

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aloha! Talofa! Bula! Iorana! Malo e leile! Mālo nī!

What an incredible journey it has been, making two years of growth, transformation and celebration of Pacific Island stories! From our debut as the Hālāwai Film Festival to our exciting transformation into the Pacific Island Film Festival of NYC (PIFF), the future has never looked brighter. As we expand our programming in 2025 through new and existing partnerships, we are thrilled to offer year-round opportunities to amplify Pacific Island voices and talent all year round.

Thanks to the generous support of our partners and presenting sponsors, PIFF has showcased Pacific Island filmmakers in some of New York City's most prestigious venues. In 2024, we received over 350 submissions, featuring 32 remarkable films from Fiji, Hawai'i, Aotearoa (New Zealand), the Marshallese Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tahiti, Rapa Nui, and US Territories including Marianas and Guam. We are proud to highlight the work of Pacific Island female directors, who made up nearly half of the featured films.

As we look ahead to 2025, PIFF will continue to broaden its outreach, offering programming year-round at even more esteemed institutions in New York City and expanding our reach to screens across Hawai'i nei.

We can't express how honored we are to be able to carry the torch of Pacific Island films to NYC. We are grateful for the support from the Permanent Missions and Embassies of the Pacific Islands that have helped legitimize and catapult our progress.

With the wind in our sails, your support has been invaluable to our organization as we move forward with our expansion to create a place and position for Pacific Islanders in film and entertainment in NYC. We hope that you will be able to join us on our journey.

Mālama Pono,
Stacey

"To stand at Lincoln Center and talk about Vakaraitaka and champion Fijian filmmakers - AMAZING. To be at the Smithsonian and watch stories about Native Hawaiians, by Native Hawaiians, in that space, there couldn't be anything more INCREDIBLE. I had to call my Mom."



Summer Residency at Governors Island

May 2025 - Oct 2025

In partnership with Dancers Unlimited, PIFF will screen films and offer cultural programming, including art shows and creative writing workshops, all summer long on Governors Island as part of our Pacific Island Artist Residency.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Re-opening of the Michael C. Rockefeller Wing

May 31, 2025

In conjunction with The Met's education department, PIFF will screen children's programming from across the Pacific Islands.

Hawai'i News Now

September 1-7, 2025

A 5-part TV docuseries, *Oceania Rising: Stories in Motion*, curated by PIFF, will spotlight 2-3 Pacific Islander films per episode. This unique series blends powerful storytelling with rare behind-the-scenes conversations with the filmmakers.

Pacific Island Film Festival

Sept. 18 - Sept. 21, 2025

Presenting at some of the best institutions in New York City, PIFF returns for its signature event.

Hawai'i News Now

October 2025

One-hour special highlighting the events of PIFF.

Ciara Leina'ala Lacy

Filmmaker | The Queen's Flowers 2024

PACIFIC ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL OF NEW YORK CITY | 2024

OPENING NIGHT - A CELEBRATION OF DANCE THROUGH THE PACIFIC ISLANDS



New York Public Library for the Performing Arts



Returned to the **New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center** for a **SOLD OUT** opening night with a dance performance by Dancers Unlimited, and the screening of two films *Vakaraitaka* from Fiji and *Pō'ele Wai* from the Kingdom of Hawai'i.



DINNER AND A MOVIE

noreetuh **NYUcmch** CENTER FOR MEDIA, CULTURE + HISTORY

The festival kicked into high gear with a two-part presentation: a collaborative prix-fixe dinner showcasing modern Hawaiian cuisine at Michelin-recognized **noreetuh** followed by a screening of coming-of-age film *Inky Pinky Ponky* hosted by **New York University's Center for Media, Culture and History**.



FESTIVAL SCREENINGS AT VILLAGE EAST BY ANGELIKA



Showcased 32 films from 10 island nations, each followed by intriguing Q&A panel discussions and talk backs with the filmmakers, producers and actors.



5 EVENTS ACROSS 4 DAYS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TALK WITH INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ARTS NETWORK



Smithsonian



International Cultural Arts Network Founder Angela Laprete hosted a workforce development talk with Luciane Buchanan and Ioane Goodhue in the Auditorium at the **National Museum of the American Indian - Smithsonian Institution**, as part of its community programming. Later, a public screening of three films, *Hōkūle'a: Finding the Language of the Navigator*, *The Queen's Flowers*, and *Kūkini*, was followed by an in-depth talk with award-winning directors, actors, and producers.

AWARDS CEREMONY AT ASCENT LOUNGE



Anheuser-Busch

At **Ascent Lounge**, PIFF NYC's closing night presentation featured filmmaker awards, a screening of *Gathering of the Nations*, and a rare New York City performance from Hawai'i's iconic singer-songwriter and *Kūkini* filmmaker Paula Fuga. Paula has collaborated with such music luminaries as Jack Johnson, Ziggy Marley, and Ben Harper. PIFF's awards banquet was sponsored by **Anheuser-Busch**.

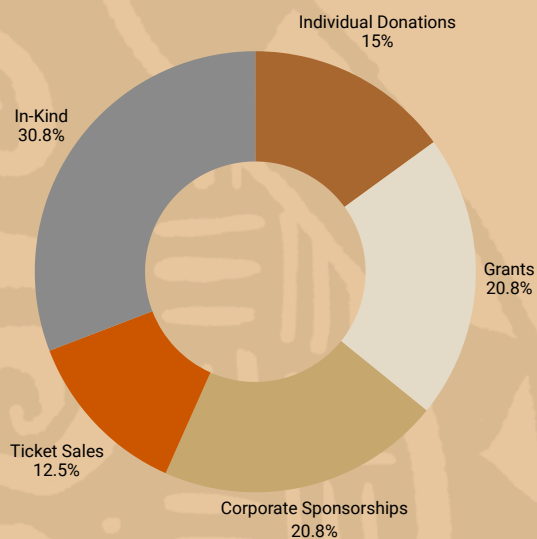
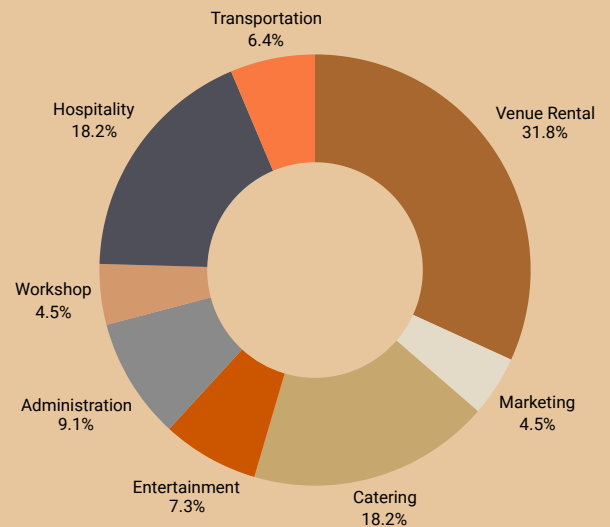


A one-hour profile on PIFF was broadcast on **K5TV** in Hawai'i on Nov. 29th, 2024.

FINANCES

2025 Expenses

Thanks to our incredible venue partners, we've been able to offer free programming at some of New York City's most iconic institutions. These partnerships significantly reduce our rental costs. Additionally, PIFF is deeply grateful to our all-volunteer staff, who generously dedicate their expertise and personal time to help bring these events to life.



2024 Income

As we reflect on the success of the 2024 festival, we are incredibly grateful for the invaluable support from our community. The generous contributions we have received from individuals, corporate donors and foundations have allowed us to reach a wide audience and create meaningful experiences for all. However, because the majority of our events are offered at no cost, our ability to monetize is limited, making your financial support crucial for sustaining future programming.

To keep this vibrant cultural celebration alive and thriving, we invite you to be part of our journey. Your support—no matter the size—will help us continue to create transformative experiences that enrich our community and inspire future generations.

CHECK US OUT IN THE PRESS

TV and Radio Coverage

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

KITV - ABC Hawai'i

Hawai'i News Now - CBS and NBC Hawai'i

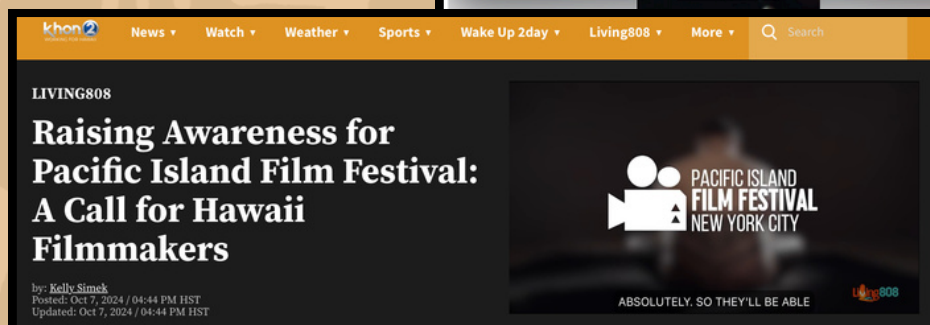
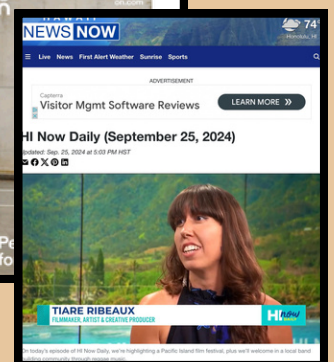
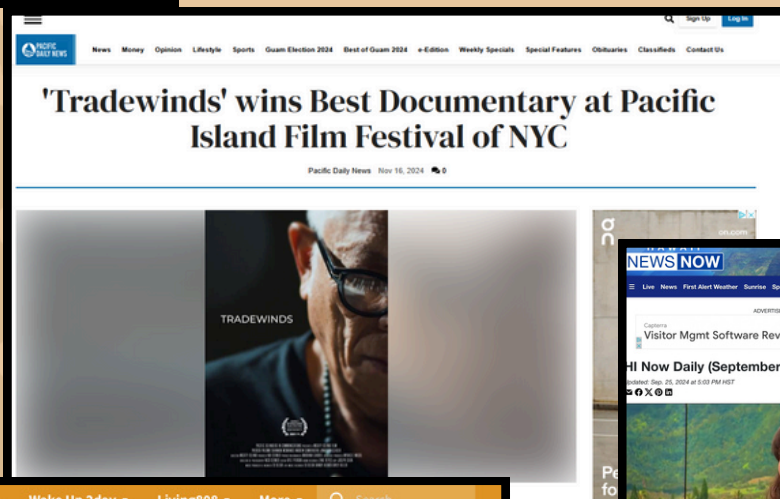
Living 808 - Fox Hawai'i

Web Articles

Asian CineVision

Time-Out

Pacific Daily News - Guam



MAHALO! WHAKAWHETAI KOE! MALO 'AUPITO! FA'AFETAII!

We'd like to thank all our donors for their generous support.



New York Public Library for the Performing Arts



Smithsonian



CENTER FOR MEDIA, CULTURE + HISTORY



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ARTS NETWORK



Coalition For Asian American Children+Families



KIM TAYLOR REECE GALLERY



Anheuser-Busch



Kupa'a Ma Hope O Ka Aina



Halawai: Hawaiian. verb. to meet.



ASIAN | PACIFIC | AMERICAN INSTITUTE AT NYU

