



March 4, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we find the 2023-24 Making Movies that Matter (MMTM) Youth Short Film Festival in full swing, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks for your support and empowerment of the most talented and passionate young people I have had the opportunity to work with. It is no mystery that the schools that fall within the boundaries of Council District 12 and West San Fernando Valley are some of the best in the country.

As you know, I am an ardent supporter of our schools and the MMTM Youth Short Film Festival is a manifestation of that commitment. Launched during the 2015-2016 school year, the MMTM began as a well-intentioned fledgling film project designed to offset the impact of decimated arts-education funding in our schools which, much to my delight, has now grown into the largest youth film festival on the West Coast.

To date, over 5,000 MMTM participants have produced over 600 incredible 3-minute short films which explore myriad cutting-edge topics through the animation, live action, documentary and public service announcement genres. Now, because of the success of the MMTM Youth Short Film Festival, industry titans such as Disney, ABC Television, Apple and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) have become partners and sponsors over the years.

I am confident that this year's project will be a catalyst for amazing growth and creativity for the participants and our much anticipated red carpet gala, slated for May 16th at the Soraya Performing Arts Center on the CSUN campus, will be its' usual brand of glamor and excitement as we collectively celebrate the this years' films.

For more information, feel free to go to: www.cd12movies.com, or reach out to my Senior Advisor, Ron Rubine, at ron.rubine@lacity.org.

I'll see you at the movies!

John S. Lee
Councilmember, 12th District