

**MICHIGAN FILM OFFICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**November 9, 2023**  
**Michigan Life Science & Innovation Center**  
**46701 Commerce Center Dr., Plymouth, MI 48170**  
**&**  
**Microsoft Teams Open Virtual Meeting**

**1. Call to Order/Welcome from the Chairman**

The meeting of the Michigan Film Office Advisory Council (MFOAC) was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chairman Bill Ludwig. The following Council members were in attendance: Bill Ludwig, Eric Kuiper, Brian Winn, Dori DePree, Rick Hert, and Selam Ghirmai.

Mr. Ludwig welcomed everyone and thanked the council members for their attendance.

**2. Adopt Agenda**

There was a motion to approve the Agenda, which was seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**3. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2023 meeting**

There was a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2023 MFOAC meeting; which was seconded; motion passed unanimously.

**4. Director's Report – Selam Ghirmai**

❖ **Legislative – Multimedia Jobs Act**

- [House Bill 4907](#) and [House Bill 4908](#), introduced in July by Representative Jason Hoskins and Representative John Roth
- [Senate Bill 438](#) and [Senate Bill 439](#), introduced in June by Senator Dayna Polehanki and Senator Jeremy Moss
- [Summary](#) of legislation by Michigan Film Industry Association

❖ **Industry News**

- Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) strikes continue, albeit tentative deal after about 4 months (since July 13)

❖ **MFDMO participating in [D-HACK 2023](#)**: a 12-hour hackathon for Detroit students to learn about computer science, marketing & entrepreneurship that will be held on Saturday, December 2.

- Lieutenant Governor Gilchrist will be keynoting and attending this year, at the request of MFDMO
- PLAY Media coverage: <https://www.wxyz.com/news/positively-detroit/dhack2023-returns-in-december-for-students-focusing-on-computer-science-marketing-and-entrepreneurship>
- MFDMO worked with event organizer, [Accelerate4KIDS](#), in previous years on computer science education events as it aligns with the “Digital Media” scope of the office.
- In 2020, we collaborated to launch our Guinness World Records attempt to hold the largest online coding lesson in 2020. We landed 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- Event scheduled to kick off [Computer Science Education Week](#) (December 4-10, 2023), which is an annual program dedicated to inspiring K-12 students to take interest in computer science. Code.org® organizes CSEdWeek as a campaign supported by 350 partners and 100,000 educators worldwide.
- Welcome Council members to promote this event and any connections to potential sponsors are appreciated

❖ **Tourism Industry Coalition of Michigan (TICOM)**

- The mission of TICOM is to strengthen Michigan's travel and tourism industry as a vital component of economic development and quality of life through governmental advocacy, public relations, collaboration, and other promotional and educational efforts.
- Film Office has been invited to speak at their December 1 meeting being held in Bath, Michigan
- I'll be providing an update on status of the office and prospects for collaboration

❖ **Future Advisory Council meeting dates for 2024**

- First meeting: tentatively March or April

**5. Public Comments**

- ❖ Council member Brian Winn asked how legislation, as proposed, will impact the office. What will be similar or different from previous iterations of the program. Director Ghirmai confirmed that Film Office is stated as the designated administrator of the program and outlined some of the similarities and differences.

**6. Old Business**

There were no items discussed under Old Business.

**7. New Business**

There were no items discussed under New Business.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, there was a motion to adjourn the meeting, that was seconded; motion passed unanimously.