



## **SLO FILM FESTIVAL**

**Full Name:** San Luis Obispo International Film Festival

**2025 Tagline:** The Center of Independent Film in San Luis Obispo

### **Mission**

To expand minds, open hearts, and entertain people through worldwide independent cinema.

### **Vision**

Provide a year-round destination for international independent cinema, promoting diversity, understanding, education, and inclusion through engaging storytelling. Our world-class annual festival in San Luis Obispo County, along with events throughout the year, provide a venue for international and local filmmakers, exposing an ever-expanding range of audiences to new ideas and experiences.

### **Values**

- Showcasing diversity within our organization, programming and audiences
- Highlighting independent filmmakers
- Utilizing local venues around the Central Coast
- Partnering with other nonprofits and local organizations
- Creating opportunities and resources for local filmmakers

### **Organization Descriptions**

**1 sentence** - A highly regarded annual film festival in SLO County providing a venue for international and local filmmakers that exposes an ever-expanding range of audiences to new ideas and experiences through screenings, conversations and exciting red carpet events.

**50 words** - A highly regarded annual film festival in SLO County providing a venue for international and local filmmakers that exposes an ever-expanding range of audiences to new ideas and experiences through screenings, conversations and exciting events. With year-round events and the staple 6-day festival, the SLO Film Festival screens over 100 films, hosts educational conversations with filmmakers and industry leaders, and curates exciting red carpet events that bring the community together, celebrates the arts and uplifts the powerful impact of film.

**100 words** - Now in its 31st year, the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival is a non-profit organization catered toward celebrating and showcasing independent films and filmmakers. With a 6-day highly regarded annual event, a week-long virtual festival, and other exciting events and screenings throughout the year, the SLO Film Festival is one of the pillar arts organizations in the community that provides a year-round destination for international independent cinema promoting diversity, understanding, education, and inclusion through engaging storytelling. Exciting, fun,

impactful, and community building, the SLO Film Festival screens over 100 films throughout the week, hosts a VIP Festival Lounge, Red Carpet events, live music, educational conversations with filmmakers and industry leaders, and capstone events each night to bring the community together, celebrate the arts, and expose our audience to important topics around the world.

**200 words** - Now in its 31st annual event, the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival is a non-profit organization catered toward celebrating and showcasing independent films and filmmakers. With a 6-day highly regarded annual event, a week-long virtual festival, and other exciting events and screenings throughout the year, the SLO Film Festival is one of the pillar arts organizations in the community that provides a year-round destination for international independent cinema, promoting diversity, understanding, education, and inclusion through engaging storytelling. Acting as a venue for international and local filmmakers, and being able to expose an ever-expanding range of audiences to new ideas and experiences, we find it important to partner with other community organizations and local institutions to uplift the voices of those in the area whose important work betters our community. With a focus on showcasing a wide range of topics and communities through film, we invite filmmakers, industry professionals, media and special guests from around the country to participate in Q&A's and panel discussions that encourage conversations around the presented topics. Exciting, fun, impactful, and community building, the SLO Film Festival screens over 100 films throughout the week, hosts a VIP Festival Lounge, Red Carpet events, live music, educational conversations with industry leaders, and capstone events each night to bring the community together, celebrate the arts, and expose our audience to important topics around the world.

### **Festival Descriptions**

**1 sentence** - A premiere 6-day annual arts event showcasing over 100 independent films that expose an ever-expanding range of audiences to new ideas and experiences through screenings, conversations and exciting red carpet events.

**50 words** - As a premiere 6-day annual event, the SLO Film Festival showcases over 100 independent films, hosts exciting red carpet events and invites filmmakers and industry professionals to the area for panel discussions and workshops that bring the community together to celebrate the arts by providing a destination for our audiences to be exposed to important topics and conversations around the world.

**100 words** - Located half-way between Los Angeles and San Francisco, San Luis Obispo's laid-back ambiance and serene natural beauty is the perfect backdrop for this highly regarded annual film celebration. Being named one of the Top 100 Festivals by FilmFreeway and Top 50 Coolest Film by MovieMaker Magazine, filmmakers, industry professionals and film critics rave about the warmth and attentiveness that is so much a part of the SLO Film fest experience. Screening over 100 films, hosting exciting events each night with filmmaker Q&A's after each screening, panel discussions and workshops with industry professionals, and a week long virtual component, the festival has become a staple arts event in the area bringing the community together, celebrating the arts, and uplifting the power of film. Celebrating their 31st Festival this year, the annual event will take place April 24-29th with a virtual and in-person encore at the SLO Film Center May 1st - May 5th.

**200 words** - Located half-way between Los Angeles and San Francisco, surrounded by lush vineyards, ranch land and a 100-mile coastline, San Luis Obispo's laid-back ambiance and serene natural beauty is the perfect backdrop for this highly regarded annual film celebration. The

6-day premiere event showcases contemporary and classic film screenings in a wide variety of venues, from the city's classic art deco Fremont Theatre, to the popular independent Palm Theatre, with a variety of unexpected venues from the historic Sunset Drive-In, to wine country of Paso Robles and along the seaside town of Morro Bay. Being named one of the Top 100 Festivals by FilmFreeway and Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee by MovieMaker Magazine, filmmakers, industry professionals and film critics rave about the warmth and attentiveness that is so much a part of the SLO Film fest experience and are fast discovering the film festival's thoughtful audiences and unique programming sensibility. With over 100 films screened, exciting events each night, filmmaker Q&A's after each screening, panel discussions and workshops with industry professionals, VIP Lounge, Red Carpet celebrations and partnerships with other local organizations, and a week long virtual component, the festival has become a staple arts event in the area bringing the community together, celebrating the arts, and exposing our audience to important topics around the world by uplifting the power of film. Celebrating their 30th Festival this year, the annual event will take place April 25-30th with a virtual and in-person encore May 1st - May 5th.

### **Important Dates**

In-Person: April 24 -29, 2025 (Thursday - Tuesday)

### **Key Events**

April 24 - Opening Night with DJ Ahmet

April 25 - Surf Nite in SLO

April 26 - Skate Night & King Vidor

April 27 - Spotlight Award w/ Jay Duplass

April 28 - Central Coast Filmmaker Day

April 29 - Closing Night Awards & Coastal Documentary w/Q&A with Daryl Hannah & Neil Young

### **Hashtags**

#slofilmfest

#slofilmfest2025

### **Social Media Handles**

Instagram: @slofilmfest

Twitter: @slofilmfest

Facebook: /slofilmfest

Letterboxd: /slofilmcenter

### **Important Info:**

Website: [slofilmfest.org](http://slofilmfest.org)

Ticketing Partner: Eventive

### **Board Members**

Maria Kelly - Board President

Suzanne Schonig - Vice President

Nina Leschinsky - Secretary

Tom Walters - Treasurer

Janice Rohn

David Hardberger

Kyle Plummer

Suzanne Schonig

Lydia Bates

Paul Metchik  
Ryan Hathaway

**Staff**

Skye McLennan - Executive Director  
Grace Tucker - Associate Director  
Cindy Kitagawa - Festival Programmer and Assistant

**BRAND GUIDELINES**

**2025 COLORS**



**2025 FONT:** *Avant Garde Gothic Bold*

**Official Documents/Reports/Press Releases:** Montserrat, 12pt

**LOGO**

**2025 BRAND LOGO** for use on promoting any 2024 festival events

