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DIRECTOR OF THE BALTIMORE FILM OFFICE WINS AWARD

Debbie Donaldson Dorsey, Director of the Baltimore Film Office (a division of BOPA) wins the Nora Roberts Foundation Award

The **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)** is thrilled to announce that our very own Director of the Baltimore Film Office, Debbie Donaldson Dorsey, will receive the Nora Roberts Foundation Award at the Maryland International Film Festival in Hagerstown, Maryland on Friday, August 20, 2021.

In her role as the Director of the Baltimore Film Office at BOPA and as a founding officer on the board of the Maryland Film Industry Coalition, Debbie Dorsey has made a career out of bolstering Maryland's film and television industry. As Nicole Houser, President of the Film Festival Board of Directors, explains, "Debbie Dorsey has done an incredible job at attracting film productions to the State of Maryland. This prestigious award is given in recognition of either success in the film and television industry, or in creating opportunities for achievements for the film and arts communities in Maryland. The award especially recognizes Maryland ties."

Assistant Secretary of Maryland's Department of Commerce and charter board member of the Maryland Film Industry Coalition, Tom Riford, concurs, "Debbie Dorsey is a legend in the film industry, and respected around the country for her work promoting Baltimore and Maryland for film projects." But BOPA CEO Donna Drew Sawyer says it best, "The name Debra Donaldson Dorsey is synonymous with film in Baltimore City and the State of Maryland. She champions the industry like no other and without her expertise and influence, all aspects of film, television, and video production would suffer. We are so fortunate to have her on the team. Debra's work showcases creativity, brings jobs, and offers the best of our City and our State to audiences everywhere."

In testament of her accolades, Ms. Dorsey is currently playing a critical role in two production projects filming in Baltimore: the HBO mini-series "We Own This City" and the Disney/FX project "The Spook Who Sat By The Door." She says, "I am very honored to receive

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this award — and grateful to be able to shine a light on our beautiful City, the State of Maryland, and all of our talented crew and actors.”

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Ms. Dorsey will receive her award at the ninth Maryland International Film Festival- Hagerstown on opening night, Friday, August 20, 2021 at the Historic Maryland Theatre in Downtown Hagerstown. Opening night of the festival will begin with a special VIP reception at 5:30 p.m., followed by the kickoff celebrations, presentation of awards, and introduction of the evening’s short films. For more information about the festival and how to purchase tickets, visit www.marylandiff.org.

Learn more about Ms. Dorsey’s work and the Baltimore Film Office by visiting www.baltimorefilm.com and following on Facebook: @Baltofilm.

The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which serves as Baltimore City’s arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists, arts programs, and organizations across the city, and by producing large-scale events such as Artscape, Baltimore Book Festival, and Light City, BOPA’s goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.

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