



Laredo Media and Film Festival

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

Hosted by: Vidal M. Trevino School of Communications and Fine Arts

I. General Guidelines

Creative video productions entered into the Laredo Media and High School Film Festival should reveal skill, imagination, creativity, and the power of visual storytelling. The LMHSFF places value on the truths revealed through the events, disappointments, joys, and conflicts we all experience. Although LMHSFF is open to diverse interpretations of this human experience, we will accept for competition only those productions that avoid being gratuitously or explicitly violent, obscene or overly sexual. Likewise, LMHSFF contest entries should avoid youth involved in risky, questionable, or illegal activities without also examining the outcomes, ramifications or consequences of those activities. Make sure you follow these guidelines:

- Specific category time limits don't include end credits. (See category time limits below)
- Credits cannot exceed 30 seconds.
- You must have permission and/or the proper rights to all of the music, images, and video in your film.
- We strongly encourage you to use original music and/or CREATIVE COMMONS or ROYALTY FREE music to avoid any copyright infringement.
- We strongly recommend that you triple check your audio levels and that your audio is NOT limited to one channel (ie: right or left).
- If your film has subtitles, please make sure they are "Title Safe". For a detailed explanation of "Title Safe" please [click here](#).
- When you submit your URL or link, your video must follow this format:
 - ✓ - Codec h.264
 - 24 or 29.97 FPS
 - Films will be screened in 16:9 aspect ratio
 - Films should be HD quality

II. Categories

- **Film/Documentary**-All forms of films and documentaries are accepted. Must tell a story.
 - 8 minutes or less.
- **Public Service Announcement**-Any cause is great to create awareness.
 - 30 sec./ 60 sec./ 90 sec.

- **Animation**-All forms of animation are accepted.
 - 5 minutes or less.

(LMFF-HS has the right to reject a media piece that doesn't follow the rules)

III. Submission Deadlines & Entry Fees:

Free Submission Deadline: December 12th, 2017 – February 2nd, 2018 (FREE!)

Late Submission Deadline: February 3rd, 2018 – February 12, 2018 (\$20)

Submissions will be entered by clicking this link: <http://vmt.elisd.org/lmff>

IV. Eligibility

- The film's director(s) must have been in high school or younger while filming the project. Middle school students are eligible to submit.
- We are open to films and media pieces from all over the nation as long as you were in high school or high school age when you made the film.
- All music and other copyrighted material (images, videos, etc.) used in the films must be properly licensed. We strongly encourage strict adherence to copyright law. Please use royalty-free music or be able to show permission to use commercially owned media. Additionally, plagiarism is not accepted. Each video should be an original work. Do not "remake" a video. Do not submit a re-edited version of a video that you didn't shoot.
- All films and/or pieces must be in English or subtitled in English.
- Entrant (or entrant's parent or legal guardian if entrant is a minor) must sign the Entrant Release Form provided with this packet.
- Teachers/Advisers must not participate in any way in students' entries other than in a strictly advisory capacity. Adults and non-high school students can appear as part of the cast or voice talent; however, the main characters should be high school students. Use the 80/20 rule (80% high school students and 20% adults or non-high school students). Each entry should be considered a "final" and not a "teaching/learning" activity.

V. Film Contest Rules and Terms

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: Entries for the Laredo Media and Film Festival-High School contest (the "Contest") can be submitted between December 12, 2017, at 12:00:01 a.m. Central Time and February 12, 2018, at 11:59:59 p.m. Central Time.

ELIGIBILITY: Entrants must submit entries as required on the entry form to be eligible. Entries received after the deadline set forth in these terms are ineligible, null, and void.

HOW TO ENTER: Visit <http://vmt.elisd.org/lmff> and follow the instructions to complete the entry form to submit your film and/or media piece.

PERSONAL INFORMATION: To submit your film you will be required to provide your first and last name; school/age/classification/organization name; your teacher or advisor, email address; and film URL. The information you provide will be used only for contest administration and to contact contest winners. Your information will not be used for any other purpose or shared with any party not affiliated with the festival and the Contest except to the extent permitted by law.

SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS:

Winners will be announced February 23 at the awards show.

Winners will be chosen by the festival on the merits of each entry at the festival's sole and absolute discretion. A panel of judges in the industry will determine the first, second, and third place based on the following criteria:

- Communication of the concept or theme – how well did the entry express the theme?
- Creativity – how innovative and artistic is the entry?
- Production – how well is the entry directed, edited, written, designed and acted?

RULES FOR ENTRY:

Entries may not contain, as determined by the festival, in its sole discretion, any content that:

An entry must be the original work of the entrant, and must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity. If an entry contains any material or elements that are not owned by the entrant, and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, the entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submitting such entry, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit the use and exhibition of the entry by the festival in the manner set forth in these terms, including, without limitation, name and likeness permissions from any person who appears in or is identifiable in the entry, music licenses, and location releases. The festival reserves the right to request proof of these permissions in a form acceptable to the festival from any entrant at any time. Failure to provide such proof may, if requested, render entry

null and void. By submitting an entry, the entrant warrants and represents that he/she and any persons appearing or who are identifiable in the entry consent to the submission and use of the entry in the Contest and to its use as otherwise set forth herein. The entry must not show or glamorize explicit drug use, tobacco or alcohol consumption in any way. Gratuitous violence is not accepted. Any violence in a production must be an integral part of the story. Sexual references, innuendo, and dramatization are not accepted. If possible, refrain from using profanity or vulgar language. All entries should not exceed PG-13 or NC-17 and should follow state "safe school" policies. Any entry not in English must contain English subtitles.

By submitting an entry, the entrant acknowledges and agrees that the festival may obtain many entries in connection with this contest and that such entries may be similar or identical in theme, idea, format or other respects to other entries submitted in connection with this contest. The Entrant waives any and all claims that any entries and/or other works accepted, reviewed and/or used by the festival may be similar to the entrant's entry, or that any compensation is due to the entrant in connection with such other entry or other works used by the festival.

PRIZES: Prizes are non-transferable and are not redeemable for cash or subject to substitution. The odds of winning depend on the number of entries and the quality of each specific entry. There will be three place prizes awarded to the winners in each category. The first place winners will receive Fame and glory in Laredo, a gift card, and a goodie bag with tech gadgets from sponsors. Second place winners: Fame and glory, a gift card and goodie bag. Third place winners will receive each a goodie bag. Prizes will be awarded during the ceremony awards.

TERMS FOR WINNERS: The festival may require the winner to be present for and to participate in press and festival activities. In addition, the festival may request actors and other participants in the film to be present for and to participate in press and promotional activities. The entrant shall not direct any such individuals to refuse to participate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: By submitting an entry, each entrant agrees: (a) to abide by these terms, and the decisions of the festival, which shall be final and binding in all respects relating to this Contest; (b) to release, discharge and hold harmless the festival, the festival's licenses and assigns, and their respective parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, and advertising and promotion agencies, and the respective officers, directors, shareholders, employees, agents and representatives of the forgoing (collectively, "Released Parties") from any and all injuries, liability, losses and damages of any kind to persons, including death, or property resulting, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, from the entrant's participation in the Contest or any Contest-related activity and from any and all claims, debts, demands, actions or causes of actions, suits, sums of money, damages, and liabilities of whatsoever kind or nature, which have arisen or may arise as a result of the Released Parties exercise

of the rights granted to them as set forth herein; (c) to the use of his/her name, voice, performance, photograph/film, image and/or likeness for programming, advertising, publicity and promotional purposes in any and all media, now or hereafter known, worldwide, including without limitation, on the Internet, and in perpetuity by the festival and its designees, without compensation (unless prohibited by law) or additional consents from the entrant or any third party and without prior notice, approval or inspection, and to execute specific consent to such use if asked to do so; and (d) to hold the released parties harmless and to indemnify the Released Parties from and against all costs, expenses and liabilities incurred by the Released Parties in connection with the defense of any claim or claims on account thereof, including reasonable attorney's fees. By participating, the entrant also agrees not to release any publicity or other materials on his/her own or through someone else regarding his/her participation in the Contest without the prior consent of the festival, which it may withhold in its sole discretion.

OWNERSHIP/USE OF SUBMISSIONS: By submitting an entry, you hereby grant to the festival a royalty-free, fully paid up, perpetual, irrevocable, non-exclusive and fully sub-licensable right and license to use, reproduce, modify, adapt, publish, translate, combine with other works, create derivative works from, distribute, perform, edit and display such entry (in whole or part) including, without limitation, the names and likenesses of any persons or locations embodied therein, and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed. These rights include, without limitation, the right to exhibit the entry at the Laredo Media and Film Festival and to use the entry in any and all media including but not limited to the festival's and the festival's licensee's social media properties and/or offline media, in perpetuity without compensation, permission or notification to the entrant or any third party. By submitting an entry, the entrant acknowledges that the festival has no obligation to use or post any entry submitted. Subject to these terms, the entrant retains copyright ownership of the entry.

MISCELLANEOUS: Released Parties are not responsible for lost, late, incomplete, damaged, inaccurate, stolen, delayed, misdirected, undelivered, or garbled entries; or for lost, interrupted or unavailable network, server, Internet Service Provider (ISP), website, or other connections, availability or accessibility or miscommunications or failed computer, satellite, telephone or cable transmissions, lines, or technical failure or jumbled, scrambled, delayed, or misdirected transmissions or computer hardware or software malfunctions, failures or difficulties, or other errors or difficulties of any kind whether human, mechanical, electronic, computer, network, typographical, printing or otherwise relating to or in connection with the Contest, including, without limitation, errors or difficulties which may occur in connection with the administration of the Contest, processing of entries, the incorrect uploading of an entry, or in any Contest-related materials. Released Parties are also not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by site users, tampering, hacking, or by any equipment or

programming associated with or utilized in the Contest. Released Parties are not responsible for injury or damage to any person's computer related to or resulting from participating in this Contest or downloading materials from or use of the website. Persons who tamper with or abuse any aspect of the Contest or website, who act in an inappropriate or disruptive manner or who are in violation of these terms, as solely determined by the festival, will be disqualified and all associated entries will be void. Should any portion of the Contest be, in the festival's sole opinion, compromised by virus, worms, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes which, in the sole opinion of the festival, corrupt or impair the administration, security, fairness or submission of entries, the festival reserves the right at its sole discretion to suspend, modify or terminate the Contest.

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these terms, or the rights and obligations of the entrant and the festival in connection with this Contest, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Texas, without giving effect to any choice of law rules.

The Media and Film Festival will be held this year at the Laredo Civic Center, 2400 San Bernardo Ave., Laredo, TX 78040, on February 22 and 23, 2018. Additional information will be given as soon as we finalize the speaker's line-up. For more information, please e-mail us at ***productionsvmt@gmail.com*** or ***jteran004@laredoisd.org***

ENTRANT RELEASE FORM

[One form must be completed by the creator of the content Form should be submitted when you enter your video.]

I, _____, (name of official entrant) give my consent to use my child's image and/or audio recording in his/her video for the Laredo Media & Film Festival contests. I understand that by signing this form, I am releasing all recordings to LMFF for this expressed purpose, and that these recordings will be used for promotion online, and could be used in the future via other outlets.

Neither my child nor I will receive any compensation for this now or at any time in the future. In addition, I authorize the reproduction, copyright, exhibition, broadcast, and/or distribution of said video without limitations. I further certify that I am over the age of 18 years, and have the legal right to authorize participation for the minor listed below.

Child's Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____