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HBCU WEEK NOW LAUNCHES INAUGURAL STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL
Public media partnership announces call for short films in all genres by HBCU students

NEW YORK (March 11, 2025) — [HBCU Week NOW](#), a public media partnership project offering films about the incredible impact and contributions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, is announcing the launch of its inaugural Student Film Festival and an open call for submissions. The virtual festival, which will premiere during Black History Month in 2026, seeks short films created by HBCU students. The Harlem-based national media arts nonprofit [Black Public Media](#) will administer the open call for the project.

The HBCU Week NOW Student Film Festival, a celebration of creativity, innovation and storytelling by the next generation of filmmakers from HBCUs, seeks submissions of completed films in all genres, with a special focus on stories reflecting HBCU experiences, culture and history. Ten short films of up to 30 minutes will be selected, with each filmmaking team receiving \$5,000. Submissions are due by Saturday, April 12, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Find the submission link at: <https://bit.ly/HBCUWNSFFOpenCall>.

Eligible filmmakers are currently enrolled HBCU students and recent graduates (from the last three years). Students do not have to be enrolled in a film program.

HBCU faculty members and administrators are encouraged to share this opportunity with their students and networks, facilitate resources (such as providing access to equipment, workshops, or mentorship to help students prepare their submissions) and to nominate talent by encouraging participation.

A recording of the open call information webinar held on Thursday, March 13, is now available to stream from the BPM website. Visit: <https://bit.ly/HBCUWNSFFOpenCall>.

“We welcome this opportunity to partner with HBCU Week Now to identify and amplify young talent and their stories,” said Qiona Woffard, director of talent development at BPM. “We look forward to helping push the new voices of the film community to the forefront with this exciting new festival.”

Those with questions should contact Woffard at qiona@blackpublicmedia.org.

The #HBCUWeekNOW story is made possible through a public media partnership led by Maryland Public Television with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS.

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BPM is a national nonprofit that funds quality film and immersive work, develops creatives and produces and distributes original content.

For more information on Black Public Media, visit www.blackpublicmedia.org or follow the organization at @blackpublicmedia on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok.

ABOUT HBCU WEEK NOW

HBCU Week NOW is a public media partnership project that celebrates and amplifies the remarkable history and legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities while empowering the next generation of leaders. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS, administered locally by Maryland Public Television, funds HBCU Week NOW. Black Public Media, an organization that supports the development of visionary content creators and distributes stories about the global Black experience, has partnered with Maryland Public Television on this project.

The HBCU Week NOW YouTube Channel features hundreds of hours of content about HBCUs.

Subscribe to HBCU Week NOW on YouTube @HBCUWeekNOW.

ABOUT BLACK PUBLIC MEDIA (BPM)

BPM supports the development of visionary content creators and distributes stories about the global Black experience to inspire a more equitable and inclusive future. For 45 years, BPM has addressed the needs of unserved and underserved audiences. BPM-supported programs have won five Emmys®, 10 Peabodys, five Anthem Awards, 14 Emmy® nominations and an Oscar® nomination. BPM continues to address historical, contemporary, and systemic challenges that traditionally impede the development and distribution of Black stories.

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