

Romerikes Blad



AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY: Christian Schoyen (left) is behind the documentary film: "Vegas Vikings", which documents a turn around of a high crime neighborhood in Las Vegas, USA.

PHOTO: FROM FILM "VEGAS VIKINGS".

Christian from Norway wins multiple awards with USA documentary **AWARD WINNING VIKING**

Christian Schoyen's documentary about improving the living conditions for children in the troubled neighborhoods of Las Vegas has been noticed.

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The 49 year old from Norway is behind a film that shows how volunteer organizations and individuals joined forces with the ultimate goal to improve the conditions for children living in the most poverty stricken and dangerous community in Las Vegas; Sierra Oeste.

- The success of the project is all due to a collaborative effort by the local community, says Schoyen. He is behind the initiative as well as been the project director, in addition to documenting everything in the film: "Vegas Vikings – The 21 Day Challenge".

Has won several awards
The documentary film has clearly been noticed since its initial release in November 2014:

- Winner of "Best Nevada Film" at the Nevada International Film festival.
- Winner of "Best Documentar-

ary" at Mexico International Film Festival.

- Winner of "Best Documentary" at Honolulu Film Awards.

- Winner of "Best Documentary" at Miami Independent Film Festival.

- Nominated in the category "Best Directing" and "Best Editing" at St. Tropez International Film Festival.

In addition the film is "official selection" at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival and Vegas Indie Film Fest.

Going into several cities -What happens next with the film and the project?

- I have been contacted by the top level of several of the organizations which participated in the Las Vegas project, including the Guardian Angels, which is a world wide organization. Guardian Angels is interested in a wide roll-out of the concept in several US cities, thereby it will be a phase 2 of this project, says Schoyen to Romerikes Blad.

- The film is according to plan to be screened in Baltimore, Detroit and Cleveland, where I will conduct interviews with local community leaders and the residents living in the struggling neighborhoods. Everything is being filmed and documented, so there will be a "Vegas Vikings 2".

★ ★ VEGAS VIKINGS ★ ★

21 DAY CHALLENGE

HOW TO TURN AROUND LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES

WINNER
2014

WINNER
2015

WINNER
2015

OFFICIAL SELECTION
WINNER
2015



PROVEN 10 STEP GUIDE FOR US CITY OFFICIALS

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

- Henry Ford

OTHER CITIES: Christian's blue print which was implemented in Las Vegas, will next be also brought to other struggling neighborhoods throughout the US.

- In addition there is a US theatrical movie premier of Vegas Vikings which takes place on October 2nd in Los Angeles, concludes Schoyen. There has been many requests from city officials around the country. This has resulted in me putting the entire Vegas Vikings documentary for free for everyone to watch on YouTube.

Satisfying

-What does this success means for you personally?
- The film and the project itself has achieved such positive recognition, and for me personally it is very rewarding to know that this collective initiative in Nevada has created lasting impacts for those living in Las Vegas. It also means a lot to me that the blue print will be implemented in also other US cities.

Schoyen has been back in the

US to review the sustainability of the project in Sierra Oeste.

- The community is totally "revitalized" and presents itself as a brand new neighborhood. There has been a sustainable 75% reduction in violent crime since the completion of the neighborhood rescue project 9 months earlier.

- These documentable results have been included in the revised edition of the documentary film.

FACTS

- Christian Schoyen (49) from Norway has been behind the initiative and project director for a unique "neighborhood rescue" project to improve childrens living conditions in the most dangerous part of Las Vegas.
- The entire project was documented in the film "Vegas Vikings – The 21 day challenge".
- The documentary has received several awards at film festivals in the US.
- Schoyen has screened the film for large Norwegian corporations and non-profit organizations.
- Schoyen's job in the corporate world is retaining talent and building winning teams, as a corporate headhunter.
- The strong care and empathy for others has been a strong part of Schoyen ever since his African-American Studies in the US when he was 22 years old.
- There is extensive work with non neighborhood rescue projects, and the new documentary film: "Vegas Vikings 2".