



**SAY IT LOUD**  
**FILM FESTIVAL**

TRANSFORMING THE NARRATIVE OF POP CULTURE



# SAYITLOUD

## FILM FESTIVAL

As storytellers, we believe that words have the power to transform life and the world we live in. At the Say It Loud Film Festival, we celebrate music, poetry and short films that speak the language of courage, compassion and authenticity. Our intention is simple: unite, engage and inspire artists and audience members all over the world through one common goal –

**Transform the narrative of pop culture.**

Say It Loud takes place during the springtime in West Baltimore and during Artscape on the 52' tall LED Baltimore digital billboard. It is a showcase of local poets, local musicians, and both local/international short films. It is free to attend and open to the public.





**This film festival gives a voice to the otherwise unheard.** Inspired by the negative portrayal of Baltimore during the uprising, Say It Loud has put together a diverse unification of hidden talent, both locally and internationally, and allowed them a large-scale venue to share their message. Last year, the Say It Loud Film Festival received **341 film submissions**, 291 of which were given a free submission.



**The films came from over 50 countries around the world and we selected the top ten films.** Just to give you a taste of three films: one was an eye-opening experimental film about our responsibility to protect Mother Earth. Another story followed the plight of the Syrian refugees with a humanizing touch. And a third was a wonderful documentary about an effective meditation program for at-risk youth in Baltimore City. The approximate total runtime was 120 minutes, and the ten films came from Chicago, France, Hungary, Cuba, Ukraine, Uganda, Miami and of course, three from Baltimore.





I am proud to share that **Say It Loud initially took place in an underserved neighborhood of West Baltimore**, on the anniversary of the Freddie Gray incident and it was held outside, for free and open to the public. Between 80 to 100 people were in attendance, including a handful of random people passing through on Pennsylvania Avenue, home to the Baltimore uprising.



This humble gathering led to The Say It Loud Film Festival taking place during **Artscape, America's largest free art event**, with an estimated yearly attendance of **350,000 people** of every demographic.

Immediately following the countdown to kickoff the festival, attendees were held in awe at the surprise presentation of these powerful films shown at such a grand scale. Seeing the reaction of these filmmakers watching their work being shared at such a large, public event was truly moving.



My top three favorite moments of the festival were as follows:



I met filmmaker Matt Carlson, who **flew in from Chicago** with his mom to be attend the festival circuit premiere of his film: *You Are Not Machines*. Afterwards, I asked Matt what it was like for him to watch his film on the big screen and he replied, “I’m having an outer body experience right now.”





**Another favorite moment** was when two of our very own Baltimore native young ladies, Cidney and Ayana, arrived with over a dozen friends and family members to witness their beautiful film, “Ethereal.” In tears, Cidney and Ayana said afterwards that they were grateful because “We didn’t think we could make it this far.”





**What was my third favorite moment?** We were invited to do an official second screening of the top ten Say It Loud films at Artscape 2016, on the enormous **LED Baltimore billboard**, located on North Charles Street and Lanvale! This time, the message of transforming the narrative pop culture reached an even bigger and broader audience. Children were blown away, grown men cried, and as filmmaker Akeem Jackson stated, “For a moment, it felt like time stood still.” Even the current mayor of Baltimore, Catherine Pugh, was in attendance and she approached me afterwards to congratulate us on our success, exclaiming: “we need to do this event again!”

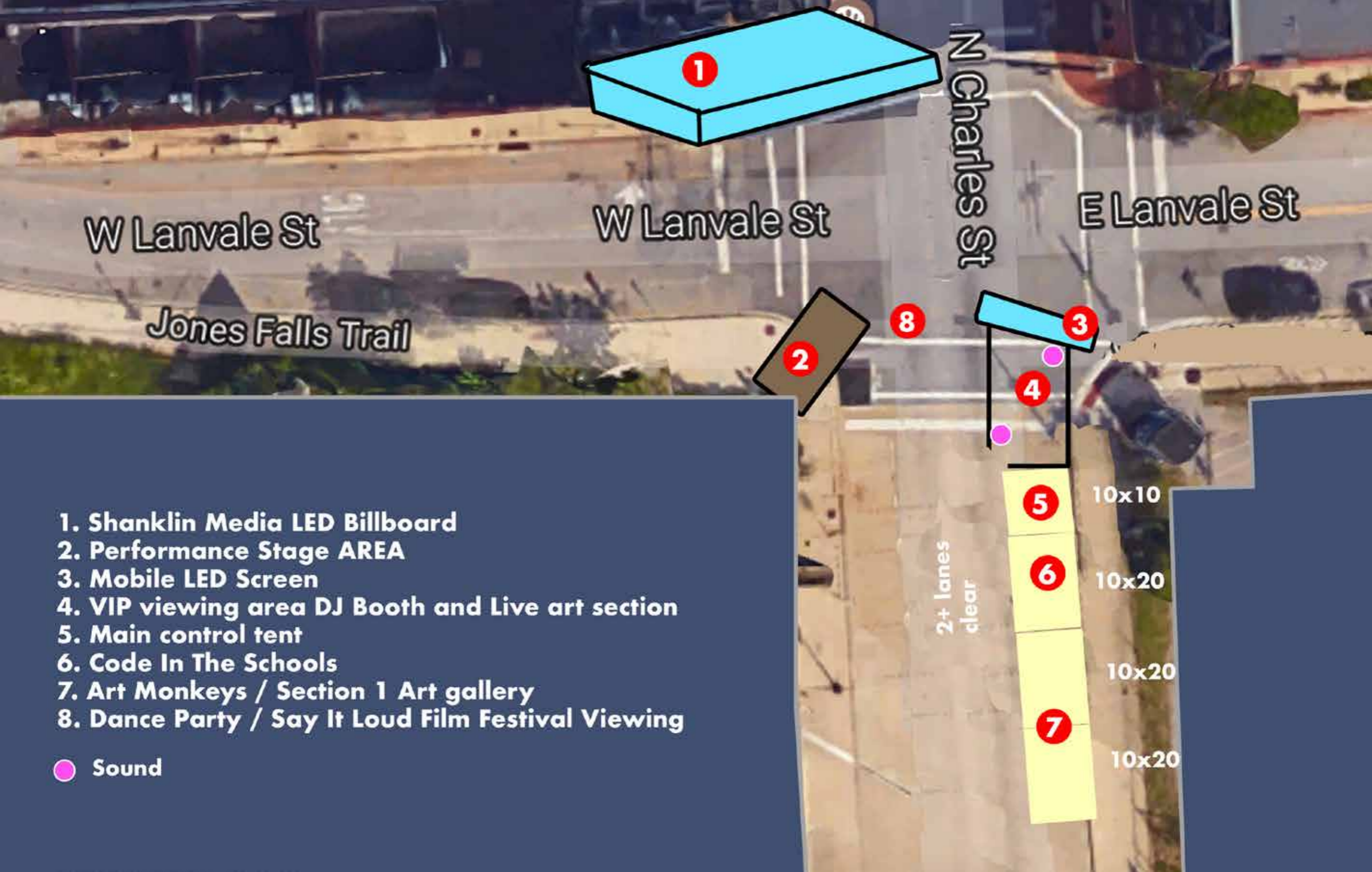


## What would it mean if we received your support?



**Easy...** It would mean creating sense of connection and community in Baltimore, and it would also mean supporting this momentum of transformation through the arts for the world. As a filmmaker, I know first hand what it's like to build the courage to create and submit a film to a festival. Fortunately, I also know what it's like to experience the pride and joy of being selected and to be present at my very own premier. There's a sense of accomplishment, of being heard, and of motivation to continue growing. There's also the gift of being exposed to films from all sorts of walks of life.





**Proposed Artscape 2017 Layout**





Logo on digital billboard

Billboard advertisement with text: "TECHNICAL SUPPORT", "STRESS", "ADD YOUR LOGO"

63 NORTH  
Jones Falls  
Expressway



On Friday, July 27th, The Say It Loud Film Festival will play for its second year in a row on the 52' tall LED Baltimore Billboard. At 9pm, as the streets are filled with festival goers and artists from all over the world, a countdown will play, immediately followed by the first film of the night. The crowd will form along the bridge at N. Charles St. and Lanvale St.

### **Say It Loud Film Festival at Artscape 2017**

## **Schedule of Events**

8:00 pm - 8:15pm - Comedy from Ivan Martin

8:15pm - 8:30pm - Love The Poet

8:30pm - 8:45pm - Red Bull Amaphiko

8:45pm - 8:59pm - Bolt 3000 Ethereal performance

8:59pm - 9:00pm - Live Artscape countdown performance

9:00pm - 11:00pm - The Say It Loud Film Festival



# Film Festival FAQ

## **How to submit:**

Go to [www.sayitloudfilmfestival.com](http://www.sayitloudfilmfestival.com) and then click Submit. Films should be no longer than 20 minutes. (They don't need to be in HD, if the film is good, that's all that matters).

## **Film review process:**

**Based on what attributes and how they are chosen?** - Films will be selected based on their ability to move, touch and inspire viewers. The subject matter of the films will include, and not be limited to: the black male experience, the police officer experience, women's rights, Native-American experience, the immigrant experience, LGBTQ community, public education, people with disabilities, animal rights, and Mother Earth.

## **After film review process, how long each submitter waits to hear back?**

Film submission process begins in mid-July and ends in mid-March. All filmmakers are notified in mid-April.

## **Once your film is chosen, what happens then?**

If your film is chosen, it will be screened at the Say It Loud Film Festival in West Baltimore in May. Approximately twenty films are selected for the West Baltimore screening. In July, the top ten films are screened for the Artscape edition of the Say It Loud Film Festival.

## **What happens to the films after the festival?**

**Archived on the website.** After the Artscape edition of the Say It Loud Film Festival, five films are chosen to be archived and displayed on the Say It Loud Film Festival website.





My commitment is to keep this going for the many years to come.

**For more information, visit our website:**

[www.sayitloudfilmfestival.com](http://www.sayitloudfilmfestival.com)

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