectives on humanity itself as that community grapples with two struggles: the struggle to survive and move forward and the struggle to hold on to one's humanity. The ethical, philosophical and existential questions that arise out of those struggles are fertile ground for discussions about the humanities.

As the CNMI continues to recover and relief efforts for Typhoon Soudelor, the Council invites the general public to submit entries that explore and address the ethical, philosophical, and existential questions raised in the typhoon's aftermath.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT A FILM?

The Festival is open to individuals who are 18 years and older and current residents of the CNMI. High school students (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) currently attending school are also eligible to submit films. Production companies or companies that routinely produce commercial grade videos are not eligible to participate.

## WHAT OTHER RULES APPLY?

- (1). The person(s) submitting the film must have had a major creative role in the film's production.
- (2). Entries must be focused on the Festival's theme. Off-theme submissions will not be entertained.
- (3). Entries must be mostly moving pictures, not montages of still images.
- (4). Entries must comply with all applicable copyright laws. This means that music, video, still images, animation, artwork and other creative material used must either be the original work of the principal filmmakers or legally authorized for use by the appropriate copyright holder.
- (5). Entries must be in Quicktime MOV format at 780p or higher resolution.
- (6). All entries must include the following disclaimer: "Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this film are strictly those of the filmmaker and/or actors and do not necessarily represent those of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council and other sponsors or funding organizations."

## **WHAT ARE THE FILM CATEGORIES?**

### **Narrative**

A narrative film tells a story addressing the Festival's theme. Narrative films may be fictional or non-fictional. Feature films in the Narrative category should be 30 minutes or more in length. Narrative shorts should not exceed 15 minutes in length.

### **Documentary**

A documentary is a nonfictional film which documents actual events associated with the Festival's theme. Feature films in the Documentary category should be 30 minutes or more in length. Documentary shorts should not exceed 15 minutes in length.

### **Student**

Films in this category are produced by students currently attending high school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) with limited adult supervision. Student films may be either a narrative or documentary addressing the Festival's theme. Feature films in this category should be 30 minutes or more in length. Documentary shorts should not exceed 15 minutes in length.

## **WHAT ARE THE JUDGING CRITERIA?**

Festival judges will take into account the following criteria when scoring your film:

For Narrative films – originality; story; directing; cinematography; sound design; editing; acting; and adherence to film festival theme.

For Documentary films – authenticity of story; directing; cinematography, sound design; editing; and adherence to film festival theme.

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO SUBMIT?**

- (1). A completed and signed entry form.
- (2). A digital copy of your film in Quicktime MOV format at 780 p or higher resolution.

You may deliver your film on a flash drive to the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or online via Google drive sent to: [northernmarianashumanites@gmail.com](mailto:northernmarianashumanites@gmail.com).

## **WHEN IS THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE?**

All submissions must be received by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Late submissions will not be entertained.

**WHAT ARE THE PRIZES FOR THE WINNING ENTRIES?**

Cash prizes will be awarded to winning entries in all three categories as listed below:

Best Narrative Film:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$1,000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250
Best Documentary Film:	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$1,000	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$500	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - \$250
Best Student Film	1 <sup>st</sup> Place - \$500	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place - \$350	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place - \$200

**WHEN WILL MY FILM BE PUBLICLY SCREENED?**

A public film screening will be held in April 2016 at a time, date, and venue to be announced.

**WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE A QUESTION?**

Please contact staff of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council:

**Telephone:**

235-4785/7

**Email:**

[northernmarianashumanities@gmail.com](mailto:northernmarianashumanities@gmail.com)