

Official Statement from Salt Lake Film Society on Utah's Independent Film Future

Utah has long been a cornerstone of independent film—its breathtaking landscapes, robust nonprofit film organizations, deep production resources, and a century-long legacy of iconic films make it a powerhouse in the industry. From its stunning scenery to its strong infrastructure of nonprofit film organizations, skilled crews, extensive production resources, and even the potential of a new film studio by Kevin Costner, Utah continues to stand as a premier destination for filmmakers.

While Sundance's decision may be disappointing to some, it does not change the fact that Utah remains home to one of the most passionate and engaged moviegoing communities in the nation. Salt Lake Film Society (Broadway Centre Cinemas and Historic Tower Theatre), along with Utah's strong mid-sized cinema exhibitors and innovative nonprofit film organizations, continues to shape the national independent film scene. Utah thrives as a leader in film exhibition, preservation, and artistic innovation.

Salt Lake City, in particular, will remain a vibrant hub for cinema with Salt Lake Film Society's annual film festivals, including Filmexico, Masima: Pacific Island Film Festival, Unstoppable: Differently Abled Film Festival, and Czech That Film. The state will continue to champion film culture, supporting historic venues like the 1928 Tower Theatre, currently undergoing a renovation to become an environmentally responsible cultural hub dedicated exclusively to film.

For those donors who once supported Sundance, there are many meaningful ways to continue investing in Utah's film future. Organizations like Salt Lake Film Society, Utah Film Commission, Utah Film Center, and SpyHop Productions provide powerful platforms for independent voices, historic cinema preservation, accessibility advocacy, and environmental sustainability in film.

Salt Lake Film Society will continue to operate 365 days a year at Broadway Centre Cinema and Tower Theatre to fuel dreams, spark community, and ignite conscience through film. Visit or support us at SLFStix.org.