



AUSTIN
FILM
SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

THE RIVER & THE WALL



2019

FROM THE CEO

The end of a decade offers a moment for us to look back and see all of AFS's major achievements in the last ten years and their impact on our storied film community.

In 2012, City of Austin voters approved a \$5.4 million bond package in order to renovate Austin Studios, including the former National Guard Armory. In 2019, we had our official ribbon cutting for the Creative Media Center, marking a new era for film and digital production at Austin Studios.

In 2013, AFS found a home for our exhibition program with a theater at the Linc shopping center. By 2017 we would take out our own lease on the space and open a second screen to provide even more quality AFS film programming to Austin. In 2019 we were honored to serve 76,653 moviegoers, more than any time in the past 34 years.

In 2015, AFS won the contract to operate public access on behalf of the City. Austin Public has opened up a wide front door, offering the whole community access to the tools, knowledge and platforms of media-making. By 2019 our producer base had doubled in size and we served hundreds of emerging filmmakers with classes, equipment, workshops and grants.

It's been a wild ride for the past ten years, and we thank all of our stakeholders for being there with us, as moviegoers, filmmakers, members, donors and volunteers. 2019 capped off a remarkable decade, including surpassing the \$2mm mark in grants to Texas filmmakers. You can see other highlights from the past year in this annual report. Come along with us in the new decade and be part of AFS's ongoing efforts to make independent filmmaking and global film culture accessible for our community.

REBECCA CAMPBELL



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Year 2019 (September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019)
Audit available at: www.austinfilm.org/financial-information

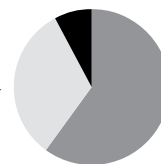
REVENUE

2012 GO Bonds - Austin Studios	\$4,275,616
Rental Income	\$1,892,871
Philanthropy	\$1,840,850
Government Contracts	\$1,083,340
Admissions & Concessions	\$1,019,708
Fees for Service	\$265,828
	\$10,378,213



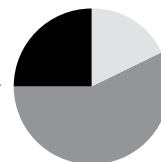
TOTAL REVENUE \$10.38 MM

- Earned 31%
- Government Contracts & Grants 10%
- 2012 GO Bonds - Austin Studios 41%
- Philanthropy 18%



EARNED \$3.17 MM

- Fees for Service 8%
- Admissions & Concessions 32%
- Rental Revenue 60%

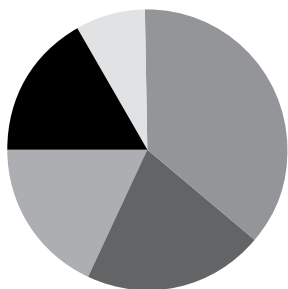


PHILANTHROPY \$1.84 MM

- Foundation 25%
- Corporate 18%
- Individual 57%

EXPENSES

Administration	\$1,023,768
Film Programs	\$2,123,212
Austin Studios	\$1,191,588
Community Media Program	\$983,772
Filmmaker Support	\$451,720
	\$5,774,060



TOTAL EXPENSES \$5.77 MM

- Community Media Programs 17%
- Filmmaker Support 8%
- Administration 18%
- Austin Studios 21%
- Film Programs 37%

AFS CREATES LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FILMMAKERS

MISS JUNETEENTH, the debut feature film by filmmaker Channing Godfrey Peoples, premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival in the U.S. Narrative Feature Competition. MISS JUNETEENTH is a two-time AFS Grant recipient and was workshopped at the 2016 and 2019 Artist Intensives, where the filmmaking team received critical feedback on the script and rough cut from mentors, including Charles Burnett (pictured) and Academy Award-nominee Sandra Adair, as well as from their peers.

“AFS helped me to take the next steps with my career while remaining in Texas, and has been instrumental in getting MISS JUNETEENTH made—providing funding and support from the very beginning.” —Channing Godfrey Peoples



In 2019 AFS surpassed \$2mm in grants awarded to independent filmmakers in Texas since starting the program in 1996.

AFS is committed to funding exceptional artistic voices that often come from backgrounds traditionally under-represented in the film industry. Female-identifying filmmakers made up 55% of this year's AFS Grant recipients and 50% of the 2019 recipients identify with a community of color.

AFS-supported films appeared at international film festivals across the globe in 2019, including Sundance, SXSW, Tribeca, and Cannes, among others.

Annie Silverstein's BULL, an AFS Artist Intensive project and AFS Grant recipient, premiered at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.

Chelsea Hernandez's BUILDING THE AMERICAN DREAM, about exploitation of Texas construction industry workers, premiered at SXSW and started a successful nation-wide screening tour. The film was supported by the AFS Grant and our Works-In-Progress program.

WE ARE A CATALYST FOR AUSTIN AND TEXAS AS A CREATIVE HUB

In November, AFS announced a major milestone with the launch of the new Creative Media Center at Austin Studios. The CMC and the adjacent Stage 7 will help fill a need for the entire production community with new spaces for emerging artists and independent, locally-owned film-related businesses.



AFS PROVIDES FILMMAKING ACCESS AND EDUCATION TO YOUTH AND THE COMMUNITY VIA AUSTIN PUBLIC

“When it comes to maker spaces, you really can’t ask for a better place than Austin Public.”

—Gavin Stone, Austin Public Producer

Our community media center offers access to hands-on training, equipment, and facilities.



AFS ELEVATES TEXAS FILM TO THE WORLD STAGE

Our biggest night of the year, the Texas Film Awards celebrates Texans in film and fundraises for our filmmaker support programs—a core part of AFS’ mission.



The Centre Pompidou, a center for global film culture, honored Richard Linklater with a career retrospective and exhibition in November. A dedicated gallery within the exhibition put a spotlight on AFS and its part in elevating Austin as a world-renowned hub for film culture. Friends and collaborators from around the globe visited the exhibition including Ethan Hawke.

WE BRING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER AROUND GREAT FILM

“Austin continues to grow as a city for film lovers and movie-makers; AFS’s development programs and world-class Cinema are at the heart of that.”

—Jason Cortlund, *Moviemaker Magazine*’s “Best Places to Live and Work As A Moviemaker.”

The AFS Cinema welcomed film lovers of all ages, inspired engaging conversations, hosted luminaries, and brought the community together to watch great cinema, every day of the week.

Essential Cinema, our long-running repertory film series, visited Edith Head’s Hollywood, the films of Lee Chang Dong, Jean Vigo, Alfred Hitchcock and Wang Bing.



CHRISTINA GALLEGO & CIRO GUERRA'S
BIRDS OF PASSAGE

Our programming explored the Film Noir canon, punk icon John Doe’s film picks, new films from the Middle East, contemporary Francophone cinema, and some of Richard Linklater’s favorite overlooked films from the eighties, among dozens of themed programs and series.

Among the numerous films by Texas filmmakers presented at the AFS Cinema this year: the hit documentary *THE RIVER AND THE WALL*; *ALSO STARRING AUSTIN*, about the local film industry; and the award-winning *WHAT YOU GONNA DO WHEN THE WORLD’S ON FIRE?* by Houston-based filmmaker Roberto Minervini.



RENEE ZELLWEGER
(JUDY)



LEE CHANG DONG'S BURNING



LULU WANG
(THE FAREWELL)



AGNIESZKA HOLLAND
(EUROPA EUROPA)



ZACK GOTTSAGEN
(THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON)

We engaged our community through partnership screenings with organizations including Austin Asian American Film Festival, Cine Las Americas, Hill Country Ride for AIDS, Zach Theatre, KUT, BookPeople, Austin Pets Alive, The Texas Tribune, Austin Chronicle, Texas Observer, The Contemporary Austin, Cinema Touching Disability, and more.



THANKS TO OUR 2019 DONORS

Gifts received between 9/1/2018 - 8/31/2019

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Corner Theatre
Ali Saigal and Anuj Saigal
Alpha Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Amy and John McCall
Ana and Bill Stapleton
Andra and Joe Liemandt
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Augustine Frizzell and David Lowery
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Zachary McGhee

2019 SPONSORS



The Austin Film Society is funded and supported in part by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts and in part by the City of Austin Economic Development Department/Cultural Arts Division believing an investment in the Arts is an investment in Austin's future. Austin Film Society is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



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