



Media Release

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Announcing \$525,000 Support To Minnesota Filmmakers Through Arts Legacy Program

Andy Awes, Patrick Coyle, and William Eigen Selected for Reimbursement Funds

Minnesota filmmakers Andy Awes, Patrick Coyle, and William Eigen have been selected to receive reimbursement from the new film production reimbursement program funded with Arts and Cultural Heritage Funds from Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage (LACH) Production Reimbursement Program, established by Minnesota Film and TV and Independent Filmmaker Project Minnesota, is designed to support professional, mid-career filmmakers' feature length narrative or long form documentary projects that align with Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage goals. Eligible projects are those close to the production stage, but have not yet started filming.

Reviewers represented film and television professionals, educators, and members of arts organizations from Minnesota. An initial review panel focused on the applicants' alignment with Legacy principles and the second focused on work samples, budget, feasibility and marketing/distribution plans. Panelists were Jeff Forester, Tom Hoch, Susan Marks, Robb Mitchell, Beth Schoeppler and Jason Wallace (Round 1); Hafed Bouassida, Bill Cooper, Kirk Hokanson, Anne Kaplan, Mary Rockcastle and Norah Shapiro (Round 2).

Each selected project will be reimbursed for eligible production expenses at the maximum of funds available: \$175,000 for narrative features.

Andy Awes, narrative feature, *Lawnmower Mafia*

Synopsis: Enter Thomas, a ten-year-old Minneapolis "nordeaster." Thomas sees green in the rolling green lawns of his neighborhood and figures it's turf worth protecting. He enlists his big brother's friends and organizes the *Lawnmower Mafia*. What is this enterprising little gang of kids' formula for success? It's 90% hustle and hard work and 10% intimidation. Sabotage and threats definitely keep their competition away. However, the kids rethink their tactics when they run afoul of grownup bad guys with mob connections and learn crime doesn't pay.

Patrick Coyle, narrative feature, *The Public Domain*

Synopsis: Four fictional characters are trying to get home in one way or another when their lives are forever altered due to the I-35W bridge collapse. One fateful night five years later these same individuals are drawn to *The Public Domain*, a bar that has lived in the shadow of the bridge for decades. That night is the feast of St. Casimir, the Patron Saint of Poland, and the biggest party of the year at this NE neighborhood dive where desire, guilt, ambition and fear are served up with pierogi, Polish vodka and, hopefully, a modicum of redemption.

William Eigen, narrative feature, *The Jingle Dress*

Synopsis: At its heart *The Jingle Dress* is an immigrant story. An Ojibwe family moves from the White Earth Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota to the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. We follow the Red Elk family as they discover a new culture and through their experiences and unvarnished perspective we are able to view our own Minnesota culture with fresh eyes, as well as gain insight into an ancient, indigenous society.

Noted Minnesota filmmaker Craig Laurence Rice is the Program Administrator. More information on the program can be found at <http://www.mnfilmtv.org/incentives/legacy-grants/> and www.ifpmn.org/LACH2012.

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