ReelAbilities Houston Film & Arts Festival is a FREE citywide event that promotes inclusion and celebrates the lives, stories and talents of people with disabilities, making an impact that lasts far beyond the Festival.

February 11–20, 2020

IN COLLABORATION WITH

ReelPeople: UP Abilities
J.R. Martinez, Rebecca Alexander and Darrius Simmons captivated an audience of over 400 at the A.D. Players George Theater with their extraordinary stories of resilience and perseverance. An engaging Q&A session followed.

ReelFilm
Fifteen films over four days were screened by sell-out crowds at Regal Edwards Greenway Grand Palace.

ReelMusic
More than a dozen accomplished musicians with disabilities jammed with the ReelMusic house band while Houston Public Media’s Ernie Manouse kept the high-energy standing-room-only crowd going at White Oak Music Hall.

ReelArt
ReelArt’s opening reception featured the photography, fine paintings and digital art of 23 Celebration Company artists and featured artist Mara Clawson, recipient of the VSA/Kennedy Center Emerging Young Artists with Disabilities Award.

ReelWorkplace
A lunchtime panel discussion in collaboration with the Greater Houston Partnership, moderated by ReelAbilities Houston 2020 Honorary Chair Lex Frieden, helped dozens of Houston Business leaders understand the role and future of inclusion in the workplace.

ReelChildren
More than 1,000 children and families viewed festival films at the Children’s Museum of Houston, including during a special Sensory Friendly Day.

Illuminating Dyslexia: Touch to See
Hundreds experienced the accessible art of Stephanie A. Skolik, M.D, at the Evelyn Rubenstein JCC, featuring oil paintings and clay reliefs related to dyslexia.

Marlee Matlin
In partnership with Congregation Emanu El, Academy Award-Winning Actress and Activist Marlee Matlin moved more than 750 people with her message of inclusion, diversity and access.

City of Inclusion Partners

LEAD SPONSORS

Joan and Stanford Alexander

See more sponsors at reelabilitieshouston.org
ReelAbilities
ReelResults

ReelEducation
The message of inclusion was brought to thousands of students. ReelEducation reached elementary to graduate students, including:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Codwell Elementary
- The Emery/Weiner School
- Fleming PVA Middle School
- Gregory-Lincoln Education Center
- Houston Community College
- The HUB Houston
- Lamar High School
- M.C. Williams Middle School
- Patrick Henry Middle School
- The Post Oak School
- Robert M. Beren Academy
- Shlenker School
- Special Schools Coalition
- St. Rose of Lima Catholic School
- T. H. Rogers School
- Torah Day School
- University of Houston
- UTHHealth School of Nursing
- Wharton Dual Language Academy
- Woodson Elementary
- Yes Prep Public Schools
- Yeshiva Torat Emet

ReelFeedback
Making an impact that lasts far beyond the Festival is a goal of ReelAbilities. Here, in their own words, is how ReelAbilities 2020 made an impact on some who attended:

- ReelEducation showed me how to respect people with disabilities.
- ReelAbilities made me more aware of the power of words, my words. We have to remember how much power we have in language.
- As a mom of a child with disabilities, I am thankful for the Festival elevating the visibility of our lives.
- ReelAbilities makes me feel like I am not alone.

ReelNumbers
96% of students positively rated ReelEducation programs and films
86% students who attended a ReelEducation event reported that the film and speaker made them more likely to include someone with a disability in an activity with their friends
98% of Festival attendees positively rated the accessibility of the Festival
99% of Festival attendees are likely to attend another ReelAbilities event in the future
2x the number of schools participated in ReelEducation over 2019
6,000+ attendees participated in ReelAbilities events
56 Sponsors
60+ Collaborating Partners joined Festival efforts and events
17,500,000+ media impressions

Major Media Coverage
ReelAbilities Houston was featured in print, online and TV media, including:

- 365 Things to Do in Houston
- Bellaire Examiner
- The Buzz Magazine
- Click2Houston Online
- CultureMap Houston
- The CW39 Houston
- FOX 26 TV
- Glasstire
- Houston Chronicle
- Houstonia
- It’s Not Hou It’s Me
- Jewish Herald-Voice
- KHOU Great Day Houston
- KPRC2- Houston Life
- KPRC2-Houston Newsmakers
- KRBE
- Paper City
- San Antonio Express
- Visit Houston

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