



SLO
FILM
FEST



THE SLO FILM CENTER

*A collaboration between
the SLO FILM FESTIVAL
and the PALM THEATRE.*

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***CINEMAS ARE THE
CATHEDRALS OF
MODERN CULTURE.***

ROGER EBERT

—

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The SLO Film Center is a collaboration between the SLO International Film Festival and Palm Theatre owners Jim and Patty Dee, who have retired.

The nonprofit festival is leasing the space to build on the beloved Palm's legacy — offering independent and retrospective films. It will expand the film lineup, lease the theater for cultural events such as music, comedy and educational endeavors, and host special guests and Q&As. The Center will focus on a year-round slate of programming and will remain the hub for the annual SLO Film Festival.

Located in the heart of San Luis Obispo's cultural arts district, the SLO Film Center will not only strengthen film's role as a vibrant contributor to the region's arts, but also work to engage broader, diverse audiences.



JULY 1, 2024

PROGRAMMING



RETROSPECTIVE FILMS

Films older than one year with a historical popularity, cultural impact or cult following

NEW RELEASE INDIES

New independent films from major festivals and distributors worldwide

PARTNERSHIP SCREENINGS

Film series curated with other local nonprofits. The SLO Film Festival already does this with R.A.C.E. Matters, the city of SLO, Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County and Gay and Lesbian Alliance of the Central Coast (GALA)

FILM EDUCATION

Reduced cost education programs, open to regional educators and others, to discuss film production, screenwriting and other industry professions

SLO FILM FESTIVAL

Annual festival that spotlights new, worldwide independent films created within the last two years, with an emphasis on original, powerful filmmaking

SPECIAL EVENTS

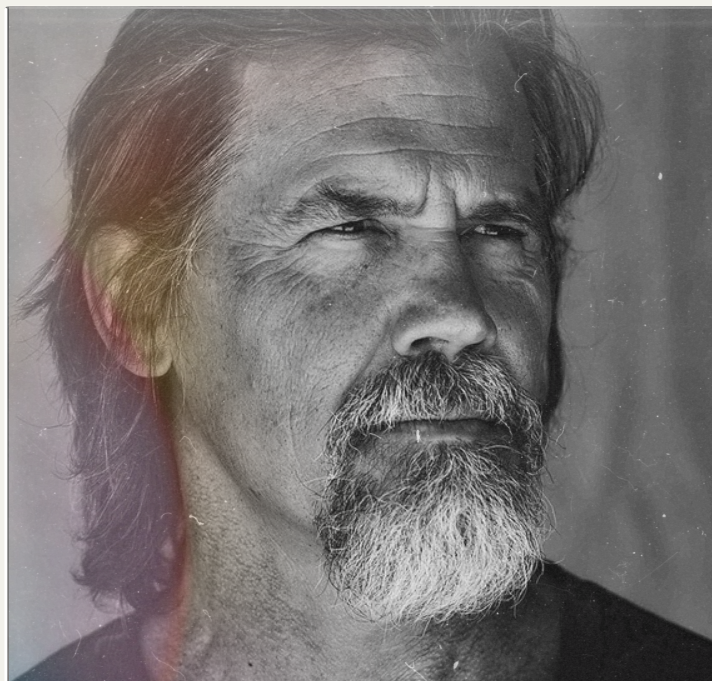
Specialized screenings attended by specific audiences, ranging from themed events, Q&As, movie-film pairings, live music and poetry readings



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"We believe that this investment will not only enrich the lives of those in our community, but also serve as a lasting legacy for generations to come. The SLO Film Center is poised to create an unparalleled space where filmmakers, film enthusiasts, general arts supporters, and community members alike can come together to celebrate the magic of storytelling."

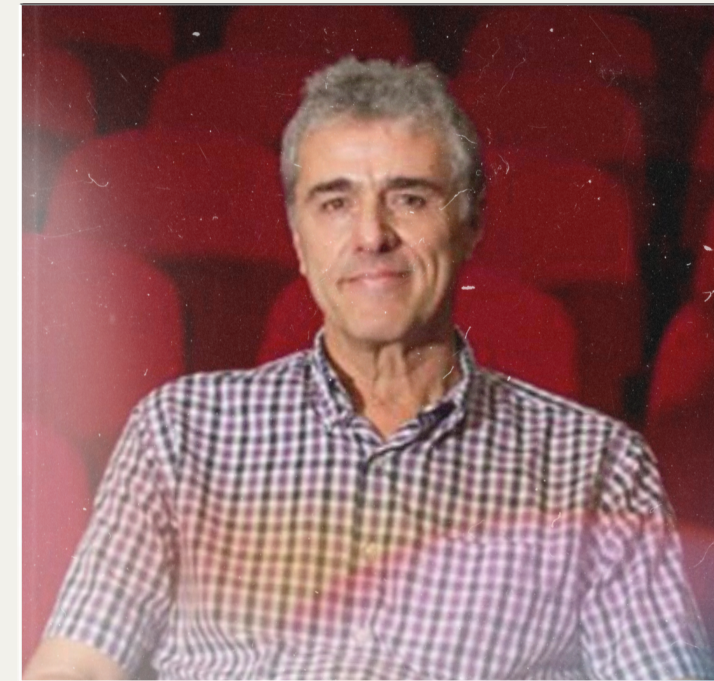
SKYE MCLENNAN
Executive Director



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"Having access to a nonprofit film center opens up incredible opportunities for the local community to engage with artists, actors, filmmakers, and poets who are local or passing through our wonderful community. I enthusiastically support the collaborative efforts of the Film Festival Board and the Palm to bring this to life."

JOSH BROLIN
SLO Film Festival Advisory Board



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"From the humble beginnings of a local film club called the Cinema Zoo (1973-1979) to the Rainbow Theatre (1979-1989), and the Palm Theatre (1988-present), it has been a pleasure and a wonderful journey presenting great cinema, both foreign and domestic, to San Luis Obispo County. We are excited to pass the baton to the capable hands of SLOIFF. The creation of the SLO Film Center will continue the tradition of unique, adventurous and just plain entertaining programming as an integral part of the heart and soul of downtown San Luis Obispo."

JIM DEE
Co-Owners of the Palm Theatre

MEET THE TEAM

ALL BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF FROM BOTH THE SLO FILM FESTIVAL AND THE PALM THEATRE WERE INVITED TO REMAIN TO HELP GROW THE SLO FILM CENTER. WE EXPECT SOME JOB RESPONSIBILITIES TO CHANGE AS WE CREATE AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE BLENDED OPERATION.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARIA KELLY, Board President

SUZANNE SCHONIG, Vice President

NINA LESCHINSKY, Board Secretary

TOM WALTERS, Board Treasurer

DAVID HARDBERGER, Board Member

JANICE ROHN, Board Member

KYLE PLUMMER, Board Member

PAUL METCHIK, Board Member

SLO FILM CENTER STAFF

SKYE MCLENNAN, Executive Director

GRACE TUCKER, Associate Director

RYAN BURR, Head of SLO Film Center Programming

CINDY KITAGAWA, Festival Programmer + Assistant

MICHAEL LIPARI, Theatre General Manager

GRIFFEN MEYERS, Theatre Lead

MALLORY HARRIS, Theatre Staff

MATTHEW WINGERDEN, Theatre Staff

MCKENNA KASSELMAN, Theatre Staff

TALHA HUSSAINI, Theatre Staff

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

THE KEY TO THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF THE CENTER RELIES ON CONTINUED COLLABORATION. OUR GOAL IS TO ADD MORE PARTNERS, BOTH REGIONALLY AND WITHIN THE FILM INDUSTRY, TO ENSURE THE SLO FILM CENTER'S GROWTH AND LONG-TERM SUCCESS.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ADVISORY BOARD

JIM DEE, Owner – Palm Theatre

SANDRA DUERR, Former Executive Editor – The Tribune

MATT HALVORSON, Director of Marketing – Visit SLOCAL
Film Commissioner – Film SLO CAL

GREGG HERMANN, Deputy City Manager – City of SLO

JOEY LESLIE, President – Matchfire

RYAN BURR, Programmer – Palm Theatre



OUR HISTORY



SLO FILM FESTIVAL

The San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, founded by local attorney Mary A. Harris, traces its roots to 1993. Thanks to a special grant from the City of San Luis Obispo and the key involvement of Jim Dee and the Palm Theatre, the inaugural festival focused on classic and restored films. Within a few years, the festival began inviting filmmakers worldwide to submit short and feature films and documentaries.

The current six-day festival is held in April and screens creative, diverse, powerful works in various local venues, from the city's classic art deco Fremont Theater to the vintage Palm Theatre. The festival, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2024, has now been distinguished as an Academy Award® Qualifying Festival for Documentary Short Films and was named one of the Top 25 Coolest Film Festivals of 2024 by MovieMaker Magazine.

PALM THEATRE

Jim and Patty Dee opened the Palm in 1988 with two screens, then added a third in 1993, drawing patrons from across the Central Coast. It was the first movie theater in the nation to become solar powered in 2004, a trailblazing, energy-saving move that continues to pay off financially.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

We need your financial support to ensure a strong foundation and long-term success for the SLO Film Center. Please join our Founders Circle!

YOUR DONATION WILL SUPPORT:

- **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**
 - Upgraded projection technology and sound equipment and overall theater restoration
- **STAFF**
 - Investment in our staff to offer competitive salaries and expand the team, as needed
- **PROGRAMMING**
 - Film rentals, marketing and advertising support, travel expenses for filmmakers and special guests to attend special events and screenings
- **OVERALL SUSTAINABILITY**

By achieving our goal, we will ensure the future of the center for many years to come and establish the center as a permanent fixture in the Cultural Arts District of SLO.

EDUCATION
ACCESSIBILITY

PRESERVATION

INDEPENDENCE

SUSTAINABILITY

\$1M

BY JULY 2026

WHY SUPPORT?

BE A PART OF THE FOUNDERS CIRCLE AND HELP LAUNCH THE SLO FILM CENTER AT THE PALM THEATRE

FOSTER EDUCATION

Help establish local educational programs to nurture emerging filmmakers, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive.

ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY

Ensure that everyone, regardless of background or economic status, has the opportunity to experience the magic of cinema through subsidized screenings, workshops and outreach programs.

PRESERVE CINEMATIC HERITAGE

Ensure that the Palm Theatre, the county's only independent cinema, remains a dynamic presence, playing a key role in our cultural arts community.

CHAMPION INDEPENDENT VOICES

The Center promotes diversity, understanding, education and inclusion through engaging storytelling — and exposes audiences to new ideas and experiences.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ORG.

Preserve the legacy of the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival and establish a year-round venue for independent film in the cultural arts district.

JOIN THE SLO FILM CENTER FOUNDERS CIRCLE

BE A PART OF THE
FOUNDERS CIRCLE
AND HELP LAUNCH
THE SLO FILM CENTER
AT THE PALM THEATRE.

Sign up for this limited
one-time opportunity.
Your support will ensure
the center's continuity —
and receive some special
personal benefits.

\$ 5 K

Recognition
on the SLO Film Center
Founders Circle
Wall of Fame

2 one-year
Palmie Memberships

1 free screen rental once a
year for **1 year**

2 All-Access Passes
to the annual film festival
for **2 years**

Lead Actor
level sponsor benefits at
the 2026 or 2027
Film Festival

**Goal: 5 People /
Businesses**

\$ 10 K

Recognition
on the SLO Film Center
Founders Circle
Wall of Fame

2 two-year
Palmie Memberships

1 free screen rental once a
year for **2 years**

4 All-Access Passes
to the annual film festival
for **2 years**

Cinematographer
level sponsor benefits at
the 2026 or 2027
Film Festival

**Goal: 5 People /
Businesses**

\$ 25 K

Recognition
on the SLO Film Center
Founders Circle
Wall of Fame

2 two-year
Palmie Memberships

2 free screen rentals once
a year for **1 year**

4 All-Access Passes
to the annual film festival
for **2 years**

Director
level sponsor benefits at
the 2026 or 2027
Film Festival

Name plaque
on **1 seat** in Screen 1

**Goal: 5 People /
Businesses**

\$ 50 K

Recognition
on the SLO Film Center
Founders Circle
Wall of Fame

4 two-year
Palmie Memberships

2 free screen rentals once
a year for **2 years**

6 All-Access Passes
to the annual film festival
for **2 years**

Producer
level sponsor benefits at
the next two
Film Festivals

Name plaque
on **2 seats** in Screen 1

**Goal: 5 People /
Businesses**

JOIN THE SLO FILM CENTER FOUNDERS CIRCLE

BE A PART OF THE
FOUNDERS CIRCLE
AND HELP LAUNCH
THE SLO FILM CENTER
AT THE PALM THEATRE.

Sign up for this limited
one-time opportunity.
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and receive some special
personal benefits.

\$ 100 K

Recognition
on the SLO Film Center
Founders Circle Wall of Fame

4 three-year
Palmie Memberships

3 free screen rentals
once a year for **2 years**

8 All-Access Passes
to the annual film festival for **5 years**

Executive Producer
level benefits at the next two Film Festivals

Name plaque
on **4 seats** in Screen 1
-OR-
Name Screen 2 or 3 for 5 years

Goal: 3 People / Businesses

\$ 250 K

Recognition
on the SLO Film Center
Founders Circle Wall of Fame

4 five-year
Palmie Memberships

4 free screen rentals
once a year for **3 years**

10 All-Access Passes
to the annual film festival for **5 years**

Presenting Sponsor
level benefits at the next two Film Festivals

Name plaque
on **4 seats** in Screen 1
-OR-
Name Screen 2 or 3 for 5 years

Name Screen 1
Naming lasts **5 years**

Goal: 1 Person / Business

SUMMARY



In the last year the SLO Film Center has welcomed numerous special guests, Q&As, film rentals and a host of memories, but this is just the beginning. We need your support to continue to bring the magic of the cinema to your community.

The SLO Film Festival and the Palm have a long history of supporting community arts and culture. By creating the SLO Film Center, we are preserving history by launching a future forward-thinking partnership.

Through research, expertise and the shifts in the film industry that have guided us, we will continue to look at the local, statewide, national and international ecosystem of our cinematic storytellers.

The funding we are seeking is to allow us to maintain the infrastructure of the Center which includes the building, our people and the broader community.

We hope you are inspired to join us.



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**I THINK THIS IS
THE BEGINNING
OF A BEAUTIFUL
FRIENDSHIP.**

**CASABLANCA
(1942)**

CONTACT US

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MARIA KELLY, BOARD PRESIDENT

PHONE

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SKYE MCLENNAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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