



MICHIGAN STRATEGIC FUND

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2022

TO:

The Honorable Jim Stamas, Chair Senate Appropriations Committee	The Honorable Thomas Albert, Chair House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Curtis Hertel, Jr. Minority Vice Chair Senate Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on LEO/MEDC	The Honorable Joe Tate Minority Vice Chair House Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Roger Victory, Chair Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government	The Honorable Greg VanWoerkom, Chair House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government
The Honorable Ken Horn, Chair Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC	The Honorable Terry Sabo Minority Vice Chair House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government

FROM: Quentin L. Messer Jr., President
Michigan Strategic Fund

SUBJECT: Section 1032 Annual Report on Film Incentives and Credits

Section 1032 of the FY 2022 Omnibus budget requires the Michigan Strategic Fund to provide an annual report on film incentives and tax credits at the same time the report required under Section 455 of the Michigan Business Tax Act is submitted (Public Act 36 of 2007, MCL 208.1455).

Pursuant to this requirement, attached is the 2021 report. Also attached is information required under Section 1033 of the FY 2022 Omnibus Budget, activities of the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office (MFDMO). In addition, the report includes an update on the MFDMO's Computer Science (CS) Initiatives, including its partnership with Google and associated events such as its annual Coding for Kids event.

If you have any questions, please contact our Office of Government Relations at 517.335.1847.

Attachment

cc: Members, Senate and House Appropriations Committees
Members, Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on General Government
Members, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity/MEDC
Chris Harkins, State Budget Director
Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency



DATE: March 2, 2022

TO: Governor Gretchen Whitmer

FROM: Selam Ghirmai, Director

SUBJECT: Michigan Film & Digital Media Office Annual Report

Section 455 of the Michigan Business Tax Act (Public Act 36 of 2007) requires the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office (MFDMO) to submit an annual report on film incentives and tax credits for the previous year. Please find attached the annual report that fulfills this requirement.

Additionally, Section 1033 of the FY 2022 Omnibus Budget requires the MFDMO to report on additional activities of the office. That information is included in this report as a courtesy to you. Also included is an update on the MFDMO's Computer Science (CS) Initiatives, including its partnership with Google and associated events such as its annual Coding for Kids event.

Please feel free to contact the MEDC Office of Government Relations at 517.335.1847 with any questions.

cc: Quentin L. Messer Jr., President, Michigan Strategic Fund
Senator Jim Runestad, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Senator Stephanie Chang, Minority Vice Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Representative Matt Hall, Chair, House Tax Policy Committee
Representative Tenisha Yancey, Minority Vice Chair, House Tax Policy Committee
Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency

MICHIGAN FILM INCENTIVES: TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

As of December 21, 2011, the Film and Digital Media Production Assistance Program has been operating within the scope of Section 29 of the MSF Act and no longer approves new film tax credit applications under Section 455 of the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) Act. However, previously approved projects may be issued a post-production tax credit certificate after the project is complete. There were no post production tax credit certificates issued in FY 2021. As of September 30, 2021, a total of \$292,416,203.19 in film tax credits has been paid out by the state, with \$27,326,404.57 in potential film tax credits that remain eligible to be claimed under the tax credit program.

MICHIGAN FILM INCENTIVES: CASH REBATE PROGRAM

During FY 2021, one project was issued an approved certificate of completion request (COCR) and paid out by the state under the film incentive (direct cash rebate) program, for a total of \$220,932.00. These incentives are cash assistance under appropriated funding. These are listed in the table below. Under Section 29 of the MSF Act, all projects approved in 2012 and thereafter are reported in the online MFDMO dashboard, which is updated with actual data on a yearly basis, and found at www.michiganbusiness.org/industries/mfdmo/film. In FY 2021, the total administrative expenses were \$288,072.62.

APPROVED CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION REQUESTS								
Fiscal year 2021: 10/01/2020-09/30/2021								
Project	Production company	Type of project	Total Michigan spend by production company	Financial assistance	Duration of financial assistance	Persons employed in state as FTE	COCR approved date	Locations (dashboard)
Pawparazzi and SK8 Dawg	Summerstorm Feud Inc.	Motion picture	\$752,427	\$220,932	3 years	63	01/08/21	Manistee
TOTALS			\$752,427	\$220,932				

MICHIGAN FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA OFFICE

For over 30 years, the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office (MFDMO) has positioned Michigan as a worldwide production destination for the film, digital media, and creative industries. Often the first point of contact for productions, the MFDMO provides the following services, creating a competitive business climate to attract domestic and international production activity from out of state and grow creative industries business of Michigan residents. These services are offered free of charge to any and all professional and student productions.

GENERAL SERVICES OFFERED

Fiscal year 2021: 10/01/2020–09/30/2021

Website: michiganbusiness.org/mifilmanddigital	The Michigan Film & Digital Media Office website is the one-stop shop for all individuals working or seeking work in the creative industries. Also, the website provides detailed information for those with a general interest in the operation of the MFDMO and the services it provides. The website includes a job portal for those seeking/hiring for jobs in the creative industries. The website also has resources for educators, students, filmmakers, and game developers.
Production directory	Searchable online directory which features 4,107 approved crew and vendors that provide support services for the film and digital industries.
Locations directory	Searchable online directory which houses 6,040 locations/properties throughout the state of Michigan. Locations directory is utilized as a source for film and television productions, commercials, still photography shoots, and miscellaneous events.
Locations scouting	The MFDMO provides customized location packages and up to two days of complimentary location scouting services, primarily leveraged by outside productions that are surveying states across the nation for site selection. The office refers productions to professional resident location managers/scouts. Availability of this service is not guaranteed. Individuals seeking assistance should send a request for this service at least one month prior to date of potential scout.
Permitting	Assist in-state and out-of-state clients on permitting issues at the municipal, county, state and federal levels of government.
Social media platforms/newsletter	MFDMO maintains a presence on Facebook and Twitter. Maintains 12,513 followers on Facebook and 3,674 followers on Twitter.
Note	While no new credits or incentives can be offered through the Michigan Film and Digital Media Production Assistance Program, the MFDMO continues to process incentive claims for previously awarded projects.

MICHIGAN FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA OFFICE continued

GENERAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Fiscal year 2021: 10/01/2020–09/30/2021

The report below includes the projects that requested assistance of the MFDMO, a listing of the services provided for each project.

Month of service*	Project type	Project name	Location	Investment leveraged (estimated private investment)**	Services provided by MFDMO
October	Crew call	n/a	Michigan	n/a	Promoted socially
	Film screening	Grindhouse Double Feature	Detroit	n/a	Promoted socially
November	Education	CS Education	Online	n/a	Promoted socially
	Music	Artist Promotion	Kalamazoo	n/a	Promoted socially
	Education	CS Education	Online	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Film festival	I See You Awards	Detroit	n/a	Promoted on social media and in monthly newsletter
	Education	CS Education	Statewide	n/a	Promoted socially
December	Education	Coding for Michigan	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Education	CS Education	Statewide	n/a	Promoted socially
	Legislative	Incentives article	Statewide	n/a	Promoted socially
January	COVID Relief	Employee Assistance Grant	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media and in monthly newsletter
	COVID Relief	Grant Programs	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	COVID Relief	Small Business Relief Programs	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
February	Legislative	Incentives Article	Statewide	n/a	Promoted socially
	Film festival	Ann Arbor Film Festival	Ann Arbor	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Business attraction	Scale Up North Awards	Traverse City	n/a	Promoted socially
	Film festival	Central Michigan International Film Festival	Mt. Pleasant	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Education programming	Accelerate4Kids	Metro Detroit area	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter

MICHIGAN FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA OFFICE continued

GENERAL SERVICES PROVIDED continued

Fiscal year 2021: 10/01/2020–09/30/2021

Month of service*	Project type	Project name	Location	Investment leveraged (estimated private investment)**	Services provided by MFDMO
February	Film award	Spc. Markeice Patrick	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Film festival	Ann Arbor Film Festival	Ann Arbor	n/a	Promoted on social media and in monthly newsletter
March	Arts funding	MCACA Grants	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media and in monthly newsletter
	Legislative	Incentives Article	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Film series	Woman's Film Series at Michigan Theater	Ann Arbor	n/a	Promoted socially
	Creative events	SXSW - The Rules of Attraction	Austin, Texas	n/a	Promoted on social media and in monthly newsletter
	Feature film	Somewhere in Time	Statewide	n/a	Promoted socially
	Creative events	SXSW: Michigan House	Austin, Texas	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Film festival	Ann Arbor Film Festival	Ann Arbor	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
	Education event	Sundance Ignite	Park City, Utah	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
April	Film festival	Adrian International Film Festival	Adrian	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
May	Documentary	The Water is My Sky	Statewide	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter
July	Feature film	No Sudden Move	Detroit	n/a	Promoted on social media and in monthly newsletter
	Feature film	An Intrusion	Detroit	n/a	Promoted on social media, website, and in monthly newsletter

MICHIGAN FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA OFFICE continued

GENERAL SERVICES PROVIDED continued

Fiscal year 2021: 10/01/2020–09/30/2021

Month of service*	Project type	Project name	Location	Investment leveraged (estimated private investment)**	Services provided by MFDMO
August	Web series	Northbound	Various Upper Peninsula	n/a	Promoted socially
September	Film festival	Detroit Can Film Festival (YMCA)	Detroit	n/a	Promoted socially
	Film grants	Seed&Spark	Bay City	n/a	Promoted socially
*There was no activity in June.					

**General services are offered free of charge to any and all professional and student productions. In recent years, requests for services have primarily focused on promoting events. Providing an estimate of private investment for each event or the return on that investment within the promotion area is not a requirement of the complimentary service. Therefore, there is no “investment leveraged” to report for FY 2021.



Michigan Film & Digital Media Office

Computer Science Education Initiatives

FEBRUARY 2022



THEMED CLUBS ATTRACT STUDENTS WITH VARIED INTERESTS

Game Design



Art



Storytelling



Fashion & Design



Music & Sound



Friends



Social Media



Sports



8 Activities



Each theme has eight activities. Each activity takes about 60-75 minutes. Scheduling is flexible and up to you!

In alignment with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) strategic plan, the Michigan Film & Digital Media Office (MFDMO) works to foster high-wage skills growth in the technology sector by increasing computer science education through several initiatives, including the MFDMO partnership with Google and associated events such as its annual Coding for Kids event.

MFDMO AND GOOGLE PARTNER TO INCREASE ACCESS TO COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION IN 2015

In Nov. 2015, the MFDMO launched its partnership with Google to increase computer science education opportunities by promoting Computer Science First (CS First), a no-cost online-based curriculum that makes coding easy to teach and fun to learn. No coding experience is required to run a club, and most are run by teachers and/or community volunteers. CS First aims to increase accessibility to a discipline where proficiency is a highly marketable skill to current and future job prospects.

- Clubs are run by teachers and/or community volunteers
- No computer science experience necessary! Materials are targeted at students in grades 4–8 (ages 9–14)
- CS First materials are video based
- Program can be tailored to fit any schedule or need, including in-school or after-school programs, summer programs or virtual
- Student projects involve block-based coding and are themed to attract students with varied interests

MFDMO ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT



CS First Clubs
started:

1,286



Participating
schools or
organizations:

460



Students
reached:

16,737



MFDMO is the first state government stakeholder to spearhead a statewide campaign to promote Google's free "Computer Science First" curriculum to increase access to computer science education for Michigan's youth.



MFDMO hosts annual coding events with activities ranging from virtual, introductory coding lesson to meet & greets with tech professionals to help connect coding education with real-life applications to today's productions, services and opportunities.



MFDMO promotes "Computer Science Education Week" (Dec. 6-12, 2021) in Michigan, recognizing that computer science is a 21st-century skill listed among the **top 50 job growth areas in Michigan**.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS



MFDMO PIVOTS TO VIRTUAL EVENTS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- “Coding for Kids” Annual Event goes virtual
- MFDMO and Accelerate4KIDS Foundation partner in launch of Michigan Accelerates Computer Science (MACS) to collaborate and organize event
- Virtual event allows MACS to broaden reach and rebrand event from “Coding for Kids” to “Coding for Michigan” to be more inclusive



Unfortunately, the pandemic brought MFDMO plans to host an annual “Coding for Kids” in-person event for participating youth to a halt in 2020. As an alternative to the live event, MFDMO, in partnership with MACS, worked to plan a successful virtual event. This occurred again in 2021 with the virtual coding lesson taking place on Monday, December 6.

This year’s event was sponsored by Oakland Schools Education Foundation. Oakland County high school students were invited to join the online computer programming event aimed at helping Michigan achieve its goal to become a leader in computer science education and talent through supporting high-quality instruction. Participants had an opportunity to learn or relearn JavaScript

programming language through a free 30-minute session. The program was suitable for all ages, with the coding lesson itself designed at the middle school level and requiring basic computer skills. No prior coding experience was needed, participants simply needed the ability to use a computer with internet access.

Over 300 participants registered, but participation dropped on the day of event due to school closings in response to the shooting tragedy and loss of life that occurred at Oxford High School on November 30, 2021. Two additional makeup sessions were provided which resulted in over 100 student participants.



CODING 4 MICHIGAN ACTIVITY GUIDE

Date: Monday, Dec 6, 2021

Duration: 60 Minutes

Website: www.Bitsbox.com

Quick Instructions:

- Go to www.Bitsbox.com and click:
 - Kids Login
 - Get Started
 - Let's Go
 - New App
 - No (You don't have Bitsbox card)
 - Invent Your Own App
 - You should have a blank tablet
- Log in to your scheduled ZOOM event:
8:30AM, 9:30AM, or 12:45PM
- Type all lines of CODE like below
- CUSTOMIZE your app by typing in your Full Name in place of "New App"
- IMPORTANT - SUBMIT your app link in the chat box when instructed

Computer Science matters in all professions.
Do 30 Minute of Coding and you might like it.
No coding experience needed.

Zoom Webinars - check your registered time:

8:30 AM - www.tinyurl.com/MACSOSEF21A

9:30 AM - www.tinyurl.com/MACSOSEF21B

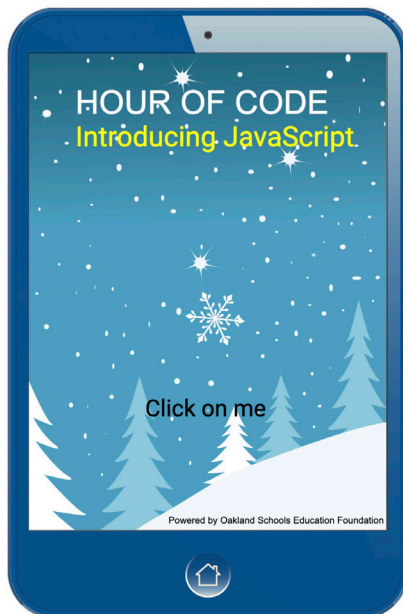
12:45 PM - www.tinyurl.com/MACSOSEF21C

Supported by:

Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson
Superintendent of Oakland Schools



The Code:



MI Accelerate CS

By Oakland Schools Education Foundation



```

1 i = 0
2 button = stamp('snow',400,570,300)
3 titlescreen()
4 function titlescreen(){
5   reset()
6   fill('snowynight')
7   song('love')
8   text('HOUR OF CODE',100,130,70,'white','arial')
9   text('Introducing JavaScript',100,200,60,'yellow')
10  text('Powered by Oakland Schools Education Foundation',300,1010,20,'black','arial')
11  button = stamp('snow',400,570,300)
12  button.tap = splash
13  click = text('Click on me',250,780,50,'black')
14 }
15
16 function tap() {
17   click.hide()
18   sound('splash')
19   delay(titlescreen,1000)
20 }
21
22 function loop()
23 {
24   i = i+.1
25   button.size(Math.abs(Math.sin(i)*100+200))
26   button.rotate(1,RIGHT)
27 }
```



MACS is a collaborative made up of public, private, education and community stakeholders to host this interactive, educational event with a **shared mission to raise awareness in Computer Science Education, Business & Workforce Opportunities in Michigan.**

MACS collaborators

The Michigan Film & Digital Media Office
Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Accelerate4KIDS™
AccelerateKID®
Michigan Department of Education
Oakland Schools Education Foundation

MACS Sponsors

Oakland Schools Education Foundation

