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**FILM INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS AND THE REDFORD CENTER JOIN FORCES
TO LAUNCH THE ROBERT REDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL VISION AWARD**

**New Award Celebrates Environmental Fiction Film and Television Projects
Taking an Entertainment-First Approach**

LOS ANGELES (June 23, 2026) – Film Independent, the nonprofit arts organization that produces the Film Independent Spirit Awards, is thrilled to announce the launch of the Robert Redford Environmental Vision Award that celebrates narrative feature film and television works that address environmental issues through creativity and possibility.

The Robert Redford Environmental Vision Award recognizes a singular work selected from qualifying American narrative television and film that intersect with environmental themes. Eligible films will explore an environmental issue—whether it’s a story about innovation that challenges defeatist narratives around environmental crises; addressing systemic bias and injustice in environmental policy; fresh perspectives and artistic approaches that redefine traditional environmental storytelling; climate change and solutions for people and the planet; cultural practices rooted in Indigenous and ancestral knowledge; or efforts to protect and restore land, water, biodiversity, and natural resources. Films featuring a lead character grappling with environmental themes at the heart of their journey will also be considered.

“We are thrilled to partner with The Redford Center to launch the Robert Redford Environmental Vision Award, celebrating the power of independent filmmakers to inspire hope and real action through storytelling. This award aligns with our mission to champion bold, innovative voices that challenge and redefine how we engage with the world’s most pressing issues,” said Shawn Davis, Executive Producer, Film Independent Spirit Awards.

“Robert Redford believed fiercely in the power of storytelling to alter how people see the world, and championed the independent filmmakers bold enough to bring those stories to life. He elevated overlooked voices and spotlighted urgent issues. This award honors his legacy by recognizing exceptional storytelling that deepens our understanding of environmental challenges while inspiring action,” said Jill Tidman, Executive Director of The Redford Center. “At a time when environmental challenges regularly intersect with daily life, independent filmmakers remain vital voices in helping audiences imagine a more resilient future.”

The award will be evaluated based on thematic criteria that reflect Film Independent and the Spirit Awards' mission, along with the award's specific goals. Judges will seek uniqueness of vision, innovation and diversity in storytelling, as well as originality and provocative subject matter. Films must center environmental issues—or feature a lead character grappling with them—at the core of their narrative. Priority will be given to works that embrace an entertainment-first approach to environmental storytelling, engaging audiences emotionally and intellectually, while inspiring a sense of possibility and agency in solutions, particularly through characters and genres that challenge conventional expectations.

The recipient of the Robert Redford Environmental Vision Award is announced alongside all other Spirit Awards nominees in early December and presented during the live ceremony on March 6, 2027.

Submissions for the Spirit Awards will open on August 18, 2026, followed by jury committee meetings and deliberations from September–October 2026. The process will culminate at the Film Independent Spirit Awards celebration on March 6, 2027, where all winners will be announced.

In addition to celebrating the broad spectrum of the best of the year's independent filmmaking and groundbreaking series, the Spirit Awards is also a fundraiser for Film Independent's year-round programs, which champion a global community of artists and audiences who embody diversity, innovation, curiosity and bold, distinctive vision, and already incorporate programming and filmmaker support around climate and sustainability.

To learn more about donations, table sales and attendance, please contact Jennifer Murby at jmurby@filminddependent.org.

To learn more about the Spirit Awards eligibility rules and regulations, please visit filminddependent.org/spirit-awards/faq.

The winners of the Film Independent Spirit Awards are voted on by Film Independent Members. Membership is open to the public. For more information or to become a Member, please visit filminddependent.org.

ABOUT FILM INDEPENDENT

For over 40 years, Film Independent has helped filmmakers get their projects made and seen. The nonprofit organization's core mission is to champion creative independence in visual storytelling in all its forms and foster a culture of inclusion, in support of a global community of artists and audiences who embody diversity, innovation, curiosity and uniqueness of vision.

In addition to producing the [Film Independent Spirit Awards](#), the organization supports creative professionals with [Artist Development](#) programs, grants and labs. Signature mentorship program [Project Involve](#) fosters the careers of talented filmmakers from underrepresented communities. Weekly Education events and workshops equip filmmakers of all ages and experience levels with tools and resources. International programs provide cultural exchanges and career-building opportunities for film professionals around the world. And year-round screening series [Film Independent Presents](#) offers a robust program of unique cinematic experiences, including screenings, conversations, Live Reads and Bring the Noise musical events.

For more information or to become a Member, visit filminddependent.org.

ABOUT THE REDFORD CENTER

Co-founded in 2005 by activists and filmmakers Robert Redford and James Redford, The Redford Center is a nonprofit that advances environmental solutions through the power of stories that move.

As one of the only U.S.-based nonprofits solely dedicated to environmental impact filmmaking, The Redford Center develops and invests in projects that foster action and strengthen the reach of the grassroots efforts powering the environmental movement. Over the years, The Redford Center has produced three award-winning feature documentaries and more than 40 short films, supported more than 400 film and media projects with grants and other services, and disbursed \$40 million to environmental films, amplifying change-making solutions to millions of people worldwide. Learn more at www.redfordcenter.org.

Join the conversation on social media using #RedfordVisionAward.

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