JOHNLEE
LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 12

MAKING MOVIES THAT MATTER
YOUTH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

8th Annual Making Movies That Matter (MMTM)

Youth Short Film Festival



🎬 **Red Carpet Gala: Thursday, May 13, 2027 • Soraya Performing Arts Center**

APPLICATION FOR 2026–27

"Empowering the Next Generation of Visionary Storytellers"

Welcome & Overview

The 8th Annual Councilmember John Lee **"Making Movies That Matter" (MMTM) Youth Short Film Festival** and Artist-in-Residence program is back! We're inviting schools across LA City Council District 12 (CD12) to jump into an unforgettable creative experience presented in partnership with top-tier community arts leaders.

Kickstarting in September 2026 and rolling through Spring 2027, student creators will dive into hands-on digital filmmaking, learning scriptwriting, camera work, and editing under expert mentorship. The journey culminates in a red-carpet showcase at the prestigious **Soraya Performing Arts Center (CSUN)**!

Who Can Participate?

A. LA City Council District 12 Public and Private Schools serving students in grades 5-12 unless mutually agreed upon in advance
B. Any CD12 non-profit or community-based organization who has a commitment to arts education and can provide the student filmmakers and space to do the work

Program Goals & Objectives

MMTM selects passionate CD12 schools to take part in an exciting 2026–27 creative residency. Through guided mentorship, student teams craft original 3-minute short films to be premiered at our juried festival on **May 13, 2027**.

Key Project Objectives:

1. **Hands-On Instruction:** Expert mentoring from artists-in-residence (AIR) across 5 core genres: Animation, Documentary, Public Service Announcement (PSA), Live-Action/Fictional Short, and Music Video.

2. **Creative Efficacy:** Support students in cultivating professional tech and storytelling skills in an engaging, creative environment.
3. **Civic & Social Impact:** Foster a sense of community engagement and social responsibility through participation in a strategic arts education experience rooted in creative self expression.

Student cohorts (typically 15–25 filmmakers) will receive **20–30 hours of instruction** over ~12 weeks (1–2 hours per weekly session, during or after school). At the red carpet gala on May 13, 2027, outstanding entries across each category will receive formal recognition, and all submitted films will be showcased.

Application Key Dates

Milestone / Action	Date
Application Released	November 5, 2026
Application Informational Workshop (Optional)	November 18, 2026
Application Proposals Due	**December 4, 2026**
Intent to Participate Notifications Sent	December 11, 2026

Submission Contact

Ron Rubine, Senior Advisor
(818) 882-1212
Council District 12 – Constituent Care Center
9207 Oakdale Avenue, #200, Chatsworth, CA 91311 | ron.rubine@lacity.org

Program & Learning Experience

A. Program Overview

Students get full access to the creative filmmaking workflow—from concept development and camera techniques to post-production editing—creating powerful short films under 3.5 minutes (including credits).

All finished films will be judged and celebrated at the annual festival held at CSUN's renowned Soraya Performing Arts Center on **May 13, 2027**.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **Film Literacy:** Master essential filmmaking vocabulary, production principles, and visual narrative storytelling.
2. **Tech Proficiency:** Develop skills and gain confidence using iPads, iPhones, DSLR cameras, sound equipment, and editing software.
3. **Crew Collaboration:** Understand and execute key film set roles (directing, sound design, cinematography, acting, editing).
4. **Project Execution:** Take a project from initial pitch to final polished export ready for festival screening.
5. **Social Voice:** Harness visual media to highlight community issues, share unique perspectives, and advocate for meaningful change.

Residencies run for **10–12 weeks** with 60–120 minute sessions scheduled once per week to fit each school's calendar. Traditionally, these sessions will begin in late January to early February with the submission of films deadline occurring in early May, 2027.

B. Teamwork & Production Model

Students form small production crews to tackle pressing social topics or entertaining themes—from climate action, inclusivity, mental wellness and family heritage to comedies and dramas.

Every team member gets hands-on experience by assuming diverse production roles, ensuring a comprehensive, well-rounded film education.

It is expected that each student team produces **one high-caliber film**, driving home the value of teamwork, creative synergy, and purposeful storytelling. School cadres can produce more than one film depending on their numbers, needs and vision.

Instruction is led by professional Artists-in-Residence (AIR) from top arts organizations (including the **CalArts Community Arts Program**), co-teaching alongside school staff. All curricula align with California VAPA and Common Core standards.



C. Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Standards & Compliance



Teaching Artist Qualifications:

1. **Educational Background:** Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Film, Media Arts, or related discipline.
2. **Industry Expertise:** Demonstrated mastery in videography, animation, or digital film production.

Youth Safety & Compliance (California State Guidelines):

A. **Mandated Reporter Training:** Compliance with Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (Cal. Penal Code § 11164–11174).
B. **Background Checks:** Live Scan fingerprint clearances for all personnel prior to student contact (Ed. Code § 45125.1(e)).
C. **Health Screening:** Active negative TB test results on file for all participating instructors and staff.

Note: All Live Scan background check and TB screening expenses are fully covered by Council District 12.

Phase / Event	Timeline	Location
Project Preparation	Summer 2026	CD12 Office
AIR Team Alignment Meeting	October 2026	Virtual
Educators' Roundtable	November 5, 2026	New Horizons, North Hills
Informational Workshop (Optional)	November 18, 2026	Via Zoom
School RFP Proposals Due	**December 4, 2026**	Email Submission
Intent Notifications Sent	December 11, 2026	Email Notification
AIR & School Orientations	Jan – Feb 2027	Participating Schools
Project Preparation	February 2027	Participating Schools
Mid-Project Social	March 2027	CD12 Office / Virtual
LAUSD Spring Break (Hiatus)	**Mar 27 – Apr 3, 2027**	**No Program Activity**
AIR Progress Check-In	April 2027	CD12 District Office
MMTM Red Carpet Film Festival	**May 13, 2027**	**Soraya Performing Arts Center**

"Storytelling was a way to see the world bigger than the one you were looking at..."

— Robert Redford, Actor & Filmmaker

Proposal Guidelines & Submission

Proposals should be concise (4–5 pages total) and outline how your school or organization will facilitate the program.

A. **Option A (Email):** Send to ron.rubine@lacity.org with subject: *[School Name] RFP - Making Movies That Matter*
B. **Option B (Mail/Deliver):** Deliver to CD12 Constituent Care Center (9207 Oakdale Ave, #200, Chatsworth, CA 91311), clearly labeled on the envelope.
C. **Option C (QR Code or Bitly Link)**: These can be accessed on page 7.
D. **Proposal Structure:** Address the key section criteria detailed below:
   - **School Background & Vision**
     - Overview of school history, mission, student enrollment numbers, and community demographics.
     - Summary of current in-school and extracurricular arts programming.

- **Statement of Need**
  - Why your school needs MMTM and how it aligns with overall student learning goals.
  - Target cohort size and student engagement strategy.
  - Previous MMTM participation experience (if applicable).
- **Student Selection & Profile**
  - Selection process, grade levels, age groups, and special learning or support program inclusion.
- **Proposed Schedule**
  - Preferred workshop days/times (during or after school). Minimum 60 min required; 90 min recommended.
- **Facilities & Tech Resources**
  - Available school equipment, space/classrooms, and tech capabilities. *(CD12 provides supplemental gear loaners including iPads, tripods, and mics as needed).*
- **Staffing & Supervision Plan**
  - Assigned co-teaching staff members (certificated or classified) to support classroom management. Ratios must not exceed 25:1 and film experience is a plus but not required.
- **Communications Strategy**
  - Outreach plan for school community, parents, students, and administration leadership.
- **Additional Information (Optional)**
  - Any supplementary context supporting your proposal.

Here's the link and the QR Code:
Link: https://bit.ly/CD12MMTM

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- **Judging:** Submissions are evaluated by CD12 representatives, professional filmmakers and other industry specialists.
- **Non-Discrimination Policy:** Participating schools and organizations must adhere to non-discrimination policies in student selection and participation.
- **Media Release & Permissions:** All student participants must submit signed parent/guardian media consent forms prior to film production and public showcase.
- **Intellectual Property & Usage Rights:** Students retain ownership of original films, while CD12 and MMTM reserve non-exclusive promotional and distribution rights for educational and festival purposes.
- **Program Modifications:** CD12 reserves the right to modify festival schedules, locations, or guidelines based on operational needs or unforeseen circumstances.
- **Entries:** Participating schools may create as many films as they choose with prior approval. Typically a film team might include 5-8 students.
- **Length:** Each film may be no longer than 3 ½ minutes including credits.
- **Film Equipment:** Each school should provide basic filmmaking equipment for the project to enable their students to participate fully.
- **IT Assistance:** If necessary, each school must provide IT and technical assistance for the project to address any unforeseen challenges which might arise.
- **Staffing:** For filmmaking support and classroom management, the school should provide one certificated and/or classified staff member for the duration of a given session.
- **Scouting Locations:** If possible, even in the absence of the AIR, the designated staff member from each school will be expected to work with the students on their films throughout the week. School cadres are also encouraged to make arrangements for students to conduct additional film shoots above and beyond (off campus) the normal instructional period with parent/guardian permission and supervision.
- **Reserving Seats for the Red Carpet:** It is the responsibility of the respective sponsored schools to inform and support their families in reserving seats in a timely manner. We will inform the schools of the RSVP portal's availability.