

## PROPOSED MICHIGAN FILM OFFICE ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

November 18, 2025

Michigan Life Science & Innovation Center  
46701 Commerce Center Drive, 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 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Bill Ludwig. The following Council members were in attendance: Bill Ludwig, Dori DePree, Rick Hert, Dan Lemieux, Andriy Pereklita, Tim Pietryga, Selam Ghirmai.

### 2. Adopt Agenda

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

### 3. Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2025 meeting

There was a motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2025, MFOAC meeting; which was seconded; motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Director's Report / Presentation – Selam Ghirmai


#### a. **EVENT: From Short to Feature: How Multimedia Incentives Help Make Films Happen (October 2, 2025)**

- a. Michigan State University Professor of Practice, Rola Nashef draws on her 17 years of experience and knowledge of independent filmmaking to share her story about how creating a short film enabled her to produce and direct her debut award-winning feature, *Detroit Unleaded*, and how the film was made possible because of the previous Michigan film incentive.
- b. Location: Civic Theater, 33332 Grand River Ave, Farmington, MI 48332

#### b. **EVENT: Tinseltown Meets Motown (November 7, 2025)**

- a. Film Office invited to the National Lebanese American Chambers of Commerce event. Keynote speaker and guest of honor was John A. Kuri, a Lebanese-American filmmaker, screenwriter, director, producer, author who is also the son of two-time Oscar-winning set decorator, Emile Kuri.
- b. Location: The Embassy Hilton Hotel, 19525 Victor Parkway, Livonia, MI 48152

#### c. **RESOURCE: Carole Dorothy Joyce Grant for Student Filmmakers**

- a. Sponsored by nonprofit From the Heart Productions (501(c)3), this grant seeks student filmmakers who are creating unique, socially impactful films on a budget of \$50,000 or less.
  - i.  **Submission Deadline: November 30, 2025**
- b. **Learn More & Apply Here:** [Carole Dorothy Joyce Student Filmmaker Grant Details](#)
  - i. For any questions, please email [info@fromtheheartproductions.com](mailto:info@fromtheheartproductions.com) or call 805-984-0098.
- c. **Call to Action:** Please share with students in your network so they don't miss this incredible opportunity to gain funding, mentorship, and resources to help launch their filmmaking careers.

#### d. **EVENT: D-Hack 2025 (Saturday, December 6, 2025 9am-9pm)**

- a. Educational 12-hour hackathon for high school students to have immersive experience in AI, digital marketing & entrepreneurship.
- b. Location: Western International High School, 1500 Scotten Street, Detroit, MI 48209
- c. **Update:**
  - i. Volunteer judge – judges identified (task complete)
  - ii. Marketing workshop instructor – Film Office matched event organizer with 4 volunteers from Apple Developer Academy in Detroit (task complete)

**5. Michigan Film Office Advisory Council meetings**

- d. 2026 meeting dates are TBD

**6. Public Comments**

None

**7. Old Business**

There were no items discussed under Old Business.

**8. New Business**

There were no items discussed under New Business.

**9. Adjournment**

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