



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Convention and Visitors Bureau

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: February 16, 2026

Re: Resolution Authorizing a tourism development sponsorship agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2026 True/False Film Fest.

Impacted Ward: Citywide

Executive Summary

This resolution would authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the use of \$20,000 in Tourism Development funds for the 2026 True/False Film Fest.

Discussion

The Ragtag Film Society presented a Tourism Development Signature Series application to the Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) Advisory Board on January 26, 2026 requesting \$20,000 in Tourism Development funds for the 2026 True/False Film Fest.

The True/False Film Fest will take place in downtown Columbia March 6-9, 2026. The four-day fest will feature approximately 116 screenings of 33 full-length documentaries and 21 short film films with an estimated attendance of over 10,000. It will host over 150 local, national and international filmmakers, artist and musicians.

True/False Film Fest is one of the signature Series events of Columbia. The fest brings in thousands of visitors every year and has a positive impact on the image of the city a tourism destination. For the past 23 years the fest has expanded its artistic focus and gained a positive international reputation as a place for people to connect and enjoy the hospitality and creative spirit of our city.

The Convention & Visitors Bureau Advisory Board discussed the application and voted to recommend \$20,000 in Tourism Development funds to assist with travel related expenses of filmmakers, advertising & promotions, printed materials and support of art installations & interactive exhibits that enhance the visitor experience.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$20,000

Long-Term Impact: n/a

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Economic Development, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
January 2025	R225 – 24: Authorizing a Tourism Development Sponsorship Agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2025 True/False Film Fest.
January 2024	R41-24: Authorizing a Tourism Development Sponsorship Agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2024 True/False Film Fest.
February 2023	R124-23: Authorizing a Tourism Development Sponsorship Agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2023 True/False Film Fest.
February 2022	R18-22: Authorizing a Tourism Development Sponsorship Agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2022 True/False Film Fest.
February 2021	R26-21: Authorizing a Tourism Development Sponsorship Agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2021 True/False Film Fest.

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the legislation.