

Department Source: Convention and Visitors Bureau

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 20, 2026

Re: Authorizing a Special Event Operations Agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2026 True False Film Fest.

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

Executive Summary

The Ragtag Film Society has submitted a special events application for the 2026 True/False Film Fest, March 5 through March 9, 2026 in downtown Columbia. This resolution authorizes the Operations Agreement pursuant to Section 24-73(b) of the City Code.

Discussion

The City Special Events Committee has reviewed the Special Event Application for the 2026 True/False Film Fest and worked closely with Ragtag Film Society to address all aspects of the event. Staff has reviewed the festival layout, street closure map, temporary art installations, public safety plan, solid waste plan and insurance requirements. Because of the size and scope of the True/False Film Fest and because it requires a street closure, includes a parade and requires city services and equipment, an operations agreement must be executed and approved by the City Council, per Section 24-73(b) of the City Code.

The Special Events Committee will continue to work with the festival organizers prior to the start of the event, including a walk-through inspection with the public safety team to ensure all aspects of the Operations Agreement are met and approved by appropriate city staff.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: n/a

Long-Term Impact: n/a

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Resilient Economy, Secondary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
02/03/2025	R16-25 Authorizing a special event operations agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the True/False Film Fest.
01/16/2024	R8-24 Authorizing an operations agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2024 True/False Film Fest.
02/06/2023	R15-23 Authorizing an operations agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2023 True/False Film Fest.
02/26/2022	R81-22 – Authorizing an operations agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2022 True/False Film Fest.
03/17/2021	R51-21 Authorizing an operations agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2021 True/False Film Fest.
01/21/2020	R10-20 Authorizing an operations agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2020 True/False Film Fest.
01/22/2019	R9-19 Authorizing an operations agreement with Ragtag Film Society for the 2019 True/False Film Fest.

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the legislation and execution of the operations agreement.