

LENSIC FUTURE VOICES



19th ANNUAL FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

2025-26 IMPORTANT DATES

MONTHLY CONTEST

Submit by 3pm on Oct 15, Nov 15, Dec 15, Jan 15, Feb 15, March 15

Photo Submissions:

- **SUBMIT HERE:** <https://lensic.org/lensic-future-voices-monthly-contest-submission-form/>
- Include your name, teacher's name, and school.
- **Each month:** one winning photo (\$50) will be awarded and promoted through the Lensic and Lensic Future Voices social media channels.
- **A Safety Precaution to Students and Families:** The winning photo and video will be posted on Lensic and Future Voices social media platforms and website. The students (first name only) and school will be credited along with the work. By submitting to the monthly contest, you agree to have your name and school listed. If a family does not want their students name and school listed, please let us know with the submission, not after the selection.

19TH ANNUAL CONTEST DEADLINE

Friday, March 13, 2026

- Film and Photography submissions for final contest are due by 3 pm.
- Please read the contest submission sheet carefully for details and guidelines.
- Winners will be notified by Tuesday, April 1, 2025.
- **SUBMIT HERE:** <https://lensic.org/fv-submission/>
- Electronic submissions are encouraged. Please contact us so that we can accommodate.

19TH ANNUAL AWARD SHOW

Thursday, April 23, 2025, 10am

- The 19th annual Lensic Future Voices Film and Photo Awards at the Lensic Performing Arts Center in Santa Fe.
- The awards show is approximately 90-minutes.

For More Information:

www.lensic.org/future-voices

Marcella Ernest | Program Manager | futurevoices@lensic.org



19th ANNUAL

Lentic Future Voices

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

CONTEST THEME AND GUIDELINES

Film and Photo Theme: **No Theme This Year**

In the past, our Future Voices contest has had a unique theme in which all students base their project on. This year we have collectively decided to go without a theme. We encourage creative pieces that explore interesting narratives that are inspired by students.

The contest is judged on a multitude of things including overall creativity, originality, editing, and story. The judges are all volunteers, who generously spend a lot of time and attention on each of the student's submissions to discuss and determine which top three films and photographs represent as strongest in each genre category.

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

- Images may be color or black and white.
- Each image file should be labeled with student name and school name.
- Only 2 photo entries per student.
- Entries should be jpeg files: 72 dpi, 1200 x 800 pixels; SRGB.

FILM GUIDELINES

- Films must be 3 minutes in length or shorter, including credits.
- Leave 10 seconds of black at the beginning AND at the end of the film.
This is not included in the 3 minute limit.
- Opening credits include only film title and school name.
- Digital file submission is preferred.

SUBMISSIONS

- Please use this link: <https://lentic.org/fv-submission/>

FILM PRODUCTION GUIDELINES

- More than one student can produce a film together. We also accept productions that are collaboratively produced by the entire class/production crew.
- Each film can only be entered into one category. If your students have produced a film that is both a documentary and a comedy, an experimental animation piece, or any other variation of our award categories, they must select only one category to enter for competition.
- Please understand and explain to your students that although we would like to screen every piece submitted at the Lensic award show in the Spring, we are only able to screen the top three winning pieces in each category in both film and photography. It is also advised that they understand the importance of supporting their school and peers with respect and responsibility at the Lensic Performing Arts Center while attending the awards show.
- The 10 seconds of black required for each video DOES NOT include the 3 minutes of total length. The credits ARE included within the 3-minute requirement.
- Late submissions will not be accepted unless previously arranged.
- We welcome all early submissions whereas students can submit to the final contest at any time during the school year, before or by the March 13 deadline.
- All music and images must have permission obtained by the students. Any projects with popular music and unlicensed movie footage will not be accepted.
* Up to 20 seconds of a popular song will be permitted.
- All films and photography submitted to the final contest must be original works. An original work is one that is not received from others, nor one copied from, or based upon the work of others.

FILM CATEGORIES

Narrative

This group is for short films that are narrative driven and character filled. In this style, scripts are created, narrative and characters are fore-grounded, which helps the audience lose themselves in the unfolding fiction or re-creation of a non-fiction story. More narrowly defined, it is the fiction-writing mode whereby the characters communicate directly to the viewer. Narratives are most commonly associated with the type of films with scripts and characters that you watch when going to the movies.

Documentary

A documentary film is a movie that attempts to document reality. Even though the scenes are carefully chosen and arranged, usually through editing after filming, they are not scripted and the people in the movie are not typically actors. Sometimes, a documentary film may rely on voice-over narration to describe what is happening in the footage. A documentary often includes interviews with people in the film for additional context or information.

Comedy

A genre of film in which the main emphasis is on humor. These films are designed to elicit laughter from the audience. Comedies are generally light-hearted dramas and are made to amuse and entertain the audiences.

Experimental

A progressive and experimental approach to moving images. This category includes films that are artistic, avant-garde, or explore alternative approaches to traditional narratives. This category will accept all forms of experimental media art and creative filmmaking techniques.

Animation

Animation is the process of making the illusion of movement, motion, and change by means of rapid succession and other creative and digital rendering processes.

CLASSROOM SUPPORT FILM AND PHOTO WORKSHOPS

Throughout the school year, Future Voices offers a unique array of in-class film workshops or modules to enhance class curriculum and to support the production of your student's three-minute films. We have professional filmmakers and experts in various fields that we can send to your classes. This year we will try our best to arrange the modules, table reads, and previews as zoom forums and in person. Please let us know if you are interested in participating.

Photography classes can have a professional photographer and/or a UNM grad student from the College of Fine Arts that will visit the classroom to speak with your students and provide additional knowledge and support to your class curriculum.

We understand that our participating schools and organizations are coming from completely different backgrounds both culturally and economically in their respected schools and that we all have different students and various levels of administrative support. We are all different, but we are all creative. Together we can become a resourceful team of film and photo educators. Our hope is that through these modules and support services each student producing film and photographs will be given a more equal opportunity to create creative pieces.

The Future Voices team wants to meet the needs of your individual students and unique programs. If there are any specific areas that you would like modules offered in, please do not hesitate to let us know. The basic modules that are offered are listed below. We extend other exciting opportunities as they become available throughout the year.

Modules offered:

- Scripting and Storytelling Support
- Short film screenings and brainstorming sessions
- Professional photography slide shows and class discussion
- Film and Photo "Studio Visits"
- Final Project Reviews

"Table Reads" this is a fun exercise where students come prepared with their scripts to sit around a table as a group during class and read through their story line idea or developed story idea. We brainstorm ideas and give professional advice on production.

"First edit preview" is similar to a table read, where our filmmaking team returns to view the first edit of the student productions. This is great if it can be done like the table read, as a group, to provide advice on editing, structure, and general feedback.

Contact us today at FutureVoices@lensic.org to set up any of these workshops!

ARTIST'S ORIGINAL MUSIC CONSENT AND RELEASE FORM

if music used is over 20 seconds

Describe the music/recording to be used (i.e., song name, album, independent label, genre). This is for music not created by you:

Artist Name(s) and/or Authorized Agent (please print):

Email and/or Phone Number:

Signature of Artist and/or Authorized Agent

Date

As I am under the age of 18 my parent or guardian gives permission below:

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Email and/or Phone Number

*Please note, you are not required to use this release form. Other release forms are accepted.



The
Lensic
Performing Arts Center

CONTACT

Marcella Ernest
Program Manager
Lensic Future Voices
futurevoices@lensic.org

ADDRESS:
211 W San Francisco St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

WEBSITE:
www.lensic.org/future-voices