

Looking for Democracy: How to Make It, How to Sustain It 2nd Annual Film & Video Contest

The Public Square, a program of the Illinois Humanities Council; Independent Television Service (ITVS); Kartemquin Films; Independent Feature Project Chicago; Columbia College Television & Film Departments, Chicago Access Network Television; Chicago Short Film Brigade; Critical Encounters: Fact & Faith; and Reeltime Independent Film and Video Forum present...

Looking for Democracy: How to Make It, How to Sustain It 2nd Annual Film & Video Contest

In this historical moment abuzz with potential, many are grappling with the possibilities for change. As we face economic crisis and calls for racial, environmental, and human justice, how are we creating *and* sustaining democracy? Do you have an idea for a provocative remix that challenges the concept of ownership or a thought-provoking public service announcement that describes what it means to be green in your 'hood? Where do you see democracy in your life, where you work, go to school, or in your community? Now is your chance to be radically creative and show the world what democracy, making it *and* sustaining it, means to you! **Submit a short film** to our *Looking for Democracy: How to Make It, How to Sustain It 2nd Annual Film Contest*. Any genre is fair game: documentary, narrative, experimental, remix, music video, public service announcement, etc.

You can submit more than one video. Videos must be 5 minutes or less in length. Postmark deadline: Friday, January 8, 2010.

For rules, resources, prizes and submission information visit www.prairie.org/DemocracyFilmContest, or please contact Charlotte King at The Public Square at 312.422.5580 x232 or cak@prairie.org.

This program is part of **The Public Square's** "Looking for Democracy" series, made possible in part by the [Woods Fund of Chicago](#).

[Chicago Public Radio – WBEZ 91.5FM](#) is the media sponsor of this contest.

[Old State Capitol](#) is the Central Illinois resource for the film contest.

RULES:

- This is a regional event, and all entrants must reside in Illinois. Producers of winning films (and all entrants) are encouraged to attend the *Looking for Democracy: How to Make It, How to Sustain It Film Festival* in the Spring of 2010.
- The films to be included in the screening & in web-based & mobile showcases will be selected by the Contest programmers, and will be at the discretion of the Illinois Humanities Council (IHC). All decisions are final.
- Appropriate entry formats:
 - Quicktime (.mov file) or AVI file, uploaded via [HUwww.yousendit.comUH](http://www.yousendit.com) or <http://www.megaupload.com/> and sent to [HUthepublicsquare@prairie.orgU](mailto:HUthepublicsquare@prairie.org)
 - Make sure to submit your contact info, synopsis, and bio under the same title as your film.

- Mail to the IHC offices at 17 N. State Street, Suite 1400 Chicago, IL 60602. All mailed submissions must be on DVD format only.
- Video entries must be under five minutes in length. There is no minimum length.
- Video entries can be of any media genre: narrative, documentary, experimental, remix, music video, etc.
- Video entries must address in some way the idea of democracy in our society and how individuals and/ or groups make or sustain democracy. This can relate to sustainability, green movements, human rights, animal rights, the economy, media issues, grass roots activism, or other places that producers choose to look for ways we make and sustain democracy.
- All video entries must be POSTMARKED by **Friday, January 8, 2010**.
- Entry in this competition grants the IHC the non-exclusive right to use clips (up to the full length of the entry), photographs, and biographical data for publicity and promotional purposes for this event, and for potential display on the IHC website, IHC podcasts, and mobile feeds, as well as websites of the IHC's partners, media sponsors, and web aggregators. Entrants also grant the IHC right to feature all works on CAN TV and the *Independent Lens* Vote Democracy web page.
- Entrants warrant that this is their work and they have the legal right to enter work in the Festival.
- All entries must include a short SYNOPSIS (3-4 sentences) and brief BIO. If selected, entrants may be required to provide publicity stills and other materials for promotion.
- Entries that do not meet all requirements will not be considered for judging.

Prizes

Finalists: All finalists will be offered free membership to IFP Chicago and acknowledged publicly. All finalists will also receive a copy of Vachel Lindsay's book on film criticism and a gift certificate to ROTI restaurant.

Winners: In addition to the above, select winners will be posted to Independent Lens' *Vote Democracy* website and as part of *The Public Square's* "Civic Cinema" series, select winning films will be screened in a special program. Films will serve as a springboard for discussion about issues related to democracy.

Grand prize: One grand prize winner will receive all of the aforementioned prizes, as well as a private consultation with Gordon Quinn (award-winning filmmaker and president and founding member of Kartemquin Films), a selection of Kartemquin's award-winning films, a Flip video camera, and have their film shown at an upcoming Illinois Humanities Council's "Civic Cinema" event. Select winners will also receive a free membership to the Gene Siskel Film Center, valued at \$80.00 and a gift certificate to Reckless Records, valued at \$30.00. And one winner will receive a free slot in an upcoming Community Film Workshop of Chicago video production or screenwriting course.

RESOURCES:

Resources for Filmmakers

- [HUCopyright and Fair Use in Documentary Film](#)UH - Center for Social Media

- [HU](#)Documentary Filmmakers' Statement of Best Practices in Fair Use[UH](#) (PDF) - Center for Social Media
- [HU](#)CAN-TV[UH](#) - provides orientation and classes in videography in Chicago. Equipment use also potentially available.
- [HU](#)Community Film Workshop of Chicago[UH](#) - provides film and digital media education to groups with limited access to media

Independent Lens

- [HU](#)Vote Democracy! Website[UH](#)

Film Contest Partners

- [HU](#)The Public Square a program of the Illinois Humanities Council[UH](#)
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- [Chicago Short Film Brigade](#)
- [Reeltime Independent Film & Video Forum](#)
- [CAN-TV](#)

