**Short Film Festival Details**

**GOAL and OBJECTIVES**

Now in its second year, the Faces of Hunger Film Festival (FOHFF) is Palms for Life’s awareness event devoted exclusively to the exploration and documentation of food insecurity issues in the United States of America through film. FOHFF aims to:

• Advance and encourage debate and awareness of food insecurity issues amongst the broader American community through creative media.

• Showcase and support filmmakers who are concerned with food insecurity issues.

• Promote works by American filmmakers.

• Create a robust, diverse and more cohesive conversation around food insecurity, food quality, and food waste in America.

**ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

Founded in 2010, the Faces of Hunger Film Festival (FOHFF) aims to foster, initiate and encourage conversation around food insecurity in America, one of the world’s wealthiest nations.

FOHFF is an annual, online film festival whereby submitted films are voted on by a panel of judges who are food experts, professional filmmakers, and esteemed people in the food/hospitality business. The winning film is awarded a grand prize of $5,000. Awards are also given to best director, best cinematographer, best screenplay, best film shot on a mobile phone, best animated short, best documentary and best actor.

Palms for Life Fund, a NYC based non-profit organization works globally to provide access to food, water, education, and sanitation. In the US, Palms for Life raises awareness about food insecurity affecting millions of American families. Palms for Life strongly believes that in a country of such wealth, food insecurity should not exist and the FOHFF brings awareness to that and explores viable solutions.

**ORGANIZERS**

Maayan Laufer (Director of Programs); Hannah Laufer-Rottman (Palms for Life Executive Director); Lucille Bootman (Social Media Outreach)

**GENERAL RULES, FAQs, and TIPS**

**What is a film about food insecurity in the United States of America?**

A film about food insecurity focuses on the daily conditions and obstacles working Americans living in poverty – the working poor - face in accessing sufficient and nutritious food for themselves and their families. The film should present possible solutions, and include discussion around food deserts and food waste. The working poor are defined as people who are employed but whose wages are insufficient to cover their basic living costs (their incomes fall below the poverty line). The obstacles faced by the working poor “make it difficult for many of them to find and keep a job, save up money, and maintain a sense of self-worth.” [1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Working_poor#cite_note-Ehrenreich-3)

There are currently 10.6 million people in America who are considered working poor.

**Some examples of what we consider relevant films:**

* Marginalized individuals and communities
* Explore and challenge concepts of marginalization and discrimination
* Challenges working families face every day
* Living conditions of American families
* Basic human rights and food insecurity in American society (and relevant systemic issues)
* Solutions to hunger/food insecurity
* Alternative food choices for families living in poverty
* Children's eating habits
* Food insecurity at the family level
* Food waste in America and its connection to food insecurity/hunger
* The American food industry and its connection to food insecurity/hunger
* Personal experiences with food insecurity, waste, and food quality in America.
* Societal beliefs about food insecurity issues
* Food insecurity and its relationship to the environment and sustainability

**What exactly is FOHFF looking for?**

FOHFF is looking for diverse, innovative and creative responses to food insecurity, food quality, and food waste in America. We want films that inspire and engage audiences. In particular, FOHFF is seeking films that do so creatively, artistically, and critically and explore political and social structures in place that need to be challenged. It is also important that the films are accessible to the online audience and have a high degree of technical excellence.

**Is there a particular genre that we won’t accept?**

Not at all. Films of any genre may be accepted, from documentary, narrative, animation, music video, essay film, comedy, horror, sci-fi, adventure and experimental. We love to watch films that take a fresh and creative approach to hunger and to addressing issues around hunger/food insecurity.

**Are there particular kinds of content that you won’t consider or that you’re less likely to consider?**

* Our audience is intelligent and film-literate. We are less likely to consider films that are didactic and simplistic.
* Films that feature content including racist, pornographic, defamatory, obscene, hateful behavior or other acts or thematic material considered to be both extreme and gratuitous will not be considered.
* Films that are not cinematic or have very low production values may not be as likely to be considered.
* Films do not need to have been produced after the festival launch in order to be submitted to the 2016 Festival.

**What about duration?**

Films must be between 1-40 minutes.

**What should I know before submitting a film to FOHFF?**

Before submitting your film to our Festival, you should make sure you read and understand the FOHFF Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions outline all of FOHFF ‘s conditions of entry and legal issues relating to you submitting the film. These are available on the website, facesofhunger.org. When you submit your online application, we will ask you to confirm that you agree to these terms and conditions.

**By submitting a film to FOHFF, am I assigning ownership to the Festival? Or does it mean that I can’t submit my work for screening anywhere else?**

When you submit your film to the FOHFF, you are granting FOHFF a non-exclusive license to screen your film to the public online as well as at other events we organize, such as schools screenings, conferences and fundraisers.

A non-exclusive license basically means that you are giving us permission to screen your film online at these events. There are no restrictions on your ability to submit your work to any other festival or to do anything else with the film. You retain absolute ownership of your film.

**Does FOHFF have any other rights to use our film?**

By submitting a film to FOHFF, you also grant FOHFF a license to screen any part of your film for promotional and marketing purposes. This may include taking excerpts of the film to make a trailer, using still images for our program and making a copy of the film for judges or speakers.

Here are a few things we can’t do: FOHFF can’t pass on, or give rights to other organizations to screen your film without your permission. FOHFF can’t directly make money from screening your film in a context outside the Festival.

**What else do I have to do before submitting a film?**

When you submit a film, you’re saying that you have the authority to give us a license to screen the film and that you have obtained all the necessary permissions and consents from the people who may have rights in elements of the film. Before submitting your film, you will need to make sure that you have written permission to, for example, use all the music that features in your film.

**I am under 18. Can I still submit my film to HRAFF?**

You certainly can. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**So, what exactly do you need from me, film-wise?**

FOHFF prefers submitted films to be a secure online screener. You need to be responsible for making sure your film has undergone the relevant technical and quality checking before submitting. This should include – checking for digital glitching, artefacting, audio peaking, loss of vision or sound, sound syncing issues or any such issues in the film.

Where we find that there are technical issues with your film, and it’s something we need to address in final consideration of the film for the Festival, we’ll get in touch with you to provide the opportunity to resubmit, pending available time and circumstance.

**I still have questions! Who can I contact?**

If you have any questions, whether about our terms and conditions or submission process or selection criteria, please email us at: [submissions@facesofhunger.org](mailto:submissions@facesofhunger.org)