

10-YEAR IMPACT REPORT: 2011-2020

# QUEENS WORLD FILM FESTIVAL



Queens World Film Festival  
March 14-19, 2011  
March 14-19, 2011



THE QUEENS WORLD FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF FILMMAKING  
FROM AROUND THE WORLD & AROUND THE CORNER  
[www.queensworldfilmfestival.org](http://www.queensworldfilmfestival.org)



*“The best independent Film Festival in the New York area. Extremely open to filmmakers and audiences, nice venues, great for networking and creating synergies for new projects - all what an independent film festival should be.”*

Filmmaker and two-time Emmy winner, Alex Lora

## **QUEENS WORLD’S QUEST — STAY TRUE**

Queens World Film Festival founders Preston (Don) & Katha Cato created the Festival in 2011 with the commitment to create an event that was both world-class and intimate while celebrating filmmakers and their diverse visions.

Over the last ten years, the Catos and the Festival have expanded upon the initial vision and continue to serve as mentors to filmmakers, nurturing directors from around the world and around the corner, saluting homegrown talents from Queens and the other boroughs.

An invitation to screen at Queens World is often an early recognition of the filmmaker’s value as an artist with their films screening at the gorgeous Museum of the Moving Image and the historic Zukor Screening Room at Kaufman Astoria Studios.

Queens World has celebrated the Borough of Queens, drawing inspiration from culturally and ethnically diverse population, while serving as a bridge between the American diasporas and their communities abroad.

Queens World connects people — makers and audiences — through the profound experience of seeing the world through someone else’s eyes. From pre- and post-screening conversations to gatherings, pressers and industry events, the Festival provides ongoing opportunities for audiences to discuss the work with the creatives.

## **FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Queens World alumni often go on to acclaim elsewhere. Examples include:

- *The Last Sermon* by Jack Baxter and winner of Best Documentary Feature and the Queens World Truth Seeker Award is now available on all major media platforms. Truth Seeker Award in 2020 is now available.
- *After Louie* by Vincent Gagliostro and starring Alan Cummings explores the contradictions of modern gay life and the history of the LGBTQ+ community and was released theatrically shortly after screening at Queens World in 2017.
- *God Knows Where I Am* by Todd & Jedd Wider screened at Queens World in 2016, winning Best Cinematography in a documentary & Best Feature Documentary Director, went on to screen on Netflix and is now available on Amazon Prime.
- *Marguerite* by Marianne Farley winner of BEST LGBTQ+ at Queens World 2019, was an Oscar-nominee in 2019 for Best Live Action Short.
- *Quiet Storm: The Ron Artest Story* by Johnny Sweet about the basketball great, was acquired by Showtime after winning Best Director of a Documentary Feature at Queens World 2019.
- *Sisak*, the groundbreaking silent LGBTQ+ film from India screened at Queens World and has gone on to win over 70 awards for its beautiful story of a forbidden connection.

*“We were beyond impressed with the professionalism and exuberant spirit of the 10th Queens World Film Festival. The 2020 Festival screenings put our film on the map and led directly to a worldwide distribution deal on all media platforms.”*

- Jack Baxter and Fran Strauss-Baxter



## SPIRIT OF QUEENS

In the inaugural year, Queens World launched the Spirit of Queens Award. Honorees epitomize the maverick qualities that distinguish independent cinema at its best from filmmakers to cultural activists, hailing from the entertainment industry and the public sector.

### 2020

- Ray Romano - *Everybody Loves Raymond, The Irish Man*

### 2019

- Nancy Kelly & Kenji Yamamoto - *Thousand Pieces of Gold* [The IndieCollect Restoration]
- David Schwartz - Honoring his 33-year career as MOMI's Senior Programmer

### 2018

- Jan Oxenberg - *Thank You and Good Night* [The IndieCollect Restoration]

### 2017

- Julie Dash - *Daughters of the Dust* [The Cohen Media Group Restoration]
- Vincent Gagliostro - *After Louie*

### 2016

- Melvin Van Peebles - *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*
- Susan Seidelman - *Smithereens*

### 2015

- Leon Ichaso - *Bitter Sugar*

### 2014

- Hal Hartley - *The Long Island Trilogy, The Henry Fool Trilogy, Opera No. 1*
- Carl Goodman - Executive Director, Museum of the Moving Image

### 2013

- Karen Black - *Five Easy Pieces, Nashville, Family Plot, Vacation Land*
- Jimmy Van Bramer - New York City Councilman, Queens District #26

### 2012

- Lloyd Kaufman - *The Toxic Avenger, Nuke 'Em High*
- Daniel Dromm - New York City Councilman, Queens District #25

### 2011

- Celeste Balducci - Community Member
- Gabe Rodriguez - *Suzy in the Afterlife*



*"The restoration of my movie, Thank You and Good Night, was previewed at the Queens World Film Festival. Richard Brody gave the film a three-page review in the New Yorker. It was like an angel had descended from heaven and touched this worthy, but strange and ahead-of-its-time, movie I'd made and said, 'live again.'"*

Jan Oxenberg, quoted in FILMMAKER Magazine



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# QUEENS WORLD FILM FESTIVAL

## DOING THE NUMBERS

QUEENS WORLD'S 10-YEAR MILESTONES



**300%**

Increase in films by countries outside of U.S. between 2011 - 2020.



**91%**

Increase in films screened between 2011 - 2020



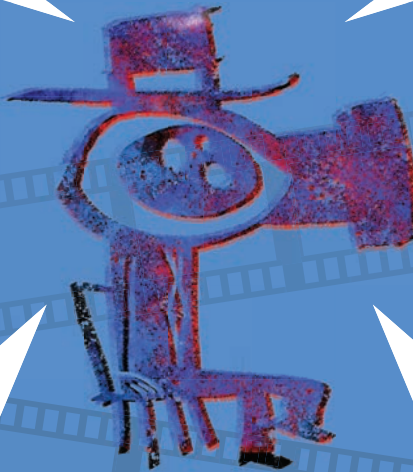
**654%**

Increase in films by Women between 2011 - 2020.



**283%**

Increase in LGBTQ+ Films between 2011 - 2020.





**Queens World leads with its heart, but the Festival’s diagnostics are impressive and its impact is felt around the globe.**

From 2011 through 2020, the Festival screened 1,444 films from 79 countries (including 198 from Queens and another 708 from the rest of the United States) and the work was seen by more than 55,000 attendees.

Filmmaker participation has nearly doubled and audience attendance nearly quadrupled from 2011 through 2019, and increased exponentially in 2020 thanks to the availability of the films online.

Year	#Films	Women	LGBTQIA+	Countries	Attendance/Engagement
2011	100	11	6	8	1,200
2012	122	16	8	16	1,500
2013	103	23	4	22	1,800
2014	127	27	13	28	2,200
2015	117	32	18	31	3,200
2016	143	42	15	23	4,150
2017	135	50	20	24	3,308
2018	188	65	18	37	4,090
2019	199	79	21	35	4,216
2020	191	83	23	32	30,000

**ANOTHER WAY TO MEASURE SUCCESS: MEDIA IMPRESSIONS**

Thanks to the effectiveness of the Festival's social media strategy, visibility is also evaluated through media statistics — more than 35,000,000 media impressions through 2020. This high number includes the reverberation of international filmmakers who are provided with links, press releases, and social media posts that focus eyes from around the world on the Festival.



# QUEENS WORLD IS PART OF THE FABRIC OF QUEENS

*"I'm proud to be from Queens and to be part of the indie film movement that is thriving in the borough, in part thanks to the work they are doing at Queens World."  
Adam Schartoff, Programmer & Host of Filmwax Radio*

Queens World extends beyond the annual event with support from NY City Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer and Daniel Dromm, Queens Council on the Arts, Queens Economic Development Corporation, Queens Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Youth and Community Development.

Partnerships with Queens Pride, Rockaway Civic Association, Commonpoint Queens, Minkwon Center for Community Action produce community engagement events including the Young Filmmakers, Encore Screenings, Pop-Up Film Schools and other industry events.

## **FORMING THE FILMMAKERS OF THE FUTURE**

The Queens World Young Filmmakers program provides Filmmaker Mentors to public schools to immerse students in a film production experience that takes them from pitch to production. Students rotate through production roles while contributing to something bigger than themselves — a short film they make together.

## **SERVING QUEENS WITH ENCORE SCREENINGS**

Queens World produces screening events where Festival films are reprised at cultural institutions, community centers, city parks and other alternative venues. The screenings extend the reach of Festival films and give marginalized communities equitable access to world-class cinema from around the world.

Prior to the pandemic, Encore Screenings featured themes specific to the communities we served with events that celebrated LGBTQ+ themes, issues facing our Senior Citizens, women in politics, immigration, global warming and more. Whenever possible at live screenings audiences were able to discuss the works with attending filmmakers.

# OVERCOMING COVID

On March 19, 2020, Queens World became the first U.S. festival to face — and overcome — the forced shutdown of theater venues. Rather than canceling, the festival directors pivoted quickly (in four days!) and successfully to virtual screenings. In cooperation with Discovered.TV, Queens World 2020 streamed 191 films from 32 nations, 11 by children under the age of 14, and 34 films from Queens. The screenings were seen by 30,000 online viewers — a nearly 7-fold increase over 2019.

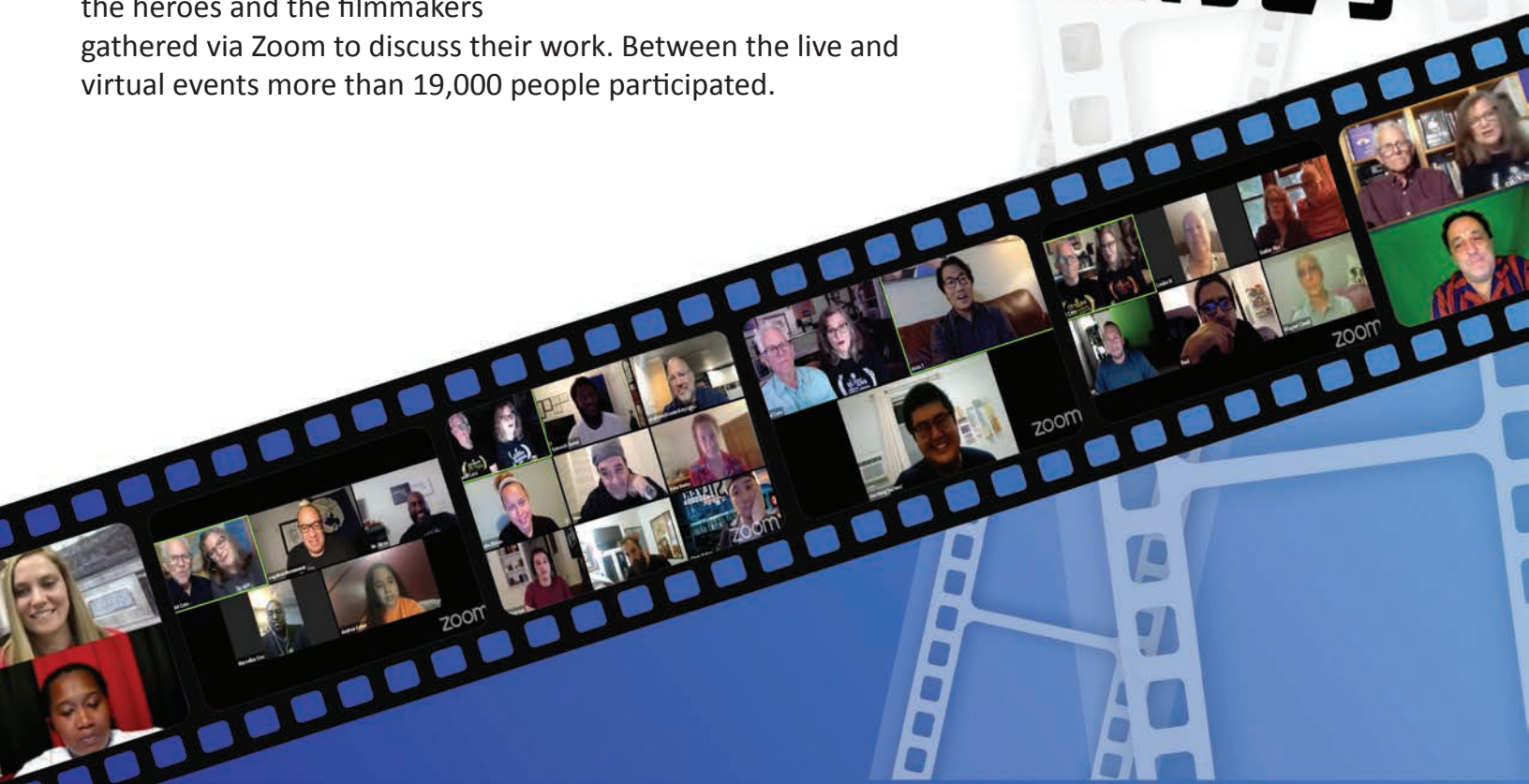
Although the pandemic is having a devastating effect on theater venues, QWFF audiences benefitted from the shift to virtual screenings which made it much easier for people to “attend” — whether they were from New York, elsewhere in the country, or from abroad. This was a confidence-booster for everyone and proof that Queens World is connecting people from all all over the world. This turned out to be a terrifically exciting way to snatch success from disaster.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 9

Early in the pandemic, Queens World launched Wednesday Nights @9, a live broadcast that celebrated local organizations doing heroic work in Queens, including Covid Care Neighborhood Network, Minkwon Center for Community Action, Queens Pride, Sunnyside Shines, Rockaway Task Force, Department for the Aging and #LoveWinsPantry. Each week a screening was curated in their honor and on Wednesdays, the heroes and the filmmakers gathered via Zoom to discuss their work. Between the live and virtual events more than 19,000 people participated.



**QUEENS WORLD  
FILM FESTIVAL  
PRESENTS  
WEDNESDAY  
NIGHTS @ 9**



# MEET THE PRESS

The Festival has been covered by diverse news outlets, including:

**The New York Times**

- FILMMAKER Magazine
- NY1
- New York Times
- The New Yorker
- TimeOut New York
- Queens Chronicle



THE NEW YORKER



FILMMAKER



**Queens World also maintains contact year-round with the following press outlets:**

- Asian American Research Institute
- Aurelia & Castyles TV Show
- BroadwayWorld.com
- backstage
- ChinaPress
- Court Square Blog
- Definitely Philipino BUZZ
- Gazette
- GMA Networks (Philippines)
- Hollywood's Black Renaissance
- iFILM (Iran)
- Iran News
- IT'S IN QUEENS
- JapanCulture.NYC
- La Repubblica
- Long Islander News
- Manila Bulletin
- MENAFN
- National Herald
- Noticias
- NoviMagazine
- New York Latin Culture Magazine
- Parent Magazine
- Philippine Daily Inquirer
- Phillipine Showbiz Republic
- QNS
- Queens Buzz.com
- Queens Daily Eagle

- QueensLatino
- Queens Ledger BQE Media
- Queens Post
- Queens Tribune
- Review Fix
- Southeast Queens PRESS
- Sing Tao Daily
- Tempo News Malasia
- Torin GG
- Turkish ny
- Unseen Films
- World Journal

## **Bloggers**

- BrooklynAtlantic
- Cinema Paradizo
- Filmwax Blog and Radio
- QNS DNA
- Lez get Real
- Notey Blog
- Queens Patch
- Seed & Spark
- The Court Square Blog
- The Qnote
- Town & Village Blog
- Trust Movies
- Unseen Films Blog Spot



# THANKS TO QUEENS WORLD SPONSORS!

Queens World would not be sustainable without the support of its generous sponsors and donors over the last ten years.

## **Festival Sponsors**

Investors Bank  
Kaufman Astoria Studios  
Queens Council on the Arts  
New York Women in Film and Television  
NY City Council Member Danny Dromm  
NY City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer  
Queens Economic Development Corporation  
Resorts World New York City

## **Industry Partners**

Museum of the Moving Image  
IndieCollect  
SAG/AFTRA  
Rooftop Films  
DuArt  
Artefix  
Film Hub  
Queensboro Dance Festival  
Studio 3636  
Seed & Spark  
Shorts.TV  
InkTip  
The Brick  
Digital Film Academy  
Astoria Films  
Brooklyn Fire Proof Stages  
Actor Trade  
Stuart Cinema

## **Community Partners**

Queens Tourism  
It's in Queens  
Plaxall Gallery  
Jackson Heights Beautification Group  
New York City Football Club  
Women's Club of Forest Hills  
Queens Museum  
Hunter's Point Parks Conservancy  
Rockaway Civic Association  
Queens Community House  
Commonpoint Queens  
Queens Chamber of Commerce

Sunnyside Shines  
Long Island City YMCA  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Citrin Cooperman

## **Media Sponsors**

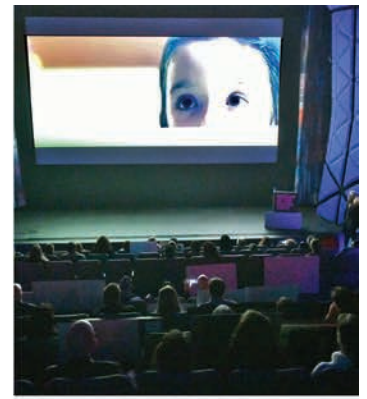
Schneps Communications  
City Guide  
PIX 11  
Queens Public Television  
Queens Chronicle  
Center for Community and Ethnic Media  
TIMESLedge  
New Fest  
Discovered.TV  
At The End of the Day

## **Hospitality Partners**

The Local  
Table Wine  
Madrid & Associates  
The Wine Room of Forest Hills  
Edible Queens  
The Collective Paper Factory Hotel  
Jack Jones Irish Gastropub  
Gunther's Confections  
Hampton Inn  
Boro Hotel  
Ornella Trattoria  
Pig'n Whistle  
SingleCut Beersmiths  
Hospitality King Travel  
Bridge & Tunnel Brewery  
The Astor Room  
Premium Bag  
Holiday Inn  
BORO New York  
Four Points Hotel  
Sheraton Hotel  
Snark Party Co.

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The Queens World Film Festival is made possible, in part, by the Queens Council on the Arts with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



*"The Queens World Film Festival is a true homecoming for filmmakers from all walks of life. Films are shown in spectacular cinemas and all are treated equally."*

- Stephanie Plattner & Eva Vonke  
Co-Directors, *The Little Fish and the Crocodile* (2019)

# QUEENS WORLD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Director Katha Cato is aided by a passionate and dedicated Board of Directors who make an annual donation, secure third party donations and sponsorships, volunteer at events and promote the Festival across their networks.

## Board of Directors (2019 – 2021)

Mark P. Banish, Katha Cato, Preston Cato, Leigh Montville, Chuck Park, Cordelia Persen, Sandra Schulberg

## Former Board Members

Richard Bogle, Jerri Cresci, Ann O'Connor, Michael Ordonez, Gildo Spadoni

## Queens World Social Media:

**Facebook:** /QUEENSWORLDFILMFESTIVAL

**Twitter:** @QUEENSWORLDFILM

**Instagram:** /QUEENSWORLDFILMFEST

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwUGkAKfLF-bF9FnrCx3dTg/videos>

**Youtube:** Queens World By Kids For Kids

**TikTok:** @QueensWorldFilmFestival

# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Queens World engages community members, civic organizations and college students from Pace University, Hunter College, ReelWorks, Media Makers, LaGuardia Community College and the Digital Film Academy.

## To get involved:

[volunteer@queensworldfilmfestival.com](mailto:volunteer@queensworldfilmfestival.com)

**Friends of the Fest** are Queens World fans and filmmaker alumni who show their support with a minimum annual contribution of \$25. Those who donate \$150 or more receive a Festival Pass and other benefits.

A wonderful opportunity to engage, some **Friends of the Fest** also volunteer their time – introducing screenings, taking tickets, and generally acting as ambassadors and co-hosts. It's fun and easy to become a **Friend of the Fest!**

<https://queensworldfilmfestival.org/donate-become-a-friend-of-the-queens-world-film-festival/>

## Queens World is Non-Profit!

Queens World Film Festival is administered by a non-profit organization incorporated in New York State:

Queens World Film Festival Initiative, Inc.  
74-15 34 Avenue #6F  
Jackson Heights, New York 11372  
[festival@queensworldfilmfestival.com](mailto:festival@queensworldfilmfestival.com)  
EIN # 465631277

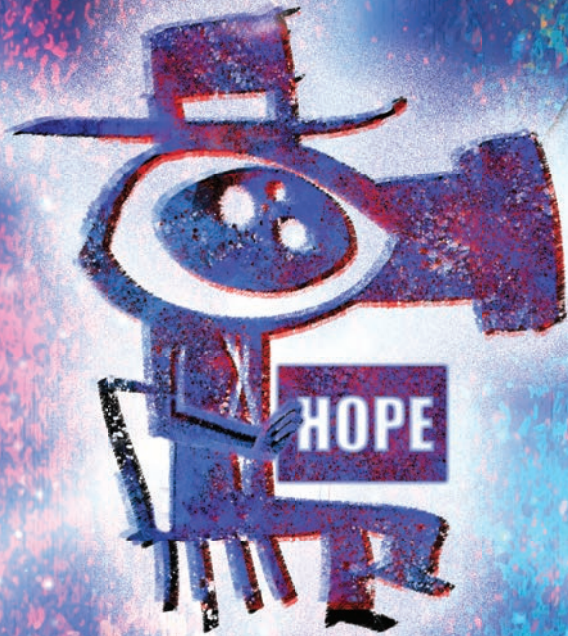
## For more information, please contact:

Katha Cato, Executive Director  
[kathacato@gmail.com](mailto:kathacato@gmail.com)

**We will see you in Queens!**



**LOOKING FORWARD  
TO THE NEXT 10 YEARS**



**11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
QUEENS  
WORLD  
FILM  
FESTIVAL**

**JUNE 23–JULY 3, 2021**

**MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE • KAUFMAN ASTORIA STUDIOS AND  
STREAMING ON FILMFESTIVALFLIX.COM**



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OUR 2021 HONOREES:  
THE ELMHURST HOSPITAL STAFF**