



*For Immediate Release*

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**July 20, 2022**

### **WORLD WATER FILM FESTIVAL INSPIRES YOUTH**

First annual World Water Film Festival calls filmmakers and water organizations to submit impactful stories about groundwater, health and sanitation in local communities

**NEW YORK CITY** - Calling all filmmakers, the [World Water Film Festival](#) in partnership with the [Youth for Global Health & Social Justice](#) (Y4GH) is making the invisible visible. Submissions of a maximum of 15 minutes (except the Short Feature category) that focus on the [United Nations World Water Day theme of groundwater visibility](#) will be accepted starting July 1 through October 3. All water explorations are welcome! Films will be judged on criteria for information, inspiration, and impact.

“Involving young people in the global water crisis is not merely a question of inclusion,” said Sheryl Simmons, Youth for Global Health & Social Justice Founder/President, “but one that is vital in achieving sustainable water access and management. This film festival will be remembered as the one that moved you, made you think, and you feel.”

“We believe when people see that which needs change, they will take action,” said Robert Strand, World Water Film Festival CEO, “and we are excited to leverage the medium & artform of film demonstrating how people have the power and the right to protect our freshwater from pollution and overexploitation.”

Competition participants will inspire or inform a call-to-action for local communities to help groundwater resources. [Groundwater](#) leans into the Earth’s natural water filtration through soil but has been disrupted by multiple factors in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The World Water Film Festival hopes to encourage filmmakers to bring awareness to the importance of groundwater. Films will be accepted in up to [10 categories](#) that include narrative comedy or drama, animation, investigative reports, and student films. A unique category this year prompts submissions using the TikTok platform. Winners in each category will receive an IMDB credit for their film.

“Film is a powerful medium. Films represent and signify, remix memories and the past, present, and future. A short film can inspire and empower people in society to act and create positive change across humankind and in local communities,” said Kai Swanson, World Water Film Festival Director.

Films will be accepted from around the world. Filmmakers will retain full rights to their intellectual property. Films must be made from original, owned and/or licensed content and be non-watermarked. All non-English films must have English subtitles. Films cannot be disrespectful to privacy or hold racist, sexist, pornographic, or harmful defamatory content. All films must be made after 2016.

Information about submission categories and deadlines, as well as more about the [World Water Film Festival team](#) and mission, can be found by visiting [worldwaterff.org](#). The festival can be found on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok under @WorldWaterFF.

The festival will take place December 2-4, 2022 in New York City and online. Questions should be directed to [info@worldwaterff.org](mailto:info@worldwaterff.org).



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[World Water Film Festival](#) is an annual non-profit film festival started in 2022 under CEO Robert Strand and Director Kai Swanson. The festival focuses on uplifting stories about the human-water relationship to inspire equitable action. By combining art and activism, WWSFF looks to a future with a strong relationship between filmmakers, organizations, and the human population in support of building sustainable and cleaner water resources. Organization updates can be found on their website [worldwaterff.org](http://worldwaterff.org) and on their Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok pages @WorldWaterFF.

[Youth for Global Health & Social Justice](#) is a non-profit United Nations Sustainable Development partner. The organizations mission is to support young people as leaders who will work to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for our global community and to promote an open dialogue about social injustice that impacts the human right to water for all.

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