



November 21, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As your Los Angeles City Councilmember for the 12th District in the Northwest San Fernando Valley, I want to share with you how excited I am to, once again, host my 7th Annual Making Movies that Matter (MMTM) Youth Short Film Festival for the 2025-26 project year. Since the inaugural MMTM project in 2016, this cutting-edge, cost-free arts education experience has served over 5,000 public and private K-12 students who have produced over 1,000 short films.

In January, 2026, students who attend “sponsored schools” will begin the process of *making movies that matter* to them. With the guidance of professional filmmakers who will be working with schools throughout my district, participants will be taught the complete art of moviemaking.

These “artists-in-residence” (AIR), will help the students write, direct, act in and edit their films which will be showcased at the red carpet gala slated for May 14, 2026 at the Soraya Performing Arts Center on the California State University, Northridge (CSUN) campus. This is an event you are encouraged to attend with your child and the arrival experience includes music, food, a red carpet and project keepsakes for the students to cherish for years to come. As the date approaches, look to your school for directions on how to reserve your seat for this much-anticipated celebration.

I strongly believe in the arts as an important vehicle for empowerment and self-expression, particularly for students whose voice is often undervalued. Through this project, our goals are to foster campus and community cohesion, promote digital literacy and celebrate our homegrown, world-renowned industry of movie making. I am confident we will do that.

Feel free to reach out to my Senior Advisor, Ron Rubine, at ron.rubine@lacity.org or (818) 882-1212, if you have any questions about the film festival or red carpet event.

See you at the movies!

John S. Lee
Councilmember, 12th District