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For immediate release:

**MSP FILM SOCIETY
AWARDED AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF GRANTS
IN SUPPORT OF 2020 MSPIFF AND CINE LATINO FILM FESTIVAL**

January 16, 2020 — The **MSP Film Society** is pleased to share the impressive list of grants that have been awarded to our organization to support our programming in 2020, including the **Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF)**, which runs **April 9-25**, and the **Cine Latino Film Festival**, which runs **November 12-19, 2020**. These generous awards include:

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA): Art Works

This prestigious grant was awarded to the **MSP Film Society** in support of **MSPIFF's Spotlight Program**, a special selection of films and conversations highlighting the divisions and the unity apparent in the world's myriad populations. These fiction and documentary films serve not only to entertain, but to examine our differences, and in doing so highlight the many ways in which we are similar.

"For 39 years, the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival has helped to cultivate this region's appreciation of international cinema, delivering audiences to remote and renowned locations around the globe, building bridges between cultures, geographies, people, and communities," said **Susan Smoluchowski, Executive Director of the MSP Film Society, MSPIFF's non-profit parent organization**. "We're thrilled to, once again, have the support of the NEA to continue these efforts through **MSPIFF's Spotlight Program** at our upcoming festival, **April 9-25, 2020**."

MSPIFF's Spotlight Program is supported in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts**. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.

Ascend Grant

Awarded to the participants of the **Array Ascend Summit**, the invitation-only retreat hosted by **Ava DuVernay** and her **ARRAY Collective**, which is dedicated to the amplification of images by people of color and women directors. **Cine Latino's Artistic Director Hebe Tabachnik** was an esteemed participant at the inaugural **Array Ascend Summit** last fall and received this award in support of the **MSP Film Society's Cine Latino Film Festival**, which will take place **Nov 12 - 19, 2020**.



St. Paul Cultural STAR Grant

MSP Film Society is delighted to announce the expansion of **MSPIFF** in **2020** by adding the **Landmark Center in Downtown St. Paul** as a festival venue. This expansion is made possible through the support of the **St. Paul Cultural STAR Program**, which was created to promote economic growth in St. Paul by strengthening the arts and cultural sector and by supporting Downtown as a vital cultural center.

Minnesota State Arts Board's 2020 Operating Support Grant

MSAB's Operating Support Grant provides general operating support to high quality, established arts organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art. This support allows the MSP Film Society to continue its year-round programming and outreach, and is made possible by the citizens of Minnesota through appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature through the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Minnesota State Arts Board Arts Access Grant

MSAB's Arts Access is a program designed to encourage strategic, long-term engagement between arts organizations and traditionally underserved communities. This grant was awarded to the **MSP Film Society** in support of our **2020 Cine Latino Film Festival**, a remarkable program of Spanish-language cinema that reflects the rich cultures of the growing Spanish-speaking populations in our state. This activity is made possible by the citizens of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Best Buy Community Grant

Best Buy Foundation continues their generous support of the **Nextwave Youth Initiative** during **MSPIFF 2020**. **Nextwave** is the **MSP Film Society's** youth education initiative dedicated to engaging the next generation of filmmakers, critics, and film aficionados. Championing youth-made media as well as international cinema made for young audiences, **Nextwave** is a platform for young people to develop their appreciation for the art and craft of filmmaking, to practice critical literacy skills, and to add their voices to the global conversation.

U.S Bank Wealth Management

MSPIFF 2020's Opening Night will once again be sponsored by U.S. Bank Wealth Management. MSPIFF Opening Night festivities include a Premiere Screening followed by the Opening Night Party to celebrate the films, filmmakers, and special guests of MSPIFF, the largest and longest-running film festival in the upper Midwest. Now in its 39th year, MSPIFF showcases over 250 dynamic narrative films, engaging documentaries, and innovative shorts by both emerging and veteran filmmakers hailing from 70+ countries around the world.

The **MSP Film Society** is a dynamic 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to fostering a knowledgeable and vibrant appreciation of the art of film and its power to inform and transform individuals and communities.

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