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8th SAN FRANCISCO GREEN FILM FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 6-13, 2018

A bold and fearless voice for our planet.

● Green Film Fest returns for 8th year with a week of new environmental films, discussions, and special events that spark green ideas and connections.
● Aligning with partner organizations across the city to celebrate the Global Climate Action Summit, (Sept 12-14), bringing leaders from around the world to San Francisco to support the Paris Climate Agreement.
● Earth. Water. Fire. Air. This year the conversation is elemental. #ItsElemental

SAN FRANCISCO, August 2, 2018 – San Francisco Green Film Festival, the West Coast’s leading environmental cinema showcase, announces the full line-up of films for its eighth edition, which returns September 6 – 13, 2018. The Festival returns in 2018 with a multitude of exciting new collaborations, both local and international.

This year’s lineup includes 60 new international films from 20 countries including China, South Africa, Lebanon, Italy, and Brazil - 10 of which are USA premieres, bringing these international films to American audiences for the very first time. The program features global stories from the environmental frontlines, from women, youth, and indigenous people - including 10 directorial feature debuts. This year’s festival is very proud to announce that 69% of feature films in the 2018 program have female directors (%58 including film shorts). The Green Film Festival is more than just movies, it’s a movement - we are pleased to be involved with over 70 non-profit partners to connect audiences to campaigns and causes.
The Festival has moved to the Fall to be an official Affiliate Event of the [Global Climate Action Summit](#), (Sept 12-14), aligning with this hub of crucial environmental discussion. Green Film Fest will present environmental films throughout the Summit, reaching the eyes and ears of people and legislators with the influence to enact global change, spur new environmental commitments, and galvanize action.

“Green Film Fest is excited to return for our eighth year as part of this pivotal moment, when leaders from around the world will come to San Francisco to support the Paris Climate Agreement” says SFGFF’s Founder & CEO, Rachel Caplan. “With the planet heating up, environmental protections at risk, and political forces in flux, Green Film Fest 2018 is elemental in bringing environmental film directly to audiences and local and international leaders with the power to propel climate action forward and catalyze change.”

**2018 FESTIVAL THEME**
This year’s *Elemental* theme sparks conversations around the four elements - earth, water, fire, and air - and how they create multifaceted perspectives on climate issues. As we push on the elements, they push back harder at us, and we see that people are banding together with the knowledge that change isn’t just necessary - *It’s Elemental.*

**SPECIAL COLLABORATIONS**
- **Global Climate Action Summit** *(Sept 12-14)*
  Green Film Fest is an official Affiliate Event of the Summit, bringing the heart of the conversation on environmental film directly to local and international leaders with the power to propel climate action forward and catalyze change.
- **COAL + ICE** *(Sept 4-23)*
  Green Film Fest is pleased to be collaborating with Asia Society’s COAL + ICE, a documentary photography and video exhibition and festival focusing on climate change and fossil fuels. The work of over 40 photographers from around the world will be featured alongside a myriad of artistic and cultural events, with environmental films programmed by the Green Film Fest Sept 7-9 at the beautiful Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center.
- **Rise for Climate March** *(Sept 8)*
  The Rise for Climate is a worldwide march for climate, jobs, and justice that will take over cities worldwide on Saturday, September 8, 2018. As an official participating group, the Green Film Fest will feature a showcase of Native American programs – with screenings, special guests, discussions, music and ceremony – after the march for the thousands of San Franciscans expected to attend.
- **Reel Science Challenge** *(Aug 25-Sept 12)*
  The Reel Science Challenge pairs filmmakers with climate scientists in creative teams tasked with making a movie. They then have a limited time to write, direct, and edit a movie that compellingly tells the story of climate change before presenting the films at Green Film Fest. The Matchmaker kick-off event is August 25 at Exploratorium, where teams will meet for the first time and scientists will present their research.
- **Bay Area Now 8** *(opens Sept 7)*
  Green Film Fest is partnered with Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) to feature compelling environmental films during the Global Climate Action Summit. This includes
special programs on Sept 13 as part of Bay Area Now 8, the signature triennial exhibition presented by YBCA that showcases the work of diverse and innovative local artists.

- The Festival will continue an extra day, Friday, Sept 14, in alignment with the Global Climate Action Summit. Festival closing night is on September 13 at the Castro Theatre, but we will be returning for special extra day of screenings at YBCA for the final day of the Global Climate Action Summit.

BIG NIGHTS

OPENING NIGHT FILM & VIP RECEPTION

INTO THE OKAVANGO
- Castro Theatre, Thursday, September 6, 7:30pm
- Directed by Neil Gelinas (USA)
- San Francisco Premiere
- Expected Guests: Director Neil Gelinas

Botswana’s Okavango Delta, a 22,000sq kilometer maze of wetlands in the middle of the Kalahari Desert, is one of the last untouched refuges for wildlife on the planet. But its freshwater arteries - which provide water to over one million people – are under dire threat.

Follow conservation biologist Steve Boyes and a team of international scientists, photographers, filmmakers, and African guides on an epic four-month journey down the Delta’s source rivers to track the causes of threats to this vital river basin — from Angola through Namibia and finally emptying into the Delta in Botswana. Neil Gelinas creates a stunningly photographed tale of passion and conservation.

Preceded by the Opening Night Reception on the Castro Mezzanine

CLOSING NIGHT FILM & WRAP PARTY

THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE
- Castro Theatre, Thursday, September 13, 7:30pm
- First Feature film from directors by Sophie and Clément Guerra (Germany/USA/Ecuador/Canada/Peru)
- Sneak Preview
- Expected Guests: Directors Sophie and Clément Guerra; film’s subjects Casey Camp-Horinek, Yudith Nieto, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, and Bryan Parras.

Four Indigenous leaders embark on an extraordinary trans-continental adventure from the Canadian plains to deep into the heart of the Amazonian jungle to unite the peoples of North and South America and deepen the meaning of "Climate Justice". This film documents the stories of these four well-known Native environmental spokespeople who are at the forefront of a perspective shift in the identity of their people, from forgotten voices to strong shared communities with the power to bring change to the entire world. Their path through the jungle takes them on an unexpectedly challenging and liberating journey, which will forever change their attachment to the Earth and one another.

The Closing Night Wrap Party follows on the Castro Theatre Mezzanine.
THEME HIGHLIGHTS: IT’S ELEMENTAL

ANOTE’S ARK (Matthieu Rytz, Canada) – San Francisco Premiere – The remote Pacific Island of Kiribati has almost no environmental footprint yet faces imminent annihilation from sea level rise. President Anote Tong races to find a way to protect his nation’s people from one of the biggest existential challenges facing humanity. Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize, World Cinema – Documentary at Sundance 2018.

- 2018 Best Feature Award
- Expected Guests: Director Matthieu Rytz
- Accompanying photography exhibit in the lobby at Cowell Theater, Sept 7-9

THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE - under Big Nights

THE HUMAN ELEMENT (Matthew Testa, USA/Iceland) – Renowned photographer James Balog (CHASING ICE) reveals how environmental change is affecting the lives of everyday Americans by framing his journey around the four classical elements— air, earth, fire and water. THE HUMAN ELEMENT tells a compassionate and urgent story while giving inspiration for a more balanced relationship between humanity and nature.

- Expected guest: film’s subject James Balog

INTO THE OKAVANGO - under Big Nights

WILDER THAN WILD (Kevin White and Stephen Most, USA–SF Bay Area) – San Francisco Premiere – Bay Area filmmakers take us on a journey from the Rim Fire of 2013 to the Wine Country wildfires of 2017, revealing how fire suppression and climate change have exposed our forests and wildland-urban landscapes to large, high-severity wildfires, and exploring strategies to mitigate future disasters.

- Expected guests: Directors Stephen Most and Kevin White; film’s subject Elizabeth Azzuz of the Yurok Tribe; film’s subject Kelly Martin, Chief of Fire & Aviation Management, Yosemite National Park; additional subjects from the film.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

COMPLICIT (Heather White and Lynn Zhang, China) – Yi Yeting, a Chinese migrant factory worker, is struggling to survive occupational leukemia and helping others poisoned by assembling smartphones. He brings his fight against benzene from his hospital room to Silicon Valley and the international stage. Against huge odds, Yi confronts corporate and government interests, while empowering and inspiring the people around him.

- Expected Guest: Director Heather White

DIRT RICH (Marcy Cravat, USA–SF Bay Area) – San Francisco Premiere – Marcy Cravat (ANGEL AZUL) illustrates how implementing carbon ‘draw down’ strategies will return our atmosphere to safe levels of carbon while growing soil, our most precious resource. These regenerative agricultural practices, reforestation of abandoned land, protection/restoration of carbon rich wetlands and keystone species are viable solutions for reversing the effects of runaway global warming.

- Expected guests: Director Marcy Cravat; subjects from the film
**INVENTING TOMORROW** (Laura Nix, USA) – Meet passionate teenage innovators from around the globe who are creating cutting-edge solutions to confront the world’s environmental threats – found right in their own backyards – while navigating the doubts and insecurities that mark adolescence. Take a journey with these inspiring teens as they prepare their projects for the largest convening of high school scientists in the world, the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

**PUSHING CHANGE: SHORTS FROM CHINA’S ENVIRONMENTAL EDGE** – Buddhism uplifts a Chinese reporter tracking environmental crises; an American photographer documents panda habitat conservationists; a bird’s arrival in Taiwan showcases dislocation by ecosystem destruction; humans move to follow clean water in North China; and a famous filmmaker looks at China’s pollution-plagued cities.

- Showcase of Chinese documentary shorts: SEARCHING FOR SACRED MOUNTAIN · Shi Lihong & Gary Marcuse | GUANBA: LAND OF THE PANDA TRIBE · Kyle Obermann | FAR AWAY FROM HOME · Liu Yan-ming | DRINKING THE NORTHWEST WIND · Sharron Lovell · Tom Wang · Christina Larson | SMOG JOURNEYS · Jia Zhangke
- Expected Guests: Directors Shi Lihong and Gary Marcuse

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

**THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE** - under Big Nights

**NAIL HOUSE** (Soumyaa Kapil Behrens, USA–SF Bay Area) – Sneak Preview – A film about gentrification, poverty, and the politics of San Francisco. Nail House tells the story how the fight over a tiny corner of local land became a mirror for grassroots protests around the world, and an illustration of the fight to preserve the spirit of public property.

- Expected guests: Director Soumyaa Kapil Behrens; subjects from the film.

**PATRIMONIO** (Lisa F. Jackson and Sarah Teale, USA) – San Francisco Premiere – A multi-billion-dollar American development is poised to engulf a small coastal community in Baja California Sur with a mega hotel/condo complex. But local people are banding together to save their way of life and the delicate ecosystem on which they all depend.

- Expected guests: Director Lisa F. Jackson; subjects from the film.

**SILAS** (Anjali Nayar and Hawa Essuman, Canada/South Africa/Kenya) – San Francisco Premiere – Liberian activist Silas Siakor is a tireless crusader against illegal logging and corruption. SILAS depicts a new generation of resistance, warns of the power of politics, features the role of technology in our rapidly-changing world, and highlights the impact one person can make to change the system from the ground up.

- Expected guests: Director Eliza Capai

**THE TORTOISE AND THE TAPIR** (Eliza Capai, Brazil) – USA Premiere – Haunted by images of empty water reservoirs in the Brazilian southwest, Eliza Capai tries to understand the gigantic constructions being built in the middle of Amazon forest, including the imposing Bel Monte dam. Upstream, she finds a spirited victory against hydro dam projects in neighboring Peru led by Goldman Environmental Prize Winner Ruth Buendía.

- Expected guests: Director Eliza Capai
**WARRIOR WOMEN** (Elizabeth A. Castle and Christina D. King, USA) – California Premiere – Famed Indigenous activist Madonna Thunder Hawk and her daughter Marcella are highlighted in this uplifting documentary about an indomitable spirit undeterred by age or government apathy. From the rise of the American Indian Movement (AIM) to the Wounded Knee incident of 1973, and most recently the North Dakota Access Pipeline protest, WARRIOR WOMEN rekindles the memories and long-standing legacy of the Red Power movement’s matriarchs.

- **Expected guests:** Directors Elizabeth Castle and Christina King; film’s subjects Marcella Gilbert and Madonna Thunder Hawk

**WATER WARRIORS** (Michael Premo, USA) – Water Warriors is the story of a community’s successful fight – including members of the Mi’kmaq Elsipogtog First Nation, French-speaking Acadians, and English-speaking families – to protect their water from the oil and natural gas industry.

- **2018 Green Film Network Short Award**
- **Expected Guest:** Director Michael Premo

**YOUTH V GOV** (Christi Cooper, USA) – Work-in-Progress – A special preview screening and youth activist workshop. An intimate look at a group of youth plaintiffs, ages 10–21, as they embark on the groundbreaking—and possibly most important—climate change litigation of the 21st century. The fight to secure their legal right to a healthy atmosphere and a stable climate for not only their generation, but for generations to come.

- **Free Schools Program for Grades 5-12**
- **Expected guests:** Director Christi Cooper; film’s subjects/youth plaintiffs; Bay Area youth leaders.

**YOUTH UNSTOPPABLE: THE RISE OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE YOUTH MOVEMENT** (Slater Jewell-Kemker, Canada) – California Premiere – 2018 Young Filmmaker Award – Slater was just 15 years old when she started questioning her local politicians about their inability to pass laws to protect the environment. She soon took it upon herself to document their eco efforts and growing movement on camera, traveling around the globe on the front lines of climate change.

- **2018 Young Filmmaker Award**
- **Expected guests:** Director Slater Jewell-Kemker; Producer Wendy Jewell

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: CLEAN ENERGY**

**CURRENT REVOLUTION** (Roger Sorkin, USA) – World Festival Premiere – From substations to gas stations, boardrooms to military bases -- this film tells the story of America’s energy industry on the brink of massive change. Whether it fails, prevails or adapts, the outcome will profoundly affect us all. This is the first in a series of new films about the future of the grid from American Resilience Project, producers of Green Film Fest 2017 award-winner Tidewater.

- **Expected guests:** Director Roger Sorkin; Producer Nate Birnbaum (SF Bay Area)

**DECODING THE WEATHER MACHINE WITH PBS/NOVA** – Disastrous hurricanes. Widespread droughts and wildfires. Withering heat. Extreme rainfall. It is hard not to conclude that something’s up with the weather, and many scientists agree. It’s the result of the weather machine itself—our climate—changing, becoming hotter and more erratic. Join producers of
NOVA and leading climate scientists to see clips from this 2-hour PBS special and discuss how Earth’s climate system is changing.

- Expected guests: NOVA writer-producer Doug Hamilton, with climate scientists

**HAPPENING: A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION** (James Redford (USA–SF Bay Area)—Educational Premiere – Filmmaker James Redford embarks on a colorful personal journey into the dawn of the clean energy era as it creates jobs, turns profits, and makes communities stronger and healthier across the US. Pioneering clean energy solutions are revealed, from Georgetown, TX to Buffalo, NY, to Folsom, CA.

- Expected Guests: Director James Redford; Producer Jill Tidman

**POINT OF NO RETURN** (Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly, USA–SF Bay Area) Point of No Return takes you behind the headlines of the first solar-powered flight around the world—where two courageous pilots take turns battling nature, their own crew, and sometimes logic itself, to achieve the impossible. Not just to make history, but to inspire a revolution.

- Expected guests: Directors Noel Dockstader and Quinn Kanaly; film’s subject and pilot, Bertrand Piccard

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: THE WILD**

**DUSK CHORUS - based on ‘Fragments of Extinction’** (Nika Šaravanja, Alessandro D'Emilia, David Monacchi, Italy) – California Premiere – Follow David Monacchi - a high-tech explorer and eco-acoustic composer - in his quest through the Amazonian forests of Ecuador to record pure 24-hour continuous 3D soundscapes in the place with the highest biodiversity on the planet. The film offers a unique listening experience of the vanishing sonic heritage of millions of years of evolution.

- Expected guest: film’s subject and writer David Monacchi

**GENESIS 2.0** (Christian Frei and Max Arbugaev, Switzerland) – California Premiere – On the remote New Siberian Islands in the Arctic Ocean, hunters are searching for the tusks of extinct mammoths. Thawing permafrost releases an intact mammoth carcass in addition to the precious ivory, which sets genetic scientists on a controversial quest to clone a living mammoth. Winner of the World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Cinematography at Sundance 2018.

- 2018 Green Film Network Feature Award
- Expected guest: Director Christian Frei

**THE GUARDIANS** (Tessa Moran and Ben Crosbie, USA) – San Francisco Premiere – A visually dazzling meditation on the delicate balance between human and nature, The Guardians elegantly interweaves the lives of the iconic Monarch butterfly with an indigenous community in Mexico. Both depend on the same ancient forest for their survival and now face an uncertain future.

- Expected guests: Directors Tessa Moran and Ben Crosbie

**SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY** (Eliana Alvarez Martinez, USA) – San Francisco Premiere – Walter Munk’s brilliant scientific “failures” and pursuit of daring exploration have changed the way we understand our Blue Planet and literally helped save western civilization. His work in
oceanography pioneered our modern understanding of tides, ocean circulation, and surf forecasting. Now, at age 96, Walter is on a mission to research the unique flying Devil Rays that bear his name.

- Expected Guest: Eliana Alvarez Martinez

**STROOP - JOURNEY INTO THE RHINO HORN WAR** (Susan Scott, South Africa) – USA Premiere – In Africa and Asia, two filmmakers embed themselves on the front-lines of a species genocide when they are given exclusive access to the enforcement aspect of the war for rhino horn. From rangers, pilots and K9 units patrolling national parks to elite police units raiding wildlife trafficking dens... they find themselves in some hair-raising situations.

- 2018 Green Tenacity Award
- Expected guests: Director Susan Scott; Producer/Journalist Bonné de Bod

**SYMPOPANY FOR NATURE** (Anne Flatté, USA–SF Bay Area) – California Festival Premiere – The behind-the-scenes story of how classical musicians joined with indigenous drummers for a stunning performance of Natural History, a new composition by Michael Gordon inspired by Oregon’s breathtaking Crater Lake. Featuring the Britt Orchestra and the Klamath Tribe drum group Steiger Butte Singers, in a dynamic interaction between this extraordinary musical experience and the spectacular setting.

- Expected guests: Director Anne Flatté
- Special live performance by the Steiger Butte singers & drummers

**TAWAI: A VOICE FROM THE FOREST** (Bruce Parry, UK/Brazil/India/Malaysia) – USA Premiere – “Tawai” is the word the nomadic hunter-gatherers of Borneo use to describe their inner feeling of connection to nature. In this dreamy, philosophical and sociological look at life, explorer Bruce Parry travels the world to learn from peoples living lives very differently to our own.

- Expected guest: Director & film’s subject Bruce Parry.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: HEALTHY FOOD SYSTEMS**

**DIRT RICH** - under Environmental Health

**FOOD COOP** (Tom Boothe, France) – USA Premiere – The Park Slope Food Coop, a food cooperative in the heart of Brooklyn with 16,000 members, challenges both traditional capitalism and the basis of food production and distribution systems. The film has spawned a movement in France, including the opening of La Louve Coop in Paris last year.

- 2018 Inspiring Lives Award
- Expected guest: Director and founder of La Louve Coop in Paris Tom Boothe

**THE HARVEST (IL RACCOLTO)** (Andrea Paco Mariani, Italy) – USA Premiere – Italy is renowned the world over for its excellent food. Yet thousands of foreign workers support the country’s agri-food production. This bold docu-musical shows the daily exploitation of Sikh field workers, combining documentary with traditional Punjabi choreography to illustrate the exploitation of Indian workers in the Italian fields.

- Expected guests: Director Andrea Paco Mariani
- Dance party with Non Stop Bhangra follows the screening
**WASTED! THE STORY OF FOOD WASTE** (Nari Kye and Anna Chai, USA) – A film to change the way we buy, cook, recycle, and eat food. Chef-heroes Anthony Bourdain (the film’s executive producer), Dan Barber, Mario Batali, Massimo Bottura, and Danny Bowien, make the most of every kind of food, transforming what most people consider scraps into incredible dishes that create a more secure food system.

**WILD RELATIVES** (Jumana Manna, Lebanon/Norway/Germany) – California Premiere – Wild Relatives is a profound meditation on resilience in an era defined by displacement, climate change, and war, documenting the complex pathway of seed distribution between Lebanon’s Beqaa Valley and the Global Seed Vault deep inside Norway’s Svalbard archipelago. Environmental Award Winner at Sheffield Doc/Fest 2018.

**FESTIVAL AWARDS**

SFGFF is pleased to announce the following 2018 Green Film Fest Awards.

- **Best Feature**: ANOTE’S ARK, Matthieu Rytz, Canada
- **Best Short**: THE INVISIBLE BLANKET, Pasha Reshikov, USA
- **Green Tenacity**: STROOP, Susan Scott, South Africa
- **Inspiring Lives**: FOOD COOP, Tom Boothe, France
- **Young Filmmaker**: YOUTH UNSTOPPABLE, Slater Jewell-Kemker, Canada

**GREEN FIRE AWARD**

A juried annual award for Best San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Feature. The award recognizes the best of independent filmmaking in the SF Bay Area by honoring innovative storytelling and new perspectives on environmental topics.

**SAN FRANCISCO FILM CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD**

For the first time, the SF Film Critics Circle – a group of Greater Bay Area reviewers and film writers – will present an award at this year’s festival. The committee will bestow the honor on the work of a first-time filmmaker.

**GREEN FILM NETWORK AWARDS**

SF Green Film Festival is honored to host the 5th Annual International Green Film Network Awards - the first time that this annual ceremony will take place in the USA. This is a celebration of the world’s top environmental films as recognized by the Green Film Network (GFN) to promote environmental films worldwide and encourage initiatives that raise awareness of environmental issues. GFN is an association of the world's leading environmental film festivals to support the diversity and strength of documentary work around the globe, and is partnered with the United Nations Environment Program.

This year, the Network presents two awards, best Feature and best Short for the best environmental documentaries of the year. Nominated by the 40 worldwide member festivals and decided by a global jury.

- **GFN Feature Award**: GENESIS 2.0, Christian Frei and Max Arbugaev, Switzerland
- **GFN Short Award**: WATER WARRIORS, Michael Premo, USA
SPONSORS & PARTNERS
Green Film Fest 2018 is proud and honored to have exceptional support from Premier Sponsor Kaiser Permanente and Grand Sponsor Wells Fargo. Lead sponsors include the Consulate General of Canada in San Francisco, Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco, and the Argonaut Hotel. 2018 Partners include the Global Climate Action Summit, Asia Society’s COAL + ICE, YBCA, United Nations Environment Programme, and Green Film Network. A full list of our 2018 sponsors and partners is at greenfilmfest.org/thanks.

2018 FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE

Event: 8th Annual San Francisco Green Film Festival

Dates: Thursday, September 6 thru Friday, September 14, 2018

Number of Films Forecast: 60 films in 9 days

Number of Guest Speakers/Filmmakers Forecast: 100+ guest speakers including filmmakers, activists, environmental experts, and global partners.

Venues: Venues across San Francisco including Opening & Closing Nights at the Castro Theatre, with additional screenings at Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA), Kanbar Forum at Exploratorium, and Koret Auditorium at SF Public Library-Main Branch.

Tickets: $15 per screening ($13 Members) or $200 for a full pass to the Festival’s week of films, panels, and social events. All screenings are free to anyone aged 18-and-under or with valid student I.D.

Website: greenfilmfest.org

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Social Media: @GreenFilmFest #greenfilm #itselemental

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ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO GREEN FILM FESTIVAL
Launched in 2011, the San Francisco Green Film Festival is the West Coast’s leading event for films & discussions about people and the planet. SF Green Film Festival is dedicated to screening compelling environmental films; connecting audiences to filmmakers and experts; and sparking green ideas & actions. Our signature program is the annual Green Film Fest and we also screen films and support filmmakers throughout the year.