

Introduction

The Wisconsin Humanities Council is requesting applications for four communities in Wisconsin to host an environmental film festival Feb-April 2010. We would like to host this film festival in the Chequamegon Bay area with the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center being the headquarters for the films and associated activities. Several of the NGLVC partners and community groups have agreed to partner on the application due March 30. Partners include: US Forest Service, Wisconsin Historical Society, UW-Extension, Chequamegon Audubon, Chequamegon Bay Birders, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute and the Bay Area Film Society.

Note: Invite Friends of the Center to be a partner.

The purpose of the festival is to promote dialog in communities about humans and nature. John Hanson, filmmaker from Bayfield says "How film can be used as a catalyst for conversation on local/regional concerns that brings new perspectives to those conversations (e.g. with respect to local development controversies, is there a way to use film to broaden/deepen that discussion?). "

Timeframe:

3/3/2009- Partners met to brainstorm ideas of infusing the humanities into a film festival. Ideas include:

- (new idea) Involving Native American elders in pre-post film discussion on native American perspective on our relation to the earth
- (new idea) Organize a school film fest at the schools preceding the festival weekend. Meet with a key teacher and superintendents to work the film festival (pertinent for grade levels) into the curriculum.
- Provide context to each film ie.
 - Historical aspect of local people and place, tie to historical imprint
 - Local food connection to food movie
 - Use props, if film is about birds, have info/speakers/real birds at the film
 - Discuss film team, director, context
 - Provide for an emotional reflection of film through art expression and dialog eg *Princess Monoke* film could attract kids creating a story, masks etc. Get area artists to help with expression and dialog about what the film means to them
- BART tours to places that connect to films, or transport participants to other film venues, or who short films on the bus!
- Invite film makers and producers to pre/post film talk
- (new) If a film relates to a book, connect with study circle to read book first (Never Cry Wolf, River Runs Through It etc.)
- (new) Invite Robert Redford

Collaborators: Alliance for Sustainability, Cheq Food Coop, farmers, Chambers, Northland College, Tribes, Sigurd Olson Envi'l Institute, political leaders, artists

3/30/2009- Application due. Ruth will prepare it with input from other partners.

If we are successful, then we will have assistance from WHC and a small grant for marketing. The festival would be held sometime between Feb 15 and April 15, 2010.

Next steps:

- Jeremy will check on venues: size, equipment inventory, cost interest
- Steve Cotherman will talk with the Ashland Chamber about the opportunity and consideration of funding for this event (\$1000)
- Grant will check with Bayfield and Washburn Chambers about the same.
- Ruth will draft application
- Partners will prepare letters of support for application by March 30. Ruth will send out requests to each partner regarding who to send the letters to and other details.

Other news since the 3/3 meeting:

The \$250 application fee is only due if you are selected as a host site.

We can pick films from the WHC list, and add our own films if we want.

Participants at 3/3/ meeting:

David Brately, Chequamegon Bay Birders

Steve Cotherman, Wisconsin Historical Society

John Hanson, film maker and producer, chair of Wisconsin Humanities Council

Grant Herman, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute

Steve Hoecker, US Forest Service

Linda Middlestadt, Wisconsin Historical Society

Susan Nelson, US Forest Service

Ruth Oppedahl, UW-Extension

Jeremy Oswald, Bay Area Film Society

Kate Siegler, Bay Area Film Society