

Annual Report 2023



Locarno Film Festival

PalaCinema – Via Franchino Rusca 1

6600 Locarno

CH – Switzerland

+41 91 756 21 21

www.locarnofestival.ch

Official member of Swiss Top Events



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Locarno Film Festival

Intro & Brand vision

The Locarno Film Festival is one of the longest-running film festivals in the world, with a long history and solid tradition. Since its founding in 1946, it has been a stage for artistic freedom and expression, turning its Golden Leopard into one of the most coveted awards in the independent film world.

Thanks to its courage to experiment and dare, today the Locarno Film Festival is a world leader in art-house cinema: prestigious yet accessible, it has always been committed to supporting and promoting the work of emerging talent and great masters of cinema. Over time it has established itself as a meeting point for cinephiles, industry professionals and representatives of business, politics, academia and civil society, establishing itself as a catalyst and promoter of creativity.

Keeping its gaze always on the future, the Festival has never stopped building a community around cinema: that of the past, that which tells the present, and that of tomorrow.



Our Values

Inclusion

We are a place of encounter, welcoming people into a collective that derives its strength and uniqueness from free speech, the convergence of diverse ideas, and diversity.

Dialogue

We are a space of discovery, thanks to the relationship between people and their ability to exchange dialogue, in the belief that the most creative ideas are those that address the present, acknowledge the past and look to the future.

Surprise

We seek to surprise, always. This is why we constantly innovate and focus on the potential of younger generations.

Freedom

Our independence is non-negotiable. We could not be what we are without being completely free.

Excellence

We pursue excellence with reflection and rigor, through humanity and respect for people and the environment.

Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly as part of the 2030 Agenda, constitute a shared blueprint for sustainable development for the present and future. By identifying six of them as priorities with respect to its own impact, the Locarno Film Festival commits to contribute to the achievement of these goals. The table on pages 96 and 97 shows not only the priority SDGs, but also the targets related to them, as defined by the United Nations, and a brief overview of the actions taken by the Festival to contribute to achieving them.

Cultivate a free and open space to discover film, create, meet, and celebrate cinema not only as an art form but a reflection of society.

OUR VISION

Returning to the resonance of pre-pandemic years, the Locarno Film Festival is one of the most relevant film festivals in the world with an ecosystem of events and projects produced over years of experimentation.

While the summer event remains the pinnacle of the organization, a year-round program of activities (physical and online) aims to foster new talent and build a worldwide engaged film community.



“

The identity of the Locarno Film Festival is stronger than ever, thanks to Marco Solari's 23 years of service as President, which helped make the Festival one of the most important cultural events in Switzerland. I am excited to build on this valuable legacy, putting my experience and knowledge at the service of one of the most fearless, innovative, and inclusive, as well as prestigious, film events worldwide. The success of the 76th edition lays the foundation for future work, which will be aimed at proving that the kind of cinema presented in Locarno, a free cinema, is still possible.

Maja Hoffmann
President



“

Locarno Film Festival is a bastion of auteur cinema. Confirmed by the success of an audacious 76th edition, which was driven by a love of cinema that has seen the selected films subsequently nominated for the most prestigious awards: the Oscars, European Film Awards, and many more. The 2023 Palmarès is the sign of a cinema that is alive, capable of grasping the complexities of the present and engaging in a strong dialogue with the public. Its success is the faithful reflection of a year of work, which aim is to identify the talents of tomorrow's cinema. The future is built film by film.

Giona A. Nazzaro
Artistic Director



“

With immense gratitude to everyone who makes our work possible, we are ready to embark on an important new chapter in the history of the Locarno Film Festival, moving more and more towards an organisation that deeply involves our target communities. This development will enable us to make the Festival more robust and sustainable in the long term. This annual report, which presents all the projects that contributed to the last edition, shows how we fulfil our mission to build a vibrant community of film enthusiasts and cultivate a space for creative expression, discovery and personal growth through unique experiences. An ideal premise for a further leap in relevance for the Locarno Film Festival.

Raphaël Brunshwig
Managing Director



Organizational Structure

A Year of Unique Stories

Established in 1946 under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code, the Locarno International Film Festival is a nonprofit association with the purpose of “organizing, in Locarno, a national and international film and audiovisual festival to help promote the dissemination of audiovisual film culture at the cantonal, national and international levels, including outside of the Festival period”. (Art. 1. Articles of Association of the “Locarno International Film Festival”). The association is headquartered in Locarno.

After 23 years as President, Marco Solari passed the baton to Maja Hoffmann, who was elected unanimously by the Board of Directors on July 24, 2023, making her the first woman to serve as President of the Locarno Film Festival. This change also brought with it a restructuring of governance, changing the Festival’s organizational structure.

The organs of the association

- The General Assembly of Members, made up of all members of the Association
- Board of Directors: A minimum of five and maximum of seven persons serving three-year terms, appointed by the General Assembly. The following members are automatic members of the Board of Directors: a representative of the City of Locarno and the Head of the Industry Advisory Board.
- Executive Board: the executive body of the Association
- Independent Auditor (trust company): appointed by the General Assembly

Roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Locarno International Film Festival, which normally meets every two months and whenever circumstances deem it necessary, represents the various national language regions of Switzerland and accounts for gender diversity. Its responsibilities include defining the association’s strategic objectives, ensuring its economic, environmental, and social sustainability and providing for the appropriate allocation of resources; safeguarding the full freedom of the Artistic Direction; and ensuring that the association contributes to the promotion of audiovisual culture and the Swiss and international film industry; the discussion and approval of the budget, balance sheets and operating accounts of the association’s activities; the proposal to the General Assembly of honorary members of the association on the basis of merits acquired in the context of the event; the election of members of the following bodies:

- Policy Advisory Board: an advisory body that provides support and guidance regarding the current cultural and political environment
- Industry Advisory Board: an advisory body that provides expertise from different sectors of the audiovisual industry

Reports of interest by Board Members are reported annually to the Federal Office of Culture in Switzerland.

The new Board of Directors

- Maja Hoffmann, President
- Luigi Pedrazzini, Vice President
- Nadia Dresti, Board Member, Head of Industry Advisory Board
- Jean-Philippe Rochat, Board Member
- Alain Scherrer, Board Member, Mayor of Locarno, Head of Policy Advisory Board

The entire Locarno Film Festival team would also like to thank the members of the Board of Directors in office until September 19, 2023:

Franco Ambrosetti, Daniel Beier, Manuele Bertoli, Felice Dafond, Karin Dietrich Wartmann, Felix Ehrat, Edna Epelbaum, Stefano Gilardi, Felix Hächler, Josefa Haas, Jean-Pierre Hoby, Pelin Kandemir Bordoli, Pius Knüsel, Brenno Martignoni, Aldo Merlini, Giovanni Merlini, Roberta Pantani, Luca Pissoglio, Aldo Rampazzi †, Giò Rezzonico, Carla Speciali, Sven Wälti. As well as the Honorary President of the Festival, Marco Solari.

Executive Board

- Giona A. Nazzaro, Artistic Director
- Raphaël Brunschwig, Managing Director

Youth Advisory Board

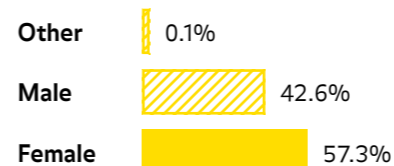
The Youth Advisory Board (YAB), the Locarno Film Festival’s advisory body composed of young people, has brought the festival closer to the younger generation, giving their thoughts and proposals a voice. Previously selected through an open call, in 2023 the five members of the YAB were instead chosen from among the Festival’s young staff. Supporting the Festival in its choices, especially in the area of youth policy, the YAB drafted a report with concrete suggestions and ideas to promote the growth of the event, focusing in particular on accessibility.

Employees

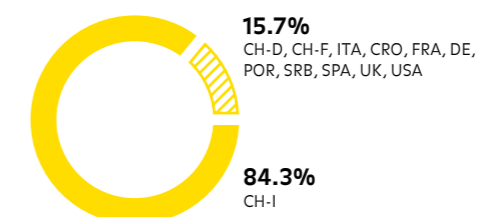
At the end of 2023, the Locarno Film Festival had 39 employees with permanent contracts. During the Festival period, the total number of employees, including those with permanent, fixed-term and part-time contracts, reached a total of 765. Full-time employees are eligible for parental leave, which includes 14 weeks of maternity leave for women and two weeks of paid vacation for men. During 2023, two men and one woman made use of parental leave. During the year, employees are also offered the opportunity to work remotely seven days a month.

 **765**
Total number of employees during Locarno76

Gender of employees



Location of employees



Affiliations

The Locarno Film Festival is among the 14 competitive (“A”) festivals accredited by FIAPF (International Federation of Film Production Associations), the association that represents film producers from around the world and promotes and designs solutions to ensure the circulation and diversity of films and television content.

The Festival’s ongoing commitment to ensuring its accessibility to people with different requirements and disabilities - welcoming an ever-widening audience - has been formalized with the “Inclusive Culture” label by Pro Infirmis’ Inclusive Culture Service. By adhering to the Cultural Inclusion Charter, the Festival strengthens its work of raising awareness of these issues with the general public, offering new opportunities for debate and discussion on the topics, committing to eliminating any enduring barriers, and experimenting with new ways for the audience to enjoy its content. Partly as a result of this recognition, the Festival has been ranked Level II Engaged in the Swisustainable sustainability program for sustainable Swiss tourism.



Public transportation has been integrated with every Festival ticket or pass. In addition, all accredited visitors had the opportunity to rent electric bicycles free of charge..
Target 11.2

Board of Directors

Maja Hoffmann, President
Luigi Pedrazzini, Vice President

Board Members

Nadia Dresti, Industry Advisory Board
Jean-Philippe Rochat
Alain Scherrer, Policy Advisory Board

General Management

Managing Director

Raphaël Brunschwig

Artistic Director

Giona A. Nazzaro

President's Office

Pia Ferrari

Executive Assistant

Emma Brogginì

Advisors & Curators

5 members

Public Affairs

Emma Brogginì

Film Selection Committee

9 members

Partnerships

Fabienne Merlet

Human Resources

Nathalie Solimano

Finances & Controlling

Liliana Sampietro

Digital & IT

Simona Gamba
(Alessio Vairetti ad interim)

Secretariat

Pia Ferrari

Corporate Social Responsibility

Fabienne Merlet

Production

Mattia De Sassi

Brand, Editorial & Media

Oliver Osborne

Program Organization

Victoria Manconi

Hospitality

Etienne Loponte

Events (F&B)

Vacancy

Locarno Pro

Markus Duffner

Factory

Artistic Curation:
Stefano Knuchel & Daniela Persico
Operations & Development:
Francesco De Biasi

Educational Programs

Artistic Curation:
Daniela Persico
Operations & Development:
Francesco De Biasi

Strategy & Positioning

Operational Excellence

HR Administration

Michael Mros

Controlling

Liliana Sampietro

IT Infrastructures & Systems

Alessio Vairetti

Memberships Management

Pia Ferrari

Diversity & Inclusion

Sara Bellicini

Image & Sound

Patricia Boillat

Design

Alex Furgiuè, Joshua Althaus

Programming Office

Victoria Manconi

Guests Transportation

Matteo Servalli

Rotonda by la Mobiliare

Dirk Meister

Heritage Online

Markus Duffner

BaseCamp

Stefano Knuchel

Atelier Du Futur

Francesco De Biasi

People & Organization

Nathalie Solimano

Finances

Pierre Tunesi

Productivity Tools & Helpdesk

Paola Guerra

Protocol

Pia Ferrari

Infrastructures & Constructions

Alessandro Bonalumi

Editorial

Christopher Small

Documentation

Manuela Pellegrini

Lounges, Bars & Restaurants

Stefano Dal Borgo

Open Doors

Zsuzsi Bánkuti

Critics Academy

Vacancy

Locarno Kids

Francesco De Biasi
Daniela Persico

- General Management
- Staff Functions
- Departments / Areas
- Projects / Responsibilities
- External
- Cross-Cutting Workgroups



“It is important to understand that the change in the presidency of the Locarno Film Festival, with the passing of the baton from Marco Solari to Maja Hoffmann, brings with it an inevitable change of ‘culture’ in governance. This is a challenge that will require structural and organizational rethinking, but also a strong empowerment of the people who at different levels work for the consolidation and growth of the Festival”.

Luigi Pedrazzini
Vice President

Safety & Security

Giordano Ferrari

Ticketing & Accreditations

Mattia De Sassi

Venues Management

Mattia De Sassi

Press Office

Fiorenza Conforti

Social Media

Justine Knuchel

Video Production

Alessandro De Bon

Pardi di Domani

Sara Bellicini

Industry Academy

Marion Klotz

Locarno Residency

Daniela Persico

Spring Academy & L'immagine e la parola

Daniela Persico

LFF Professorship @USI

Kevin B. Lee

New Organizational Structure

During 2023, the Festival’s organizational structure underwent a major overhaul to ensure its alignment with the new goals of growth and excellence. The gradual establishment of the new Directorate and its various bodies began a phase of transition, the goal of which was the formation of an increasingly solid formal structure, based on the balance between highly professionalized profiles and internal figures already equipped with the necessary know-how. The refinement of hierarchical and inter-departmental communication, which is still ongoing, aims to ensure the flexibility of the new structure and maximize the efficiency of workflows.



Report of Activities

A Year of Unique Stories

A great festival and more. With its films, its screenings throughout the year, and all its other related activities - from global to local digital initiatives - the Locarno Film Festival during 2023 managed to engage a total of 308,727 spectators (marking a 33.6 percent increase over 2022). This figure offers a measure of the scope of what is now not just a major summer event, but a constellation of activities aimed at discovering new voices in cinema and making cinema a tool for discovering the present. This commitment translates into an offer that, alongside the proposal of films from all over the world,

includes training courses for directors, critics, and professionals in the sector, educational activities for children, adolescents and teachers, support for the production of new works, and moments of dissemination and in-depth analysis for the public. All with a view to engaging an active and connected community 365 days a year and making a concrete contribution to the future of the film and audiovisual sector, according to a model of sustainable development that favors the entire ecosystem of which the Festival is a part.



January

- Locarno75 Retrospective (Douglas Sirk) at the Filmoteca Española, Madrid



February

- Locarno Shorts Weeks
- Unveiling of the Locarno76 poster



March

- Locarno Residency stay at the Fondazione Eranos
- FestivalLibro, Palazzo dei Congressi, Muralto
- L'immagine e la parola, GranRex & PalaCinema, Locarno
- Spring Academy with Radu Jude
- Locarno in Los Angeles
- Giornata del Cinema, GranRex, Locarno



April

- Locarno75 Retrospective (Douglas Sirk) at the National Gallery of Art, Washington
- Cinema Unlimited – 20 years of films from Locarno Open Doors
- Locarno75 Retrospective (Douglas Sirk) at the American Film Institute, Los Angeles



May

- Closing date for Locarno76 submissions
- Pardo Weekend, Fiore di Pietra
- Locarno75 Retrospective (Douglas Sirk) at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, Rome



June

- Screening at the Landesmuseum, Zurich (hofkino.ch)
- A selection of films and documentaries presented at Montreux Jazz Festival, curated by Stefano Knuchel



July

- Festeggiamo screenings in the local region
- Locarno76 Press Conference in Bern
- The official juries of Locarno76 unveiled
- Open air screening at Plateforme10, Lausanne
- Prefestival



August

- **Locarno76**
- Le Vie dei Pardi, Parco Ciani, Lugano
- Cinema al Parco, Orselina
- Locarno76 Retrospective (Mexican Cinema) at the Cinémathèque Suisse, Lausanne, and online on MUBI



September

- Open Doors on cinema from around the world (Monte Carasso)
- Locarno76 Retrospective (Mexican Cinema) at the Cinémas du Grütli, Geneva
- Locarno in Rome, Cinema Troisi in collaboration with Fondazione Piccolo America
- Locarno in Milan



October

- Locarno76 Retrospective (Mexican Cinema) at the Filmpodium Zürich and at the Kino REX in Bern
- Open Doors Shorts (Locarno76) presented online
- Screening in collaboration with Cinemagia



November

- Locarno76 Retrospective (Mexican Cinema) at the Museo Nazionale del Cinema in Torino
- Screenings at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Arts, Istanbul
- Submissions open for Locarno77



December

- Locarno Residency screenings in Venice
- Locarno76 Retrospective (Mexican Cinema) at the Arsenal, Berlin



Exploring the Most Interesting Paths of Contemporary Cinema

The 76th edition of the Festival took place from August 2 to 12, 2023, continuing its exploration of the most interesting paths in contemporary cinema. Indeed, since its founding, the Festival has been distinguished by its support for artistic freedom and freedom of expression, playing host to the most daring, **avant-garde, and innovative film forms** and becoming an **essential event for auteur cinema** in Europe and around the world.

The 2023 edition once again confirmed the Festival's traditional commitment to fostering **innovation and inclusiveness** through a selection in line with the richness and diversity of the contemporary film scene, with a focus on highlighting **art-house and independent cinema**. Indeed, the films of the 76th edition reflect the adventurous nature of the Festival and seem well aware of the crises and challenges of their time. On the one hand they reflect disquiet about the future of culture and the world, and on the other they offer tools of resistance through creativity, originality, and the fascinating diversity of inspiration.

At the center of the Festival's conception of the projects it undertakes is a **perspective of sustainable development**, one declined in the social, environmental, and economic spheres. In this sense, the Festival's goal is to promote, through its activities, a more open, equitable, and environmentally conscious society. In addition to numerous projects in which sustainability is an intrinsic element, the introduction, starting in 2023, of gender-neutral performance categories to replace the awards for female and male performances also pushes things in this direction.

Not to mention the focus on recycling that an event with such a strong cultural appeal as Locarno is committed to conveying to the world: from ecological islands for proper collection, to awareness-raising actions with the Department of Territory and the City of Locarno at peak times.

The woman and the leopard

The representative image of the 76th edition, created by Sarah and Ciaren Diante, symbolizes a Festival renowned for its ability to embrace and reflect the change taking place in the world, in constant dialogue with its time. A new color, blue, and a female figure appear alongside the traditional leopard, bringing a breath of change.

The Locarno76 poster concluded the three-year run of the art competition that has opened its doors to creatives from more than 80 countries, attracting the exceptional number of more than 1,000 participants each year. This impressive response not only underscores the vibrant international participation, but also confirms the Festival as a global platform of excellence for creative talent.



Locarno76 Statistics

Our Audience








+14.35%

audience compared to 2022, which is an increase of +70,000 to a total of **146,930 spectators**

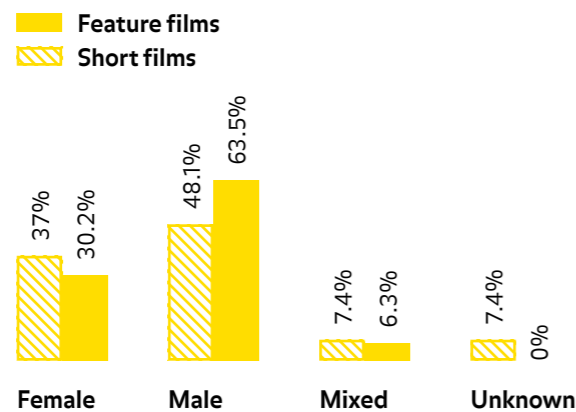
+33.6%

Increase in participants across all Locarno Film Festival activities over the whole of 2023 (308,727 participants)

Official Selection

-  **32** Swiss productions
-  **7** Swiss co-productions
-  **108** World premieres
-  **50** Countries of production or co-production for feature films
-  **6** International premieres
-  **28** Countries of production or co-production for short films
-  **20** First Feature

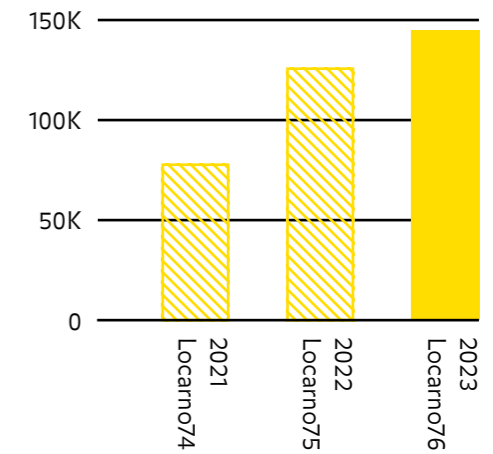
Gender of Selected Films



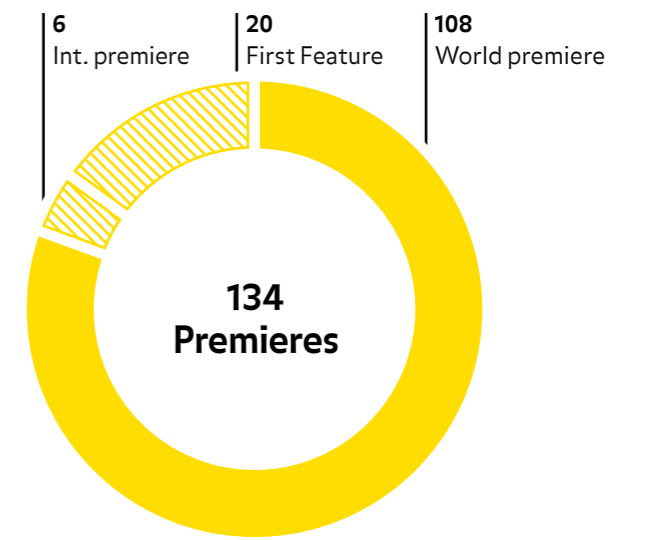
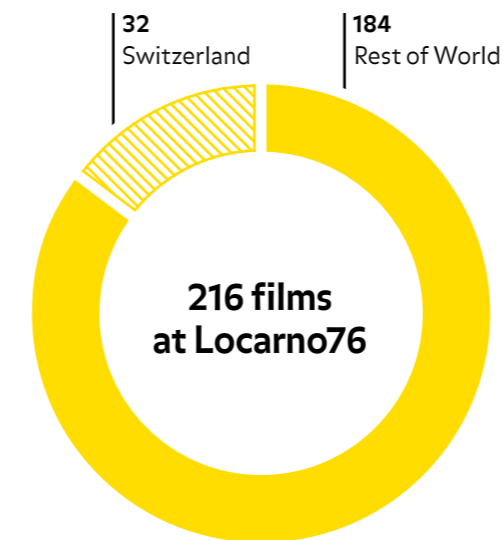
Key Highlights

344	Total screenings (Incl. repeats)
1'765	Feature film submissions
1'913	Online viewers for Open Doors
3'755	Short film submissions
4'639	Accredited professionals

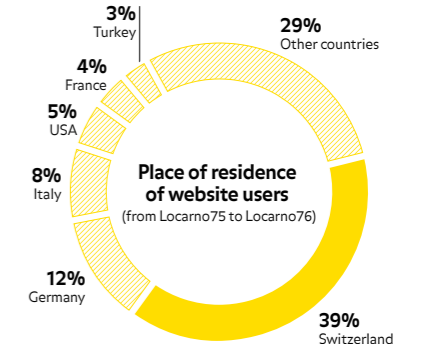
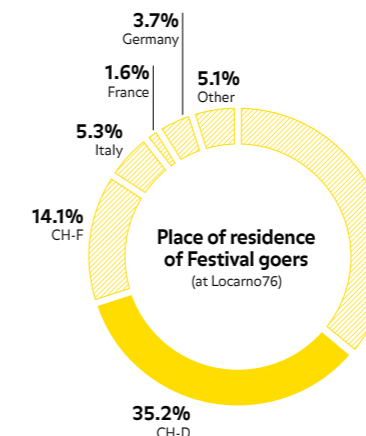
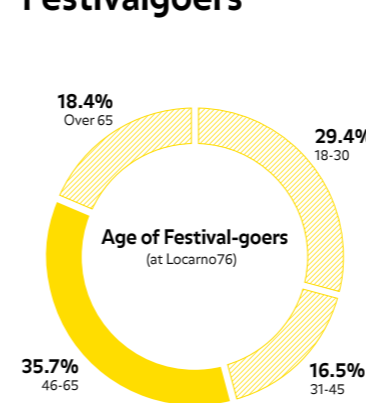
Spectators in the Last Editions of the Festival



Locarno 76 films



Festivalgoers



A Welcoming and Inclusive Festival

A crossroads of cultures and narratives, the Locarno Film Festival is distinguished by the heterogeneity of its audience, the professionals involved, and the team working behind the scenes. Inclusiveness in recent years has become one of the principles guiding the management's choices in every area, from the artistic to the operational. The Festival has always strived to be more welcoming and inclusive to all people who wish to attend. In 2023, the strides made in terms of accessibility have been remarkable and have taken the form of several projects.

Panel

The panel "Embracing Diversity: Inclusion and Representation of Disability in the Film Industry" was held at the Forum @ Spazio Cinema. The panel was the first such event in Switzerland translated by a deaf interpreter, a student of the first advanced course in Translation for Deaf Translators at the University of Geneva.

Award Ceremony in LIS

The Locarno76 award ceremony was translated into Italian Sign Language.

Focus groups

In 2023, four people with disabilities were invited to participate in the Festival, who were then involved in a debriefing held in October to discuss their experience and enable the planning of an even more accessible edition.

In addition, participants in the Audience Academy (see p. 78) hypothesized other new ways to make the Festival more inclusive.

Open Doors

For the first time, through the adoption of specific tools to ensure its full accessibility to online and onsite activities, it was possible to accommodate a person with a hearing impairment within the Open Doors program. To the great satisfaction of those involved - both organizers and participants - it was possible to accommodate her needs while integrating her fully in the program, which resulted in a meaningful collective learning opportunity.



A Sustainable Economy for the Benefit of the Region

The Festival has a direct and concrete impact on the local economy, creating a major incentive for touristic development in the Ticino region. It also represents an internationally renowned platform in which to present Swiss film production, as evidenced by the presence of as many as 32 Swiss films in the 2023 selection.

The relationship of the Festival with its regional and national territory is characterized by a virtuous reciprocity: on the one hand, the Festival benefits and strengthens its identity thanks to the support of institutions, citizenship and local businesses; on the other hand, the event generates a thoughtful and enthusias-

tic public interest at the level of tourism, trade, and professional opportunities, in particular by preferring local services and providers and involving the younger generation from the area.

The "city of cinema" for decades, Locarno has, through the Festival and the other activities related to this sector (PalaCinema, USI, SUPSI, CISA, RSI, and Ticino Film Commission), become a real hub where audiovisuals are designed, produced, studied, and from which more and more initiatives aimed at the development of the territory are emerging.





Film Sections



Long and short films, genre cinema and experimental forms, works that mark a beginning and others that are already part of the history of the seventh art: each year the Locarno Film Festival welcomes films of all forms and formats, through sections capable of enhancing cinema in all its forms.

Piazza Grande

Piazza Grande is the heart of Locarno. Capable of accommodating up to 8,000 spectators gathered in front of one of the largest cinema screens in the world, it is an extraordinary open-air theater that hosts major international titles each year and welcomes celebrated protagonists of contemporary cinema. All new films compete for the Prix du Public UBS.

Concorso Internazionale

Locarno's Concorso Internazionale explores new territories of cinematic art and in 2023 included 17 titles, all world premieres and one international premiere, competing for the Golden Leopard. Hosting both established auteurs and new filmmaking hopefuls, it is an inclusive and open venue where the best expressions of contemporary cinema converge.



The projections on the Piazza Grande are powered by 100% renewable energy thanks to the partnership with SES. Target 7.2 & 11.6

Concorso Cineasti del Presente

To discover the cinema of tomorrow, the Cineasti del Presente Competition offers a selection of first or second world premiere works directed by emerging talents from around the world. There were 15 films selected in 2023, eight of them directed by female directors.

Pardi di Domani

The Pardi di Domani section presents world premiere shorts and medium-length films and is divided into three competitions: the International Competition, which welcomes works by emerging filmmakers from around the world; the National Competition, reserved for Swiss productions; and the Corti d'Autore Competition, dedicated to short works by established filmmakers. Short films made as part of the Spring Academy in 2023 under the guidance of director Radu Jude are also presented.

Fuori Concorso

Fuori Concorso is a free zone for the exploration of new storytelling possibilities and new cinematic languages. In the 76th edition, the selection paid homage to the great masters, with 12 films by notable filmmakers, ten of them world premieres.

Histoire(s) du Cinéma

The future of cinema is also in its history. This section is an atlas for those archives; Histoire(s) du Cinéma opens up never-before-seen perspectives on the history of cinema. In 2023, it featured 19 films, including prestigious restorations, precious rediscoveries, and works that have marked the collective imagination.

Retrospective

The Retrospective of the 76th edition focused on popular Mexican cinema, in an intense survey of Mexican production from the 1940s to the late 1960s.

Open Doors Screenings

For more than 20 years in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Open Doors Screenings is a non-competitive section that highlights talent and films from countries where independent cinema is most fragile. In 2023, the exploration of the cinematographies of 22 Latin American and Caribbean countries continued by offering Festival audiences a selection of long and short films.

Locarno Kids Screenings

The Locarno Kids Screenings section features works aimed at childhood and adolescent audiences, including exclusive premieres, gems from the past and forays into the world of animation. It provides an annual tribute: the Locarno Kids Award la Mobiliare, an award destined for a personality capable of bringing cinema to the youngest audience.

The Festival also welcomes two independently organized sections:

- La Semaine de la Critique, reserved for documentary film, is organized by the Swiss Association of Film Journalists.
- Panorama Suisse hosts a selection of Swiss films chosen by a committee composed of representatives from the Solothurn Days, SWISS FILMS and the Swiss Film Academy.

To look back over all the titles that marked the 76th edition, as well as previous ones, you can consult the online archive on the event's website.



76
Locarno Film Festival
2-12 | 8 | 2023

Palmarès

Concorso Internazionale

Pardo d'Oro, Gran Premio del Festival della Città di Locarno per il miglior film
MANTAGHEYE BOHRANI (CRITICAL ZONE) di Ali Ahmadzadeh, Iran/Germania

Premio speciale della giuria dei Comuni di Ascona e Losone
NU AȘTEPTA PREA MULT DE LA SFÂRȘITUL LUMII (DO NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM THE END OF THE WORLD) di Radu Jude, Romania/Lussemburgo/Francia/Croazia

Pardo per la migliore regia della Città e della Regione di Locarno
MARYNA VRODA per Stepne, Ucraina/Germania/Polonia/Slovacchia

Pardo per la migliore interpretazione
DIMITRA VLAGOPOULOU per ANIMAL di Sofia Exarchou, Grecia/Austria/Romania/Cipro/Bulgaria

Pardo per la migliore interpretazione
RENÉE SOUTENDIJK per Sweet Dreams di Ena Sendjarević, Paesi Bassi/Svezia/Indonesia/La Riunione

Menzione Speciale
NUIT OBSCURE – AU REVOIR ICI, N'IMPORTE OÙ di Sylvain George, Francia/Svizzera

Concorso Cineasti del Presente

Pardo d'Oro Concorso Cineasti del Presente per il miglior film
HAO JIU BU JIAN (DREAMING & DYING) di Nelson Yeo, Singapore/Indonesia

Premio per la miglior regista emergente della Città e Regione di Locarno
KATHARINA HUBER per EIN SCHÖNER ORT, Germania

Premio speciale della giuria CINÉ+
CAMPING DU LAC di Éléonore Saintagnan, Belgio/Francia

Pardo per la migliore interpretazione
CLARA SCHWINNING per Ein Schöner Ort di Katharina Huber, Germania

Pardo per la migliore interpretazione
ISOLD HALLDÓRUDÓTTIR E STAVROS ZAFEIRIS per Touched di Claudia Rorarius, Germania

Menzioni Speciali
EKSKURZIJA (EXCURSION) di Una Gunjak, Bosnia-Erzegovina/Croazia/Serbia/Francia/Norvegia/Qatar
NEGU HURBILAK di Colectivo Negu, Spagna

First Feature

Swatch First Feature Award (Premio per la migliore opera prima)
HAO JIU BU JIAN (DREAMING & DYING) di Nelson Yeo, Singapore/Indonesia

Pardi di Domani

Concorso Corti d'Autore

Pardino d'Oro Swiss Life per il miglior cortometraggio d'autore
THE PASSING di Ivete Lucas, Patrick Bresnan, Stati Uniti

Menzione speciale e Cortometraggio candidato del Locarno Film Festival agli European Film Awards
BEEN THERE di Corina Schwingruber Ilić, Svizzera

Concorso Internazionale

Pardino d'Oro SRG SSR per il miglior cortometraggio internazionale
EN UNDERSØGELSE AF EMPATI (A STUDY OF EMPATHY) di Hilke Rönfeldt, Danimarca/Germania

Pardino d'Argento SRG SSR per il Concorso Internazionale
DU BIST SO WUNDERBAR di Leandro Goddinho, Paulo Menezes, Germania/Brasile

Premio per la migliore regia Pardi di Domani – BONALUMI Engineering
ERIC K. BOULIANNE per FAIRE UN ENFANT, Canada

Premio Medien Patent Verwaltung AG
NEGAHBAN (THE GUARD) di Amirhossein Shojaei, Iran

Concorso Nazionale

Pardino d'Oro Swiss Life per il miglior cortometraggio svizzero
LETZTE NACHT di Lea Bloch, Svizzera

Pardino d'Argento Swiss Life per il Concorso Nazionale
NIGHT SHIFT di Kayije Kagame, Hugo Radi, Svizzera

Premio per la migliore speranza svizzera
LETZTE NACHT di Lea Bloch, Svizzera

Pardo Verde Ricola

Pardo Verde Ricola
ČUVARI FORMULE (GUARDIANS OF THE FORMULA) di Dragan Bjelogrić, Serbia/Slovenia/Montenegro/ Macedonia del Nord

Menzioni Speciali
PROCIDA, film realizzato dai partecipanti del Procida Film Atelier, Italia
VALLEY PRIDE di Lukas Marxt, Austria/Germania

Piazza Grande

Prix du Public UBS
THE OLD OAK di Ken Loach, Gran Bretagna

Variety Piazza Grande Award
ČUVARI FORMULE (GUARDIANS OF THE FORMULA) di Dragan Bjelogrić, Serbia/Slovenia/Montenegro/ Macedonia del Nord



Conversations

Masterclasses, meetings, and panel discussions accompany the films showing at the Locarno Film Festival. The meetings are held by filmmakers, performers, and industry representatives, and moderated by internationally renowned film critics, the Artistic Director, or Festival programmers. All events are free of charge and translated, as appropriate, into one of the national languages and English, and are designed to reach a wide audience, including through live broadcasts on the Festival website and social media channels, which make this content available beyond the ten days of the event.

Conversations

“Shayda” and Beyond: Cinema and Women’s Freedom in Contemporary Iran with Noora Niasari and Zar Amir Ebrahimi, moderated by Donatella Della Ratta.

Conversation with Harmony Korine – Pardo d’Onore Manor, moderated by Manlio Gomarasca.

Conversation with Steve della Casa and Luc Merenda – with Steve della Casa, host of Hollywood Party and Director of the Torino Film Festival, and Luc Merenda, a very active actor in the 1970s, who worked on several crime films in Italy: among the most famous are *La polizia accusa: il Servizio Segreto uccide* by Sergio Martino and *Nick Hezard’s Gli amici and Ferdinando Di Leo’s Il poliziotto è marcio*.

Conversation with Luc Jacquet – Locarno Kids Award la Mobiliare, moderated by Daniela Persico.

IDENTITY/IDENTITIES – A talk performance a curated by Open Doors, in collaboration with BaseCamp, moderated by Marjorie Bendeck.

Conversation with Edoardo Leo and Piera Detassis – with Edoardo Leo, actor, director and screenwriter (*Non sono quello che sono - The Tragedy of Othello* di W. Shakespeare) and Piera Detassis, President and Artistic Director of the Accademia del Cinema Italiano - Premi David di Donatello.

Conversation with Marianne Slot – Raimondo Rezzonico Award – in collaboration with ARTE, moderated by Olivier Pèrè.

Conversation with the delegation of La Bella Estate with Laura Luchetti and Yile Vianello, moderation by Piera Detassis, President and Artistic Director of the Academy of Italian Cinema - Premi David di Donatello.

Conversation with Pietro Scalia – Vision Award Ticinomoda, moderated by Manlio Gomarasca.

On the future of cinema: Tsai Ming-liang in conversation with Kevin B. Lee (Pardo alla Carriera Ascona - Locarno Tourism and Locarno Film Festival Professorship for the Future of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts at USI) - Powered by Swisscom.

Watch the conversations on YouTube →



Roundtables – Panels

“Are you still a Film Critic or already an influencer?” – organized by the Swiss Association of Film Journalists SVFJ/ASJC/ASGC, moderated by Monika Schärer.

“Embarcing Diversity: Disability Inclusion and Representation in the Film Industry” – a conversation exploring the power of diversity to challenge stereotypes and promote a more welcoming and inclusive film industry. With Claire Baines, Pascal Plisson and Stavros Zafeiris, moderated by Fatih Abay.

“Spectacle Every Day – The Many Seasons of Mexican Popular Cinema” – with Adriana Bellamy, Alonso Díaz de la Vega, Roberto Fiesco, Viviana Garcia-Besné, Michel Lipkes Leduc, and Hugo Villa Smythe, moderation by Olaf Möller and Roberto Turigliatto.

“Swiss Film Industry – New Film Act and New Opportunities” – practical advice on new funding opportunities for Swiss producers.

“István Szabó on “Film, Culture and Spirituality” – 50 Years Ecumenical Jury in Locarno” – with István Szabó and Marie-Therese Mäder and Joachim Valentin, moderation by Ingrid Glatz.

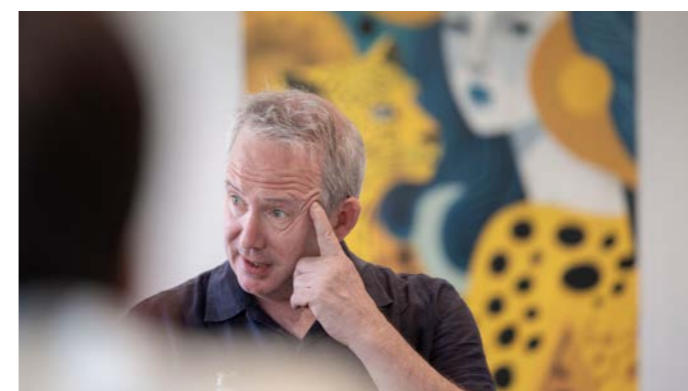
Q&A Concorso Internazionale: 17 “International Competition Q&As” held at the Forum @ Spazio Cinema.

Awards Ceremonies

Open Doors Ceremony – moderated by Paolo Bertolin

Award Ceremony Locarno76

Independent Juries Award Ceremony – moderated by Maria Victoria Haas





Circulation

The Long Life of Films

Recognizing the talents of tomorrow and bringing them to the attention of the international film community and onto the festival circuit is a goal that the Locarno Film Festival pursues in support of fearless and resilient independent cinema. Indeed, it is within the framework of festivals that new visions are born and nurtured: here they can find the resources to establish themselves and the audience to which they can turn. The extraordinarily high number of festivals that have invited films selected by the Locarno Film Festival shows how the Festival is seen as a genuine seal of quality.

Its role is crucial not only in identifying the best European and international works of the year, but also in bridging the gap between them and the selection of the world's most prestigious academies (such as the European Film Awards and the Oscars).

In particular, seven Locarno films were among the finalists for the EFA (European Film Awards), four of these directed by women:

- *Animal* by Sofia Exarchou
- *Stepne* by Maryna Vroda
- *Sweet Dreams* by Ena Sendijarević
- *Ekskurzija (Excursion)* by Una Gunjak

In addition:

- *The Vanishing Soldier* by Dani Rosenberg
- *Nu aștepta prea mult de la sfârșitul lumii (Do Not Expect Too Much From the End of the World)* by Radu Jude
- *Sigurno mjesto (Safe Place)* by Juraj Lerotić, presented at Locarno75

The short film selection, steered by General Delegate Eddie Bertozzi along with his programming team, saw as many as four shorts selected among the finalists, including the winner of the Best Short Film award *Hardly Working*:

- *Been There* by Corina Schwingruber Ilić
- ***Hardly Working* by Total Refusal**, presented at Locarno75
- *AirHostess-737* by Thanasis Neofotistos, presented at Locarno75
- *Asterión* by Francesco Montagner, presented at Locarno75

Oscar nominations for Best Foreign Language Film include films by Radu Jude, Ena Sendijarević, Una Gunjak, Juraj Lerotić, and Noora Niasari's *Shayda*, Locarno76's closing film.

250

Number of festivals that programmed films selected by the Locarno Film Festival in 2023.

7

Films from Locarno75 and Locarno76 selected amongst the finalists of the European Film Awards

4

Short films selected as finalists in other festivals, including 1 winner

5

Official Oscar nominations for the Best International Feature Film category



Hardly Working by Total Refusal, screened at Locarno75 and winner in 2023 of the Best European Short Film at the 36th European Film Awards.





Locarno Pro

The platform of reference for film professionals

One of the most vital incubators of international talent in the annual festival calendar, an unmissable meeting point for key players in the industry as well as a year-round active platform, Locarno Pro is the area of the Festival entirely dedicated to film industry professionals.

With its activities, which extend well beyond the eleven days of the Festival, Locarno Pro aims to provide 360-degree support for auteur cinema in diverse areas of the world. From the workshop for early-stage co-development and long-term cooperation Alliance 4 Development, to the work-in-progress section First Look; from the informal networking platform for new production companies Match Me! to the online interdisciplinary think tank StepIn, to U30, and Heritage Online. All Locarno Pro events pursue the common goal of supporting, connecting and presenting vendors, filmmakers, production, distribution and exhibition representatives, following the various stages of a film's life, from conception to theatrical release. The quality of the selection is combined with the creation of concrete distribution outlets for films, which thus find new audiences.

Locarno76 was a record edition for Locarno Pro, with an increase in participants that confirms the centrality and importance of it as an industry event, as well as its international prestige. With 10 percent more ac-

credited attendees than in 2022, Locarno Pro ensures a strong buyer presence (with a ratio of three buyers for every sales agent) and is committed to the inclusion of industry professionals, counting nearly half of women among the registrants. In addition, special attention is paid to supporting the diversity of global productions and developing cinematographic sectors, with representation from nearly 100 countries in the selection of participating professionals. Distinguished guests have enriched this edition, offering their expertise during panel discussions and master classes: among them, producer Ted Hope, producers Marlen Olson (Triangle of Sadness, winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes) and Marianne Slot (Dancer in the Dark), who was honored during Locarno76 with the Raimondo Rezzonico Award. In addition to steady organic growth of Locarno Pro's activities, their media resonance in local and international publications is also increasing.

Industry professionals at Locarno76

96

Total countries represented

+10%

Total accreditations compared to 2022

Highlights

72
Total films

518
Swiss accreditations

1'012
"1-to-1" meetings

Industry Pros

269 Buyers

84 International Sales Agents

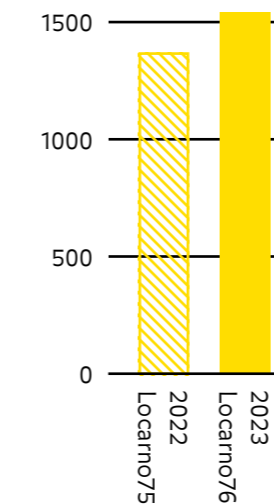
106 Exclusive video content

16 Panels, roundtables, and masterclasses

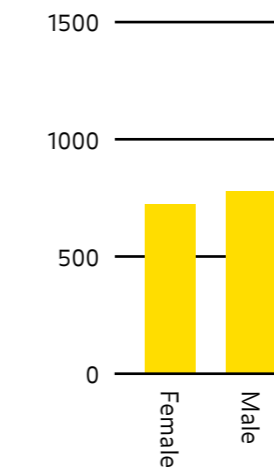
1'350 Participants at the Meet & Greet

Industry Accreditation 2023

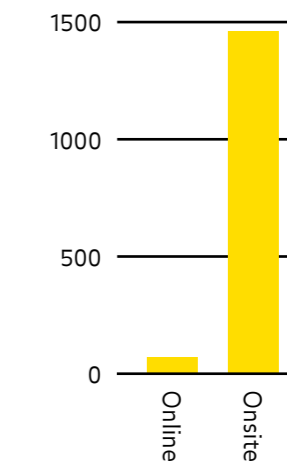
Edition



Gender

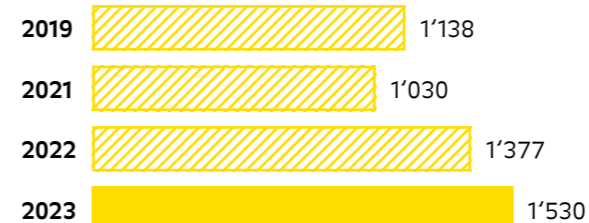


Type



Trend

Number of accredited film industry representatives in Locarno



Locarno Pro: countries represented in the official selection





Filled with new activities in Locarno Pro's very well received offerings, 2023 showed us an industry in full health and with prospects for growth. With Heritage Online, the festival dedicated itself to the restoration and distribution of restored films, such as Yousry Nasrallah's Bab El Shams (2004). Locarno aims to become a reference point for heritage films by introducing Heritage Monday and the Heritage Restoration Contest, which, among 30 films nominated to receive full or partial restoration, awarded the film Mulher de verdade (1954) by Brazilian director Alberto Cavalcanti.

Markus Duffner
Head of Locarno Pro



Five years after the Cannes protests of the 50/50 Collective, a panel discussion on gender equality and diversity representation took place during the 11th StepIn. Target 5.5



Transfer shuttles for invited international guests were abolished in favour of more environmentally friendly train travel, and an electric transfer shuttle was used between the Festival centre and the Hotel Belvedere, the venue for industry activities. Target 13.2



Doors Open to Talent From Around the World

Open Doors is a section of the Locarno Film Festival and a part of Locarno Pro, created to support, with the collaboration of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), artists from underrepresented communities and countries where cinema as a form of expression is at risk. The goal is to provide a space where filmmakers can find support at every stage of their creative and professional journey. Open Doors acts as a talent incubator, providing a space where film professionals can access resources, training and contacts to create, finance, and promote their works, develop their knowledge and consequently contribute to the growth of their country's community and film industry. To work in depth by adapting to the specifics of different areas of the world, Open Doors focuses on a single region at a time. The focus of Open Doors until the 2024 edition is on a selection of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

There are many activities planned during the Locarno Film Festival: from the Projects Hub, an international co-production platform, to the Producers Lab, an ad hoc training program for creative producers; from the non-competitive section of the Festival Open Doors Screenings, which brings to Locarno a selection of films from the region's film world in focus, to the Directors Club, a training and creative inspiration program offered to film directors-launched in 2023.

Beyond the days of the Festival, there are an increasing number of initiatives that Open Doors offers throughout the year to provide ongoing, concrete support to the film community in the region in focus: one example is Consultancy, an online service, in collaboration with industry experts, aimed at producers and directors seeking support on specific issues related to feature film proj-

ects at different stages of development.

Finally, the ToolBox platform offers purpose-built resources with content pertaining to all stages in the lifespan of a project. The latter recorded an increase in registered members in 2023, confirming the presence of a growing and connected digital community throughout the year.

Open Doors at Locarno76

Total participants

39

21 Female

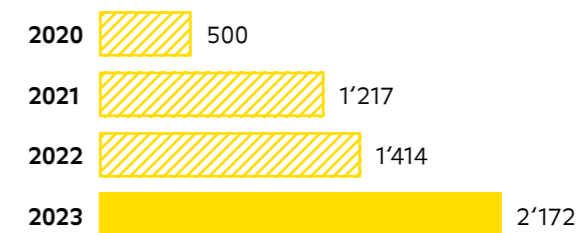
18 Male

35 Average age

Members of the ToolBox platform

+53%

Compared to 2022





2023 was the second year for Open Doors in the three-year cycle dedicated to Central America, the Caribbean and South America, with a total of 16 countries represented. Sustainability, support for emerging talent, and working with local film industries, Open Doors thus confirms itself as a space for discussion and the construction of new ideas and practices around cinema, which puts filmmakers and nascent collaborations at the center, building bridges between the countries in the area at the center of the focus and the industry players present at Locarno.

Zsuzsi Bánkuti
Head of Open Doors



Hosting professional activities via online sessions extended participation in our initiatives throughout the year.
Target 4.3



The focus on gender equality is even more significant since it supports the empowerment of women in geographical areas where the likelihood of discrimination is more pronounced.
Target 5b, 5.5



The films and participants selected each year contribute to the diversity of the Festival's representation.
Target 10.2



Locarno Factory

Betting on the Future of Intelligence

For an event with such a strong historical value as the Locarno Film Festival, it is natural to look to the future while keeping alive a predisposition for change.

This path is also articulated around the active involvement of young people with educational paths and dedicated initiatives. It is no coincidence that the initiatives born in recent years have aimed at making the Festival a place for the creation of artistic and cinematographic projects: in fact, it is precisely in Locarno that, thanks to the exchanges between the various emerging talents and the established professionals involved, unrepeatable encounters are possible, from which original ideas, new collaborations, dazzling works or unexpected professional breakthroughs can arise.

Locarno has always been a reference point for young film talents also thanks to its numerous related activities:

- The **Locarno Academy** selects the most talented new voices in the film industry every year. A true springboard, the Academy is divided into Critics, dedicated to film critics, Filmmakers, aimed at directors, and Industry, with the goal of making the Festival a hub in which to grow the industry of tomorrow in all its professional facets. In the 2023 edition, young talents who passed through the BaseCamp and Open Doors experiences participated for the Filmmakers section, proving that the stimulating environment of the Festival generates fruitful encounters and new collaborations. Singaporean filmmaker Nelson Yeo, discovered precisely through the 2018 Filmmakers Academy, won the 2023 Pardo d'Oro in the Concorso Cineasti del Presente. Moreover, building on the success of the summer Industry Academy, Locarno decided to expand this training project to the rest of the world, maintaining its workshop format aimed at about ten young film industry professionals (from sales to distribution, marketing, and festival programming). International Industry Academies were developed together with prestigious partners and institutions in Greece (Thessaloniki), Lebanon (Beirut), South Africa (Cape Town), India (Goa), the United States (New York), Chile (Santiago), Brazil (São Paulo), Costa Rica (San Jose), and Mexico (Mexico City). A new Industry Academy was established in Colombia in July 2023, making five Locarno Industry Academies in Latin America, confirming Locarno's interest in and support for filmmaking in the region.
- The **BaseCamp** allows 200 new talents from all over the world each year to participate in meetings, masterclasses, and creative projects to establish a constructive and interdisciplinary dialogue, with the support of important cultural institutions (starting with the five Swiss art schools HEAD-Ecal-ZHdK-HSLU-CISA); born in 2019, it is a residency for young talents aged 18 to 30: contamination and experimentation are the watchwords of an experience from which synergies and collaborations arise organically that can force a decisive turn on a person's artistic path. Participation in the project in its fourth edition, called "The Circle is Open," has been very high and with profiles of excellent quality. A new project, the BaseCamp Academy, a true multidisciplinary academy, took place for the first time in 2023.

- The Festival's role as a development space for debut films is consolidated by the revival of the **Locarno Residency**, the project accompanying the making of the first feature-length fiction film through a mentoring process. Supported by Swiss Life, the program includes a first phase open to 10 talents chosen on the basis of the project submitted and their professional background. During Locarno76 a jury selected three projects, awarding Coline Confort (Switzerland), Eliza Scanlen (Australia), and Ana Elena Tejera (Panama). The three participants then continued the mentoring program during the course of the year with online and in-person sessions, first in Venice - in the setting of Palazzo Trevisan degli Ulivi, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Milan - and then in Ascona-Moscia - at the Eranos Foundation. The final stage will include the presentation of the projects during Locarno77, guaranteeing their authors numerous contacts with the film industry and the chance to win the final prize of CHF 5,000.
- The innovative cultural initiative of the **Professorship for the Future of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts** is a collaboration between the Locarno Film Festival and Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), with support from Swisscom, and is led by Professor Kevin B. Lee. A true catalyst for the progress taking place in cinema and audiovisual arts, this original collaboration between academia and a cultural festival was born with the aim of developing a reflection on the future of film events and the evolution of audiovisual forms, giving space to new emerging languages and involving students and audiences. This dynamic collaboration has significantly extended the Festival's educational impact, creating an even stronger link with the younger generations and with society in the region. A success story with an ever-expanding team and many of the goals already achieved just two years after the program's inception, such as the approval of a "Cinema and Audiovisual Futures" curriculum in the Faculty of Communication, Culture and Society. Multiple activities unfolded throughout the year, with teaching of new digital languages - from social media to virtual reality, via artificial intelligence and new spaces such as art galleries and museums, where films increasingly have a presence - and of videographic and audiovisual tools to USI students and researchers. Additional initiatives took place in conjunction with Locarno Film Festival events, such as the conference on the future of cinema with Tsai Ming-liang, the 24-hour talk on artificial intelligence A Long Night of Dreaming About The Future of Intelligence, the screening of USI students' video essays during Schools Without Borders, or even the talks during L'immagine e la parola. The groundwork was also laid for the first Cinema Futures Conference, which will take place during the 2024 edition of the Festival.
- The **Documentary Summer School**, another collaboration with USI, involves the academic and film communities in a place of exchange, to establish constructive theoretical and practical dialogues about cinema.
- The **Spring Academy**, created in collaboration with CISA, offers 10 filmmakers each year a workshop with a strong practical approach under the guidance of prestigious names in filmmaking. After the successes of previous editions featuring Béla Tarr and Michelangelo Frammartino, in 2023 the Spring Academy brought to Locarno another leading figure in international cinema, Romanian director Radu Jude, winner of the Golden Bear at the Berlinale 2021. The 10 young filmmakers thus had the opportunity to be guided by a special mentor, with the goal of making found footage films from images preserved at RSI, one of the richest audiovisual archives in Switzerland. The films were later premiered at Locarno76.

All these initiatives interact with the other sections of the Locarno Film Festival, creating an exchange of great cultural value. Locarno is a meeting space between established film figures and young talents, a unique networking opportunity and a stage that can define the future of new film voices.



Locarno Academy welcomes aspiring film professionals and enables them to take part in master classes and build a network of acquaintances.
Target 4.4



Participants experience is a path of discovery and proximity with cultures from beyond Central Europe, with a view to inclusion and appreciation of differences.
Target 10.2

Locarno Academy at Locarno76

40

Participants

50:50

Gender split

29

Nationalities

105

Masterclasses and networking events

“

Locarno was a confirmation and a revelation for me. I had never been to a film festival outside of Latin America. Yet, it was as if for ten days we all spoke the same language and had the same passport. Cinema is our language and our home. Masterclasses and workshops were stimulating, and bringing together people with different backgrounds resulted in an agora of continuous discussion and exchange. Without this sharing, I think cinema becomes distant from us.

Tomás Guarnaccia – Locarno Academy Participant

“

Today, more than ever, it is important for cinema to pivot around interdisciplinary exchanges: experiences such as the BaseCamp arise from this need, being aimed at young talents from all over the world, active in different creative fields, who find in this space the opportunity for unprecedented cultural dialogue. For example, what does a young Chemistry PhD student in Switzerland have in common with a budding filmmaker from Botswana? The Festival has created the space to find out through real action. The BaseCamp is a place for dialogue, creation and experimentation that through its vitality also allows the Locarno Film Festival to renew itself, with a focus on diversity and inclusion.

Stefano Knuchel

Head of Filmmakers Academy & BaseCamp Curator



A selection of lectures and masterclasses were made available online and accessible to all.
Target 4.3

The diversity of our audiences allows the Locarno Film Festival to ensure a multicultural and intergenerational learning environment.
Target 4.7

The Festival Economies and Ecologies class had the opportunity to attend the Cannes Film Festival.
Target 4.7



The Festival promotes a policy of affordable prices, in particular to encourage the participation of young people
Target 10.2



A video essay on Ecocinema was screened during the Lugano Day of Sustainability.
Target 13.3 & 4.7

BaseCamp at Locarno76

200

Participants

50:50 Gender split

31 Nationality

17 Exhibition spaces

43 Masterclasses & networking events

“

In this space, where the social and creative exchange is so intense, we had the opportunity to challenge ourselves, forcing us to innovate outside our comfort zones. The Festival has made us better disseminators of our knowledge, building a bridge between art and science that enriches both fields. I look forward to seeing what people in the future will create, having been touched by this experience.

Erik Poppleton – PhD at the Department of Chemistry, University of Basel, BaseCamp participant



518

Swiss and international participants (established filmmakers, artists, cultural professionals, academics, etc.) who took part in the training and networking events of the BaseCamp programme.

“

The chair was created with the idea of asking the most important questions about the role of cinema and cultural events in the future. I often say that cinema is a way of life, and with this idea I offer students a multidisciplinary perspective to investigate the world and themselves. Through the tools and language of cinema and new media, such as the video essay form, we are taking a clear look at today's audiovisual industry and culture in all its different forms, with the ambition to imagine what its future path will be.

Kevin B. Lee

Locarno Film Festival Professor
for the Future of Cinema and the Audiovisual Arts





Locarno Edu

Looking to the future together, through educational and creative paths

In a complex media landscape, for the past six years the Locarno Film Festival has been a point of reference for the audiences of the future, providing them with all the necessary tools for them to take a conscious look at images, and seeing in them a medium with which to express themselves. The goal of these initiatives is to cultivate the audience of tomorrow and activate a dialogue with it that lasts throughout the year, becoming increasingly rooted in the Ticino region.

For this reason, the last few years have seen the emergence of educational and cultural mediation programs such as Locarno Kids la Mobiliare, the Day of Cinema and the Atelier du Futur, which propose true image literacy, as well as a rediscovery of cinema, the movie theater and the cultural and social role that this art form plays.

Locarno Kids

For the first time in the 2023 edition, the Kids project and Locarno Edu initiatives were truly extended throughout the year, with several in-person events:

- La Giornata del Cinema
- Locarno Kids on Tour
- Settimane della Svizzera Italiana
- Training courses for teachers
- Collaborations with schools in Ticino
- Collaborations with cultural and film mediation events in Switzerland (e.g., Schweizer Jugendfilmtage, LernFilm Festival) and other digital initiatives
- Locarno Kids HomeMade Movies
- Locarno Back to School

Significant news in 2023 was the creation of a real section of the Festival by Locarno Kids, with the possibility of a person entering their own film. For the first year, films were shown in national, international, and world premieres, aimed not only at an audience of children and young people but also professionals. The result was a significant increase in audience attendance, ushering in a new phase for Locarno Kids.

Most of the workshop activities were possible thanks to the support of educational partners, including DFA - SUPSI, LAC edu, Cinemagia, Castellinaria, RSI Kids, and WeTube. The workshops organized by the Festival focused on audiovisual communication and new technologies between robots and artificial intelligence.



The Locarno Kids Award la Mobiliare 2023 was awarded to Luc Jacquet, a filmmaker whose films focus on today's environmental issues. His films make use of accessible and inclusive language.
Target 4.7

In 2023, for the first time, Locarno Kids and Atelier du Futur collaborated with WWF on educational programmes for the younger generation.
Target 4.7



Atelier du Futur activities have sustainability as a common thread: from the creation of fashion garments, to the consumption of food, to the creation of musical or audiovisual works.
Target 12.8



Media literacy, visual education, and familiarization with cinema in the lives of the youngest: these are the goals pursued as part of Locarno Edu and expanded in 2023 with a variety of activities aimed not only at children and young people, but also at teachers. The heart of this activity lies in the idea of bringing children closer to film forms and languages other than those they might be used to, through the exploration of themes close to them, from environmental to interpersonal.

Daniela Persico
Head of Special Projects



Atelier du Futur

For three days, 50 young people between the ages of 13 and 15 met in the picturesque setting of Villa San Quirico in Minusio, participating in an intense program including meetings with prestigious guests, moments of reflection and opportunities for discussion.

The initiative offers youngsters the opportunity to share in a unique and creative experience and to reflect on central issues in our society. The collaboration between the Festival and la Mobiliare made it possible to forge connections within the program, which took the form of watching films featured in Locarno Kids, participating in an evening on the Piazza Grande, and meeting prominent guests of the event.



Today was my first time at the cinema. I was a little scared when the lights went out but then it was wonderful. I want to go again tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, and then again....

Locarno Kids participant

Locarno Edu at Locarno76

+39.7%

Participants in 2023 (3,690)

Highlights

42

Workshops (including la Giornata del Cinema)

14

Dedicated screenings

7

Short films made by children

1'240

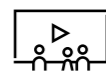
Workshop participants

50

Atelier du Futur participants

2'400

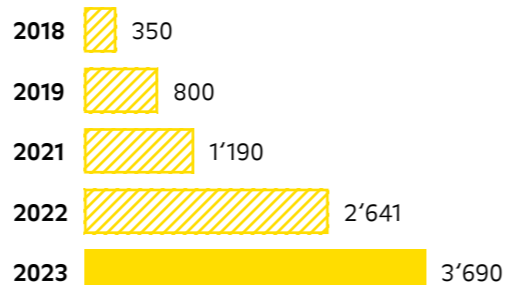
Spettatori alle proiezioni (inclusa la Giornata del Cinema)



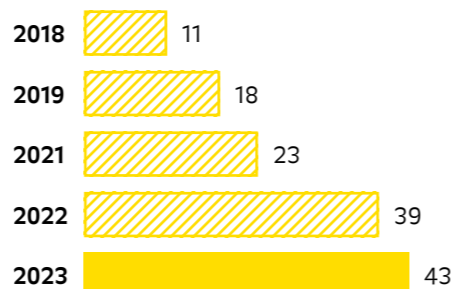
Sold Out

Screenings & workshops

Participants



Educational activities



More and more, image education is included in the realm of influence of the Festival, and there's also the aim of making it a more inclusive space also for professional families who bring their children with them to the Festival. But Locarno Kids was also created to get closer to the local community. On the one hand, accompanying children to the theater, perhaps for the first time, and thus helping to raise an audience of tomorrow's viewers. On the other, to build media literacy paths that provide essential critical tools for reading images to those growing up in the digital age.

Francesco De Biasi
Educational Program Manager





Beyond Cinema

An Agora of Encounters

The Locarno Film Festival experience is not limited to theatrical screenings. There are many audience aggregation initiatives encapsulated in the Locarno Audience Experience, from concerts, exhibitions and shows for families and children at la Rotonda by la Mobiliare, to workshops and meetings for selected Audience Academy participants. In addition, Locarno, thanks in part to its unique landscape - nestled as it is between the lake and mountains - becomes an irreplaceable meeting point each year for professionals and prominent representatives of the film, political, and cultural scene. There are a hundred events, receptions and meetings organized in 2023 that have made possible networking and continuous exchange among Festival participants.

Audience Academy

Created thanks to the support of UBS, the Audience Academy aims to extend its educational role towards the audience in order to raise their awareness and provide a 360° experience to Locarno Film Festival viewers through exclusive workshops and meetings. The second edition of this pioneering project gave the ten selected participants the opportunity to experience three days behind the scenes with access to tailor-made content. In addition, during this experience they received the tools to become more aware and involved as audiences and as jury "members" of the Prix du Public UBS. In 2023, the Audience Academy welcomed six female and four male participants from four different countries (Morocco, Switzerland, South Africa, and Germany). One of the participants also had the opportunity to provide the Festival with her feedback with respect to the accessibility of the event. Her advice, along with that provided by other people with disabilities who participated in a focus group on this issue, will be used as a basis from which to make further improvements in future editions.

Rotonda by la Mobiliare

La Rotonda is a scenic entertainment and meeting place with free admission and accessible to the widest possible public, with concerts, performances, family activities, art installations, culinary offerings and more. A unique setting in which to enhance the excellence of the region with spaces dedicated to the creations of local artisans and typical delicacies from Ticino.

The 2023 edition of the Rotonda was a great success in terms of visitors and activities. Reaching 105,000 visitors in 16 evenings, the event welcomed, among others, Davide Van De Sfroos, Gabry Ponte, Guè, Dj Antoine, Pegasus, Tanja La Croix and The Original Blues Brothers Band.



Locarno76 at a glance

+62%

Visitors to the Rotonda by la Mobiliare compared to 2022 (105'000)

78

Concerts & DJ sets



Highlights

22	Culinary offerings
64	Shows
16	Performances for families & children
10	Artisanal stands



Events, Receptions, and Opportunities for Networking

In addition to being deeply rooted in its locality, the Locarno Film Festival is an event with a strong national and international profile, where not only is cinema discussed, but space is also made for broader moments of reflection. During the eleven days in August, Locarno in fact becomes a small summer Davos, that is, the venue for unique meetings with leading personalities from the film, political, and cultural scene.

There were 16 official festival events in 2023, with a total of 6,274 participants. In addition, the Locarno Film Festival is a venue that serves as an aggregator of personalities from different fields - culture, business, and politics, but not only those - who have the opportunity to meet at events organized by private individuals and institutions in the context of the Festival, such as the Digital Switzerland event, the 75th anniversary ceremony of the Cinémathèque suisse, and the Swiss Medical Network symposium. The 76th edition witnessed a total of a hundred events and receptions, always organized with a view to environmental sustainability and local enhancement.

Dedicated to film industry professionals, the Locarno Pro Opening and Closing Party evenings, held at Locarno's BLU Restaurant & Lounge with a turnout of more than 1,000 people, marked the beginning and end of Locarno Pro activities.

About 250 diplomats and political figures from around the world took part in Diplomacy Day. Participants were taken on a tour

of the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB) - in Bellinzona and then attended, in the Castelgrande courtyard, speeches by guests of honor Martin Candinas, then President of the National Council, Ignazio Cas-sis, Federal Councilor DFAE, Marco Solari, then the President of the Locarno Film Festival, and Mario Branda, Mayor of the City of Bellinzona. The event was organized in collaboration with the City of Bellinzona.

Another highlight was the Reception in honor of the partners held in Sonogno, with 165 representatives of the partners whose support actively participates in the success of the Festival. Guests had the opportunity to experience the beauty of the area, visiting the Verzasca Valley and discovering its traditions through the Val Verzasca Museum and the Gianettoni Cheese Factory.

There were also numerous events that enlivened the BaseCamp evenings. Partners who made the events possible included Play Suisse, Migros-Kulturprozent Story Lab, Suisse Image, SSA, and Suisse Performance.

The award ceremony for the Locarno Residency, the Locarno Film Festival's accompanying premiere project, took place at the Swiss Life Lounge. Among the three projects in the first edition, Midnight Blue Spring by Giselle Lin was awarded, while the winners of the second edition of the Residency were Coline Confort, Eliza Scanlen, and Ana Elena Tejera.

Events at Locarno76 in a glance

16

Official Festival events

6'274

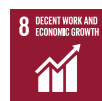
Participants

32

External events hosted in official Festival lounges

5

Side events within the Festival (organised by external partners)



Catering companies and restaurants were all sourced from Ticino, with 90% from the Locarno region. Target 8.3



Meat consumption was reduced by about 25%, with vegetarian starters at all Artistic Director dinners and industry lunches. Vegetarian dishes accounted for 60% of the courses served at other locations.

55% less PET was used than in 2022, with a consumption of 8,000 bottles compared to 18,000 in 2022. In cooperation with the City of Locarno, four fountains with drinking water were also installed for the use of all festival-goers and water bottles were distributed free of charge to the Festival staff. Target 12.5



Our collaboration with Too Good To Go enabled a total of 122 meals to go unwasted. Target 17.17 e 12.3



The Official Events at Locarno76

Opening Reception

Magistrale

1'050

Entrances, including accredited

70%

Male



30%

Female

Opening Party

Villa San Quirico

618

Participants

53%

Male



47%

Female

Reception in honor of the Minister of Culture

Monte Verità

306

Participants

68%

Male



32%

Female

Partners Reception

Valle Verzasca

165

Participants

50%

Male



50%

Female

Party di Domani

Delta Beach, Ascona

533

Participants

49%

Male



51%

Female

Reception in honor of the Grand Council

Magistrale

397

Participants

64%

Male



36%

Female

Diplomacy Day

Bellinzona

283

Participants

63%

Male



37%

Female

Closing Party

Magistrale

654

Participants

68%

Male



32%

Female

The Leopard Club

The Leopard Club, the supporting organization of the Locarno Film Festival that contributes to the development of the event, offered its approximately 80 members exclusive events involving some of the 76th edition's prestigious guests, such as the Members Only Soiree and the Leopard Club Gala Evening.

Founded in 2008, the Leopard Club continues to make significant progress in its mission to connect its members by offering them an attractive and diverse program during the Festival and throughout the course of the year, securing significant financial contributions and thus solidifying its role as a major supporter for the future development of the Festival.

With the Leopard Club Award, the association pays tribute each year to a great film personality who, through his or her work, has managed to make his or her mark on the collective imagination. The Leopard Club

Award 2023 was presented to Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgård, who accepted the award on June 16, 2023. After a strike called by the SAG-AFTRA union on July 14, 2023, the awardee decided to attend Locarno but forgo the award, like his other colleagues within international festivals, in solidarity with the demands for adequate wages and fair profit sharing by the professional categories involved. The Locarno Film Festival respected the awardee's decision, understanding and always supporting the need to promote and enhance the work of all professionals engaged in audiovisual creation.

[More information on membership→](#)



Event Venues



Piazza Grande Restaurant – Palacinema

1'418

Total visitors
(10 days)

7

External events

Highlights

- Swiss Medical Network Symposium
- DigitalSwitzerland panel on AI & digitization



Leopard Club Lounge

1'078

Total visitors
(11 days)



Industry Lounge

550

Total visitors
(11 days)



Swiss Life Lounge

3'200

Total visitors
(10 days)

2

Concerts

7

External events



Davide Campari Lounge

8'000

Total visitors
(11 days)

5

Panel/conferences

11

External events



Press Village

2'800

Total visitors between Nespresso Lounge and Press Village (journalists & public)

2

External events



Magistrale

3'313

Total guests



Palazzo Casorella

471

Total visitors
(10 days)

11

Artistic Director dinners



Beyond the 11 Days of the Festival

The skills developed within the Festival, as well as the slate of films it showcases, have enabled it to develop a series of events that ensure its continued presence during the other months of the year. The high-profile curatorial work carried out by its artistic team is employed in spin-off initiatives that in recent years have become truly recognized and autonomous brands, such as *L'immagine e la parola*, a cultural encounter that enlivens the springtime in Locarno by interweaving cinema and literature, and Locarno Shorts Weeks, an intense overview of short films that is also widely fol-

Spin-off Activities

L'immagine e la parola

On March 11 and 12 at the GranRex in Locarno, *L'immagine e la parola*, the spring event of the Locarno Film Festival presented by Swisscom, celebrated its 10th anniversary. With those 10 editions it has been able to push the theme of the relationship between the written language and the language of images in new and unpredictable directions, with great attention to multidisciplinary and new media.

Images of History: A Confrontation between Research and Creation was the title of the 2023 program, which shed light on the relationship between the past and the images that speak about it, with Romanian director Radu Jude as guest of honor.

"The event focused on the practice of exploring audiovisual archives and the telling of History through moving images. Guest of honor was director Radu Jude, winner of the Golden Bear at the Berlinale in 2021, who also led a workshop on film editing from the CSR archives with a group of young filmmakers from around the world. Professor Kevin B. Lee delved into the topic, bringing together several authors working on video essay, while the director of the Cineteca di

lowed by non-specialist audiences. The short films selected during the Festival for the Open Doors Screenings were also made accessible online in the fall. This additional Open Doors initiative is one of the pieces that contributes to the goals of the section: to support the dissemination of film works from the region of interest, where it is normally more difficult to access arthouse cinema. Made available for free worldwide, the short films recorded nearly 9,000 views from 172 different countries.

Bologna, Gian Luca Farinelli, expanded the look towards the preciousness of film heritage and its preservation and dissemination. Finally, the weekend concluded with a masterful lecture by historian Carlo Ginzburg." –Daniela Persico

Locarno Shorts Weeks

For the fifth consecutive year, Locarno Shorts Weeks, made possible thanks to the support of Swiss Life, offered the public a selection of 28 short films that were shown during the 74th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, chosen from the titles of the three Pardi di Domani competitions - National Competition, International Competition, Auteur Shorts Competition - and Open Doors. From February 1 to 28, the shorts were made available for free on the Festival's website and its Vimeo channel.

"In February 2023, Locarno Shorts Weeks, an off-shoot of the Locarno Film Festival dedicated to short films, proposed a selection composed of a record number of titles, 28 (as opposed to 22 in previous years), chosen from those submitted in 2021. Unlike in the past, when a new title was unveiled each day, in 2023 the entire selection was made



available from day one, maximizing the viewing opportunities for each of the titles.

In 2023, too, the selection was curated with a view to consciously diversifying the proposal in order to offer viewers an unexpected journey through genres, languages, themes and geographies. This approach, which favors a taste for surprise and discovery, contributes to the initiative's ev-

er-increasing results. To date, the Locarno Shorts Weeks have firmly established themselves as one of the must-see (online) events of the year: highly anticipated by the short film community and increasingly open to conquer new audiences." – Eddie Bertozzi

Locarno Shorts Weeks

23

Countries of origin (film titles)

3	Swiss films
11	European films
14	Rest of World films

+53.9%

Views compared to 2022

Video Views

2021	24'674
2022	17'468
2023	26'888



Stakeholder Management & Engagement

Stakeholder Management & Engagement

Impact Analysis

To strengthen its corporate strategy in the area of corporate social responsibility, the Locarno Film Festival has since 2022 implemented a system to monitor the social, economic, and environmental impact of the event through the identification and measurement of handprint (positive impact) and footprint (negative impact). The goal is to accurately identify and quantify the impacts resulting from its activities in order to develop sustainable policies and effective measures to mitigate negative and maximize positive impacts. Active stakeholder engagement is a key aspect of this process, as only through the creation of a nationwide community of purpose can we confidently and concretely aspire to a more sustainable future.

Swiss Top Events, Switzerland's eight leading cultural and sporting events, have approved a collective plan called the "Swiss Top Events Sustainability Charter," pledging to quantify and publicize their commitment to environmental, economic and social sustainable development. Based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the agreement provides for a three-year renewal and allows members to submit joint initiatives. The initiative aims to publish practices for sustainable development and to limit the environmental impact of cultural and sporting events by promoting internal and external dialogue. The charter strengthens the bond between members by implementing concrete measures and sharing quantified results through transparent communication.



Our Valued Partners

Partners, both private and institutional, support Festival activities with funds, services, technology, and visibility and promotion locally, nationally, and internationally. Since these are relationships born from a common vision and a genuine sharing of values and responsibility towards culture and the region, these ties have found a way to evolve from promotional initiatives into real useful actions for the community. Here again attention to sustainability is a significant parameter for evaluating when an institution ought to forge partnerships and deepen relationships.

Swisscom - named "Most Sustainable Company in the Telecommunication Industry 2023" for the third consecutive time by World Finance magazine - has been Main Partner to the Festival since 1997, with a cooperation that has allowed us to experiment with new ways to make part of our program accessible to those who cannot be in Locarno through blue Play, blue TV's free media library.



Stable collaborations also include Purest, a local brand of cashmere creations focused on slow-fashion, and the airline Swiss Air, long committed to offsetting emissions to mitigate its environmental impact.

The collaboration with Swatch - with which we share the goals of Sustainable Development - points to creative innovation: in addition to the First Feature Award, given to the most best and most surprising debut, Swatch's passion for Locarno

has been expressed by involving the audience in highly emotional environments, one of which was dedicated to the works of resident artists at the Swatch Art Peace Hotel in Shanghai.

In addition, the launch of the Locarno Film Festival Professorship for the Future of Cinema and Audiovisual

Arts at the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) - an environmentally conscious athenaeum both in teaching and research and in operation and management - made possible a valuable investment in knowledge for the community.

With UBS, Main Partner for more than 42 years, it has been possible to strengthen our community: through joint initiatives such as the Prix du Public UBS and the Audience Academy program, we constantly anticipate the needs of future film festival enthusiasts. Together, the Festival App has also been redesigned to ensure maximum accessibility. From 2023, moreover, thanks to the support of UBS, audiences can enjoy our content throughout the year by listening to the Locarno Meets podcast.

The partnership with la Mobiliare has given concrete form to the urgent desire to engage with the younger generation, with the creation of projects such as Locarno Kids, an area dedicated to audiovisual education, and the Ateliers du Futur, a set of educational experiences for teenagers. The joint conception of la Rotonda by la Mobiliare also made it possible to create a meeting place capable of attracting both festivalgoers and the local population. The collaboration also took place through a commonality of purpose in the area of sustainable development, given la Mobiliare's focus on promoting a local and sustainable economy, reducing energy impact, and investing in research into issues of social equity.

The partnership begun in 1981 with Ascona-Locarno Tourism also remains indispensable. In addition to sponsoring the Pardo alla Carriera, it allows the publication of the Piazza Grande Guide, a high-distribution magazine that, alongside the promotion of the Festival, also aims to encourage the discovery of the territory, among the strongest and most attractive points of our event.

The network of partners is growing and includes more than 200 realities, often involved in strategic projects. Just think of our youth activities, our residencies and other initiatives aimed at making the visitor experience as rich and varied as possible.



Sustainability

This is Just the Beginning of a New Path...

The Locarno Film Festival is firmly committed to promoting environmental sustainability in all its facets, and recognizes the importance of mitigating its negative impacts on the environment. For this reason, the Festival is taking significant steps in order to calculate its greenhouse gas emissions (direct and indirect), and to assess and understand the full environmental impact of its activities. This process will provide a solid foundation on which to build a comprehensive environmental and climate strategy aimed at reducing emissions, minimizing waste, and promoting sustainable practices.

Through the calculation of its carbon footprint - that is, the contribution in terms of

global warming triggered by its activities - the Festival aims to better assess and manage its emissions, including with a view to future annual reduction and monitoring targets that will allow it to assess progress. Such an analytical approach will be key to implementing an effective environmental sustainability strategy and mitigating its impacts on the planet. The strategy pursued by the Locarno Film Festival is summarized below:

1. Understanding greenhouse gas emissions: quantification of the greenhouse gas inventory related to all direct and indirect emissions from Festival activities. This includes emissions from energy consumption,






2. Identification of critical areas: the inventory will identify critical areas that contribute significantly to the Festival's carbon footprint. This identification is essential for prioritizing efforts to reduce emissions as efficiently as possible.
3. Definition of the emissions baseline year: 2023 is identified as the baseline year against which future emissions will be compared. This baseline will provide a reference point for measuring progress and is critical in order to set realistic reduction targets.
4. Set reduction targets toward net-zero: The GHG inventory will lay the groundwork for establishing the

emission reduction plan, which will aim to achieve net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050.

The Festival is committed to maintaining the highest standards of environmental responsibility: the study currently in development, the results of which will be published during 2024, will conform to the principles and requirements outlined in the international standard ISO 14064-1. The latter provides a robust framework for quantifying and reporting GHG emissions, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and consistency.

Our Progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

SDG	Target	Our progress
	<p>4.4: Increase substantially by 2030 the number of youth and adults with specific skills - including technical and vocational skills - for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>4.7: Ensure by 2030 that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development, including through education aimed at sustainable development and lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, the promotion of a peaceful and nonviolent culture, global citizenship, and the appreciation of cultural diversity and the contribution of culture to sustainable development.</p> <p>4.a: Build and enhance education facilities that are sensitive to the needs of children, disabilities, and gender equality and provide dedicated learning environments that are safe, nonviolent, and inclusive for all</p>	<p>The Locarno Film Festival supports enthusiasts and professionals from around the world, and plays an active role in the education of children and adolescents through learning projects, or through empowerment programs such as the Youth Advisory Board.</p> <p>With Open Doors, the Festival encourages the production and distribution of films in which social and environmental issues are emphasized, but also the acquisition of skills and notions to promote sustainable development and an inclusive culture that values diversity. Projects dedicated to the education of young people, enthusiasts, and professionals take place in inclusive educational settings and environments that ensure the possibility of effective learning for all.</p> <p>The Festival also creates opportunities and spaces to give voice in education to professionals from developing countries.</p>
	<p>5.1: End all forms of discrimination against women and girls.</p> <p>5.5: Ensure full and effective participation of women and equal leadership opportunities at every level of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.</p>	<p>The Festival aims to ensure a balanced ratio of employees and adequate participation of women in decision-making and governance at all levels (in 2019, the event was among the first festivals to sign the Programming Pledge for Parity and Inclusion in Cinema).</p> <p>The Festival guarantees gender equality and equal pay - at all levels, not just among employees. These values are also promoted through the film selection presented each year. The Festival carries out a daily commitment to a safe work environment through a zero-tolerance policy toward all forms of violence, including verbal and/or physical abuse and sexual harassment, which also includes education and information sessions for all employees.</p>
	<p>8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of small- to medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.</p> <p>8.8: Protect the right to work and promote a healthy and safe working environment for all workers, including immigrants, particularly women, and precarious workers.</p> <p>8.9: Design and implement policies by 2030 to foster sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</p>	<p>The Festival contributes to the economic growth of local communities by creating jobs and promoting the regional image. In carrying out its activities, the Festival gives priority to local suppliers, while with its international relevance it contributes profoundly to the enhancement of the region's image.</p> <p>The Festival's investments are directed to activities of high social and educational value, such as the redevelopment of particular urban and environmental contexts, and the organization of highly professionalizing educational paths, such as the Locarno Academy and Locarno Pro workshops.</p> <p>The Festival offers apprenticeship and internship opportunities for local youth, making its wealth of knowledge and contacts available for the development of local professionalism. The Festival also contributes to the economic growth of its area by reaching out to local businesses to supply products and services, creating jobs and stimulating tourism in the region.</p> <p>As part of its activities, the Festival is committed to forging lasting partnerships with local suppliers who share the same principles of sustainability.</p>

SDG	Target	Our progress
	<p>10.2: By 2030, enhance and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic status, or other.</p> <p>10.3: Ensure equality of opportunity and reduce inequality in outcomes, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard.</p> <p>10.6: Ensure better representation that gives developing countries a voice in institutions responsible for global and international economic and financial decisionmaking, to create more effective, credible, accountable, and legitimate institutions</p>	<p>The Festival does not tolerate discrimination of any kind. The organization provides equal opportunities to every employee, participant and professional in the film industry.</p> <p>The Festival promotes the film industry of developing countries and ensures that artists and professionals who are hindered by economic or political limitations can also take part in its activities. Through its measures, the Festival ensures more comprehensive geographic representation and promotes the presence of these countries within the institutions responsible for economic and financial decision-making on an international and global scale.</p>
	<p>12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p> <p>12.b: Develop and implement tools to monitor the impacts of development for sustainable tourism, which creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</p>	<p>The Festival strives to minimize its impact on the environment through recycling activities, reusing resources and minimizing consumption. In recent years, the amount of waste produced by the event has been significantly limited, while unavoidable waste is disposed of properly. For beverage consumption, for example, a system of distributing glass cups on deposit has been adopted, which has greatly limited the amount of plastic waste.</p> <p>The Festival is working with the industry on waste disposal and recycling, and with local authorities to improve logistical efficiency and enable a higher percentage of waste to be reused.</p> <p>The festival is committed to implementing new tools to monitor the impact of sustainable development - an area that not only creates jobs but also allows for the promotion of local culture and products.</p>
	<p>17.17: Encourage and promote effective partnerships in the public sector, between the public and private sectors, and in civil society by building on the experience of partnerships and their ability to find resources.</p>	<p>The Festival collaborates with diverse actors (from local actors to the SDC, through Main Partners who pay special attention to sustainable development, and all other partners) who are critical to achieving meaningful results in the area of sustainable development.</p> <p>The Festival's partnerships are based not only on economic agreements, but on a commonality of visions and values with the actors involved.</p>



Marketing & Communication

Building a Community Across All Channels

The Locarno Film Festival has a plurality of communication channels, which have increased and developed in step with technological innovations, adapting to the needs of different target audiences. From the most traditional to the most innovative tools, there are many means of communication through which the Festival disseminates information about its activities and ongoing projects, reaching an ever-growing loyal audience. Through its channels, the Festival has become a point of reference in the field of popularization and in-depth analysis on cinema and its protagonists, involving distinguished guests and highlighting novelties and trends in the contemporary film scene.

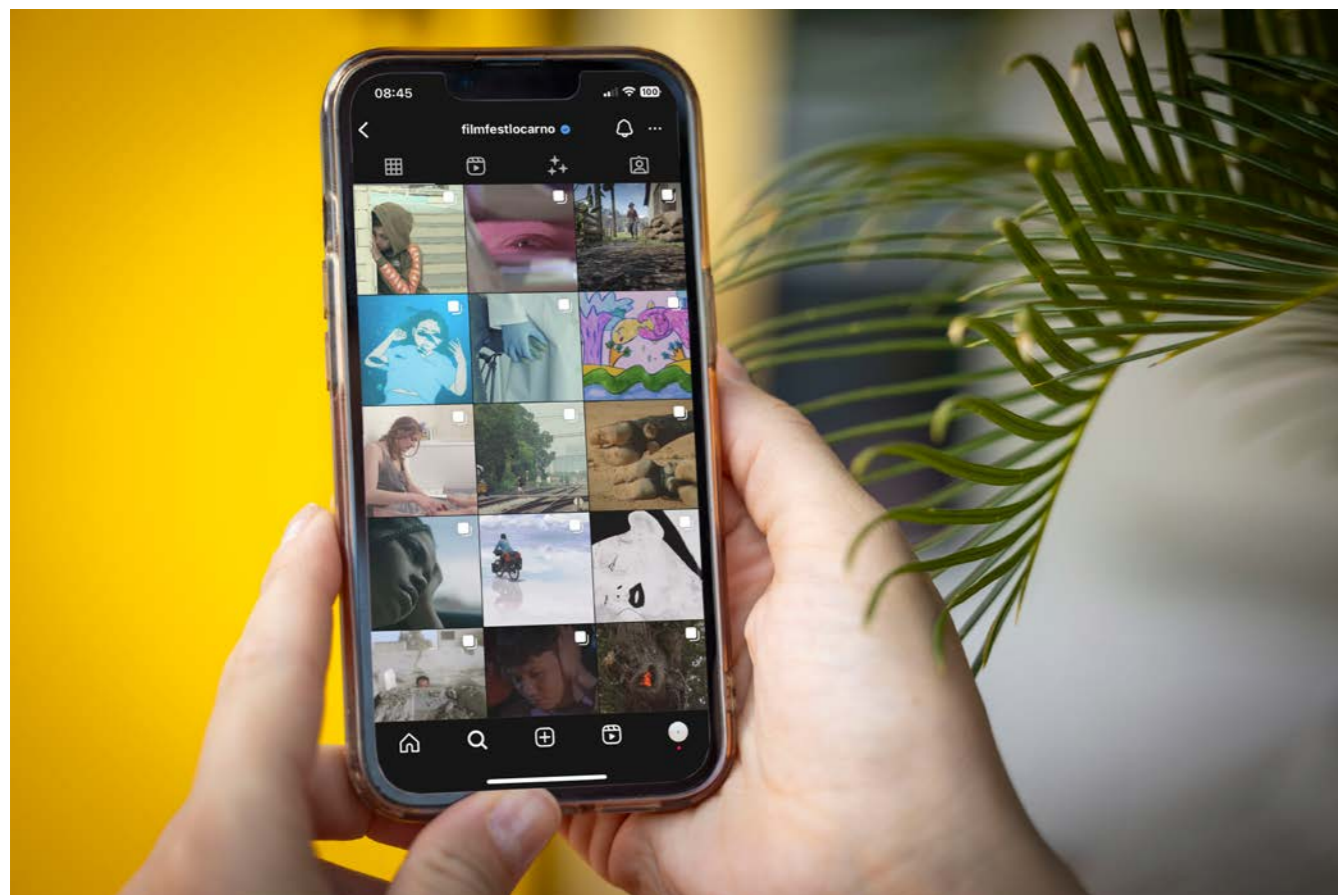
Press Review

The Locarno Film Festival is also an important media platform: every year the event

welcomes representatives of the world of national and global journalism, ready to write about and recontextualize the image and output of the Festival through diverse channels. From print media to the web, from television to radio and social networks, in the 2023 edition, some 730 journalists and photographers were accredited and documented the event. Among them, Locarno welcomed 329 Swiss and about 400 international journalists, for a total of 36 countries represented and thus 36 geographical realities reached by the Festival through its storytelling.

Digital Communication

Digital development is one of the fronts in which the Locarno Film Festival has invested the most in recent years, particularly enhancing the social channels and the Festival's website.



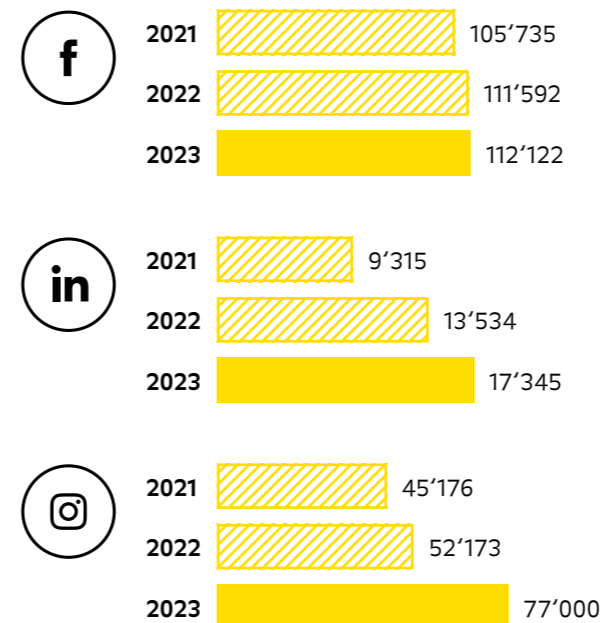
Social Media

6M+

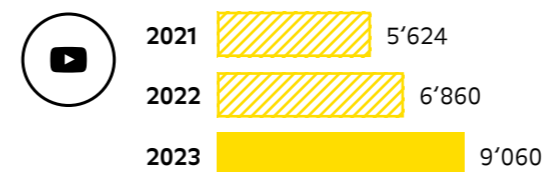
Impressions

270'000+ Total Followers **38%** % Change

Followers



Subscribers



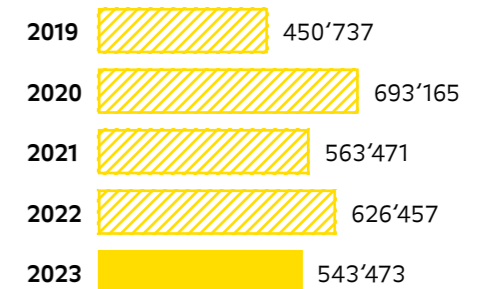
Website

3.8M

Annual Pageviews

1.7 M Pageviews during the festival period

Unique Visitors



Newsletter

20K+

Subscribers

Sent monthly throughout the year and daily during the Festival.

Printed Publications

4 Publications **253'000** Number of copies

Publications Number of copies

Locarno Meets Podcast

23 Guests **1.1M** Views

Guests Views

Publications

LocarnoDaily

Daily reference for festivalgoers, distributed throughout the city and at major points of interest in the region during the event: inside are reviews of films screened, photos of events, interviews with major guests, and various in-depth features (8,000 copies distributed per day, 80,000 total).

Piazza Grande Guide

To better prepare for the new edition of the Festival, a practical guide with all useful information and previews of the event is published and distributed every year (150,000 copies distributed throughout Switzerland in Italian, German, French).

Catalogue of the 76th Edition

All technical data, synopses of the presented films, and introductions by and of guests and sections are collected in a single printed volume, published in four languages (Italian, French, German and English) in 5,000 copies. Texts about the films are also made available digitally on the event's website and app.

Locarno Pro Guide

Created for film professionals, this guide offers a detailed overview of activities and appointments for the Industry (1,500 copies).

Video by Swisscom

All video footage shot during the Festival, including the most significant moments of the event, is made available on the YouTube channel and website of the Locarno Film Festival and features introductions of each day by the artistic director and interviews with guests and awardees, and gives the audience the chance to experience a part of the event even from a distance. The project also has a strong educational value: students from the International Conservatory of Audiovisual Sciences (CISA) make up the crew that processes the content, giving them a chance to prove themselves in the context of a leading event.





Financial Report

Audit Report 2023



Relazione dell'Ufficio di revisione
all'Assemblea dei Soci del
Festival Internazionale del Film di Locarno
6600 Locarno

Muralto, 23 aprile 2024 / GG/CD 3

In qualità di Ufficio di revisione abbiamo svolto la revisione del conto annuale (bilancio, conto economico, conto del flusso dei mezzi, prospetto della variazione del capitale e allegato) del Festival Internazionale del Film di Locarno per l'esercizio chiuso al 31 dicembre 2023. In conformità allo Swiss GAAP FER 21, le informazioni contenute nel rapporto di attività non soggiacciono ad alcun obbligo di verifica da parte dell'Ufficio di revisione.

Il Consiglio di Amministrazione è responsabile dell'allestimento del conto annuale in conformità allo Swiss GAAP FER, alle disposizioni legali e agli statuti mentre il nostro compito consiste nella sua revisione. Confermiamo di adempiere i requisiti legali relativi all'abilitazione professionale e all'indipendenza.

La nostra revisione è stata svolta conformemente allo Standard svizzero sulla revisione limitata, il quale richiede che la stessa deve essere pianificata ed effettuata in maniera tale che anomalie significative nel conto annuale possano essere identificate. Una revisione limitata consiste essenzialmente nell'effettuare interrogazioni e procedure analitiche come pure, a seconda delle circostanze, adeguate verifiche di dettaglio della documentazione disponibile presso l'entità sottoposta a revisione. Per contro, la verifica dei processi aziendali e del sistema di controllo interno, come pure interrogazioni e altre procedure miranti all'identificazione di atti illeciti o altre violazioni di disposizioni legali, sono escluse da questa revisione.

Sulla base della nostra revisione non abbiamo rilevato fatti che ci possano far ritenere che il conto annuale non fornisca un quadro fedele della situazione patrimoniale, finanziaria e reddituale secondo lo Swiss GAAP FER e non sia conforme alle disposizioni legali svizzere e statutarie.

Multirevisioni SA

Gianni Gnesa

Perito revisore abilitato

Revisore responsabile

Caterina Del Miglio

Revisore abilitato

Allegato: - conto annuale (bilancio, conto economico, conto del flusso dei mezzi, prospetto della variazione del capitale e allegato)



Locarno-Muralto
Viale Verbano 7
Casella Postale
6601 Locarno
Tel. +41 91 751 96 41
Fax +41 91 751 52 21

Lugano
Crodicchio Cortogna 6
CP 1637
6901 Lugano
Tel. +41 91 923 32 65
Fax +41 91 994 57 57

Bellinzona
Via Orico 13
CP 2146
6501 Bellinzona
Tel. +41 91 826 20 83
Fax +41 91 826 20 84

www.gruppomulti.ch
info@gruppomulti.ch

Annual Report Swiss GAAP FER 2023

Accounting Year

The financial close indicates a decrease in the subsidy reserve for losses and future projects of CHF 485,550 in order to close the 2023 accounting year in balance, with a total income from supplies and services of around CHF 17.6 million and a subsidy reserve for losses and future projects of CHF 785,000.

The result is better than the forecast made in the budget, where a deficit of CHF 550,000 was expected.

The main balance sheet and profit and loss account indicators are highlighted below.

Balance Sheet		31.12.2023	31.12.2022
AL	Liquid assets	568'710	1'541'189
C	Receivables	484'932	355'292
M	Accrued income and prepaid expen:	145'604	108'865
AC	Current assets	1'199'246	2'005'345
AI	Fixed assets	992'538	591'907
K	Invested capital	2'191'784	2'597'252
DB	Short-term debt capital	1'267'515	987'433
DL	Long-term debt capital	139'276	339'276
CT	Third-party capital	1'406'791	1'326'709
	Fund capital	-	-
CN	Organizational capital	784'994	1'270'544

Income Statement		2023	2022
F	Revenue	17'578'600	16'721'700
CP	Production costs	8'795'568	8'511'312
VA	Value added	8'783'032	8'210'387
PERS	Personnel costs	7'526'712	7'011'657
	Other operating costs	1'288'167	1'150'215
MOL	Gross operating margin	-31'847	48'516
	Depreciation and financial costs	465'318	331'380
OF	Financial expenses	3'632	10'331
RO	Operating profit	-500'797	-293'195
GS	Non-operating result	-15'247	6'062
RN	Result before change in fund capital	-485'550	-299'257

Indicatori		2023	2022
AC/DB	Primary liquidity	0.95	2.03
(DL+CN)/AI	Fixed asset coverage	93%	272%
CT/CN	Debt	1.79	1.04
CN/AI	Margin structure	79%	215%
(AC-M)/DB	Dry liquidity	83%	192%
F/K	Turnover of invested capital	8.02	6.44
(RN/CN)	Return on equity (ROE)	-62%	-24%
(RO/K)	Return on investment (ROI)	-23%	-11%
(RO/F)	Turnover profitability (ROS)	-3%	-2%
(OF/CT)	Return on debt (ROD)	0%	1%
(CT+CN)/CN	Financial leverage	2.79	2.04
(C/F)*365	Average duration of receivables	10	8
(DB/(CP+PERS))*365	Average duration of payables	26	22
CP/F	Production cost index	50%	51%
PERS/F	Personnel costs index	43%	42%
	Other costs index	7%	7%

BALANCE SHEET		31.12.2023		%		31.12.2022		%	
ASSETS		2'191'784	100%	2'597'252	100%				
ACTIVE ASSETS									
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	1	568'710	26%	1'541'189	59%				
TRADE RECEIVABLES	2	450'227	21%	321'835	12%				
OTHER SHORT-TERM RECEIVABLES	3	34'705	2%	33'457	1%				
ACCRUED INCOME AND PREPAID EXPENSES	4	145'604	7%	108'865	4%				
CURRENT ASSETS		1'199'246	55%	2'005'345	77%				
FIXED ASSETS									
FINANCIAL FIXED ASSETS	5	56'238	3%	53'507	2%				
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	6	546'300	25%	538'400	21%				
INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	7	390'000	18%	0	0%				
FIXED ASSETS		992'538	45%	591'907	23%				
LIABILITIES		2'191'784	100%	2'597'252	100%				
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES									
TRADE PAYABLES		589'373	27%	425'808	16%				
OTHER SHORT-TERM NON-INTEREST-BEARING PAYABLES	8	150'658	7%	174'016	7%				
ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME	9	512'484	23%	372'608	14%				
ACCRUALS		15'000		15'000					
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES		1'267'515	58%	987'433	38%				
MEDIUM- TO LONG-TERM DEBT CAPITAL									
OTHER NON-INTEREST BEARING LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	10	139'276	6%	339'276	13%				
MEDIUM TO LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		139'276	6%	339'276	13%				
FREE CAPITAL									
RESERVES		784'994	36%	1'270'544	49%				
ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL		784'994	36%	1'270'544	49%				

INCOME STATEMENT		2023	2022
REVENUES		17'578'600	16'721'700
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLIC GRANTS	11	13'247'538	13'038'238
TICKET AND REGISTRATION REVENUES	12	2'312'752	2'110'434
REVENUES FROM SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	13	1'360'779	1'128'301
OTHER REVENUES	14	657'531	444'727
OPERATING EXPENSES		-18'079'397	-17'014'896
SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT	15	-3'079'531	-2'417'784
PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITY ORGANIZATION COSTS	16	-1'642'825	-1'875'050
MARKETING AND PROMOTION COSTS	17	-1'696'325	-1'910'866
HOSPITALITY COSTS	18	-2'301'243	-2'307'612
RECOVERABLE COSTS		-75'644	0
OPERATING EXPENSES		-8'795'568	-8'511'312
PERSONNEL COSTS	19	-7'526'712	-7'011'657
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES (OVERHEAD)	20	-1'288'167	-1'150'215
TOTAL COSTS		-17'610'447	-16'673'184
EBITDA		-31'847	48'516
DEPRECIATION	21	-465'318	-331'380
FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES	22	-3'632	-10'331
OPERATING RESULT		-500'797	-293'195
EXTRAORDINARY RESULT OR RELATED TO OTHER PERIODS	23	15'247	-6'062
ANNUAL RESULT BEFORE ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL		-485'550	-299'257
ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL		485'550	299'257
PERIOD RESULT		0	0

CASH FLOW STATEMENT	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
Result (before allocation to the organisation's capital)	-485'550	-299'257
Deprecitation of fixed assets	465'318	331'380
(Increase)/Decrease in receivables from supplies and services	-128'392	262'678
(Increase)/Decrease in other short-term receivables	-1'249	10'849
Increase/(Decrease) of Accruals (Accruals and Deferred Income)	-36'739	-67'753
Decrease in short-term trade payables	163'565	-24'663
(Decrease)/Increase in other short-term liabilities	-23'358	-34'320
Increase/(Decrease) of Deferrals (Accruals and Deferred Expenses)	139'876	-729'320
(Decrease)/Increase in other long-term liabilities	-200'000	39'276
Cash flow from operating activities	-106'530	-511'130
Investments in tangible fixed assets	-375'477	-633'480
Disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	29'301
Investments in financial fixed assets	-2'731	-
Investments in intangible fixed assets	-487'740	-
Cash flow from investment activities	-865'949	-604'179
Cash flow from financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents	-972'479	-1'115'310
Cash balance as of 1.1	1'541'189	2'656'499
Cash balance as at 31.12	568'710	1'541'189
Evidence of change in liquid assets	-972'479	-1'115'310

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Balance 01.01.23	Allocations	Internal Transfers	Use	Total Variation	Balance 31.12.23
<i>Free Capital</i>						
<i>Free capital for future projects and losses</i>	1'270'544			-485'550	-485'550	784'994
ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL	1'270'544	-	-	-485'550	-485'550	784'994

Annexed to 31 December 2023

Accounting Principles

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the professional recommendations of Swiss GAAP FER (framework concept, fundamental FER, Swiss GAAP FER 21).

The accounts reflect the principle of true & fair view, providing a faithful picture of the actual financial, economic, and income situation. Compared to reporting presented in accordance with the Swiss Code of Obligations (CO), the differences are mainly due to the articulation of the accounts.

Amounts are expressed in CHF units without decimal figures. In the descriptions of the annex notes, it is explicitly indicated where thousands (MCHF) are used.

Valuation and Presentation Principles

Valuation and Presentation Principles: During 2023, a complete overhaul of the structure of the accounting accounts was undertaken to improve readability. This process involved a further standardization of the presentation of the accounts, ensuring consistency and transparency. In order to facilitate the comparison of

In preparing the annual accounts, individual items were evaluated in anticipation of normal business continuity.

In the reporting period, the principle of individual valuation of assets and liabilities was applied:

*Cash and cash equivalents are stated at nominal value and include cash, postal and bank assets;

*Receivables from supplies and services contain short-term receivables arising from the ordinary business of the Festival. These are valued at nominal value less any durable impairment losses;

*Other short-term receivables refer to miscellaneous receivables not generated from supplies and services of the ordinary business activities. They are recorded at nominal value.

Accruals (Accrued income and prepaid expenses) are recorded based on the principle of economic temporal competence and contain costs attributable to the

*Fixed assets are recorded at purchase or construction cost, net of necessary depreciation. Depreciation begins in the year the asset is acquired and is calculated

*Intangible fixed assets are recorded at purchase or construction price less required depreciation. Amortisation begins in the year of purchase of the asset and is

*Financial assets are valued at purchase price less any value adjustments;

*The Association assesses at each balance sheet date the presence of indicators of impairment and, if such indicators exist, estimates the recoverable amount of the asset. If necessary, the carrying amount is adjusted to the recoverable amount;

*Payables for supplies and services and other short-term payables are recorded at nominal value;

*Accruals (accrued expenses and deferred income) are entered on an accrual basis and contain costs pertaining to the financial year but not yet received (invoices to be received) and revenues for which the financial event has already occurred but which are accrued in the following financial year;

*Provisions include probable obligations arising from past events, the amount and/or maturity of which are uncertain. Provisions are quantified on the basis of estimates that take into account all available elements in accordance with the postulates of accrual and prudence;

The Organization's Capital solely includes unrestricted funds not allocated for specific uses:

*Revenues are presented according to the principle of prudence and economic substance. Net revenue from supplies and services is recognised on the date on which the services are completed, i.e. on the date on which the fees are accrued. Revenues are stated net of discounts, allowances and premiums, as well as adjustments to revenues accruing during the financial year. Other income includes positive, non-financial income components from ancillary operations.

Principles of the Cash Flow Account

The cash flow statement is prepared using the indirect method and shows the change in cash and cash equivalents, divided into operating, investing, and financing activities.

Principles of the Statement of Changes in Capital

The statement of changes in capital shows the movement of each individual restricted and freely available fund, divided into 'allocations', 'internal transfers' and 'utilisation'.

Taxation

The Locarno International Film Festival is exempt from paying cantonal taxes on profit and capital, respectively direct federal income tax. It is also exempt from paying inheritance and donations taxes.

Information on individual balance sheet positions

1. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash, postal and bank accounts consist of accounts in Swiss francs (CHF) and euros (EUR). At year-end, foreign currency items were converted into CHF at the

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
Cash CHF	9'615	20'336
Cash EUR	9'107	3'656
Post	14'996	101'451
Bank CHF	475'362	1'320'931
Bank EUR	59'631	94'815
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	568'710	1'541'189

2. TRADE RECEIVABLES

Receivables are valued at nominal value less any impairment losses. All receivables relate to invoices issued in CHF.

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
Accounts Receivable	456'227	327'835
Value Adjustment of Accounts Receivables	-6'000	-6'000
Total receivables from supplies and services	450'227	321'835

The provision for bad debts is based on individual write-offs as well as a general provision. The general provision can be up to 5%

3. OTHER SHORT-TERM RECEIVABLES

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
Advances to suppliers	903	2'054
Swiss Airlines Credit	31'894	28'859
Postage Advances	1'082	1'360
Receivables from employees and social insurances	827	1'183
Total other short-term receivables	34'705	33'456

4. ACCRUED INCOME AND PREPAID EXPENSES

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022
Next year's costs paid in advance	7'201	29'817
Revenues not yet received	138'403	79'048
Total accrued income and prepaid expenses	145'604	108'865

5. FINANCIAL FIXED ASSETS

	Shareholdings	Shareholdings in related parties	Other Financial Fixed Assets	Total
Net value as at 1.1.2023	5'000	-	48'507	53'507
Increases	-	-	2'731	2'731
Decreases	-	-	-	-
Net value as at 31.12.2023	5'000	-	51'238	56'238

Included in the item of partly related shareholdings is a totally written-down participation of CHF 20,000, which concerns the participation in the subsidiary company Festival Services Sagl, which as at 31.12.2023 presents a capital loss situation according to Art. 725a CO. The company is currently in liquidation and will be permanently closed by the year 2024.

Participations Detail

Entities	Share Capital		Share of capital and voting rights (%)		Balance sheet value	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
As of December 31						
Fondazione Ticino Film Commission	20'000	20'000	25	25	5'000	5'000
Festival Services Sagl	20'000	20'000	100	100	0	0

Other financial 'fixed assets' relate solely to deposits and securities recorded at the nominal value of the payments made. The item includes MCHF 42 for security deposits on rental contracts for the GranRex cinema hall.

Below are the main economic and financial indicators of the investee entities (latest available data):

Fondazione Ticino Film Commission	Period	Turnover	Balance	Media personale
	31.12.2021	469'100	731'500	2.4
	31.12.2022	207'800	314'700	3.0

Festival Services Sagl	Period	Turnover	Balance	Media personale
	31.12.2022	-	-	-
	31.12.2023	-	-	-

6. MOVABLE TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Apparatus and equipment	Furniture and installations	Computers	Leasehold improvements	Other	Total
Net value as of 1.1.2023	294'800	139'700	21'200	63'000	19'700	538'400
Purchases	107'420	138'175	129'883	-	-	375'477
Decreases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amortization of the period	-222'920	-66'975	-55'383	-13'000	-9'300	-367'577
Net value as at 31.12.2023	179'300	210'900	95'700	50'000	10'400	546'300

Fixtures and equipment increased due to investments related to various improvements to technological equipment both in Piazza Grande and in the various cinemas (MCHF 107), for Furniture and Installations it mainly concerns the replacement of chairs in PG (MCHF 106), while for IT the main items are the purchase of a new server (MCHF 70) and 75 new scanners for the new access system (MCHF 37)

The position "leasehold improvements" concerns a residue from the renovation of the GranRex cinema hall (total investment of MCHF 2,486, amount without VAT) and the investment in air conditioning at the PalaCinema (of MCHF 77, amount without VAT).

7. . INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Software, licences, rights and development	Total
Net value as at 1.1.2023	-	-
Purchases	487'740	487'740
Decreases	-	-
Amortization of the period	-97'740	-97'740
Net value as at 31.12.2023	390'000	390'000

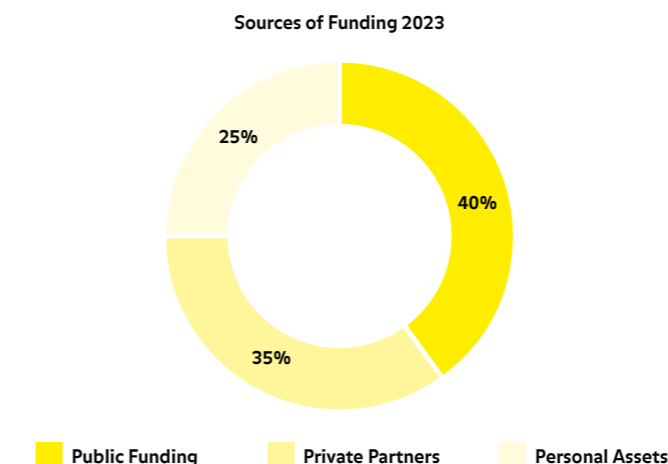
"Intangible fixed assets" refer entirely to the costs incurred throughout the year for the creation and activation of the new "Festival Digital Architecture". It was therefore indispensable to replace the management system/database (MCHF 21), develop the new site architecture (MCHF 51), develop the IT platform and implement the new access system in PG and halls (MCHF 115k), new ticketing system (MCHF 17)

Given the large investment of both internal and external resources, the activation of staff hours for the project "New LFF digital architecture" was considered, amount calculated at MCHF 280

8. OTHER SHORT-TERM NON-INTEREST-BEARING PAYABLES

Information on individual profit and loss account items

REVENUES



Public subsidies accounted for 40% (2022: 44%) of total revenues in 2023, and private and miscellaneous sponsors' revenues were added to 35% (2022: 34%). Equity income increased to 25% of total revenue (2022: 22%).

11. CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLIC GRANTS

	2023	2022
11a. Contributions received	6'248'786	5'758'607
11b. Public Grants	6'998'751	7'279'631
Total Contributions and Public Grants	13'247'538	13'038'238

11a. Contributions received

	2023	2022
Main sponsor contributions	2'663'733	2'598'478
Ordinary sponsor contributions	720'000	750'000
Minor Sponsor Contributions	665'870	899'741
Sponsor contributions with counter-performance	1'281'554	1'150'872
Contributions for awards	138'000	115'000
Contributions for advertising and promotion	78'610	-
Contributions from abroad	221'191	244'516
Contributions from associations and foundations	479'828	-
Total contributions received	6'248'786	5'758'607

11b. Public Grants

	2023	2022
Federal grants general	1'730'000	1'730'000
Federal grants for projects	795'000	912'181
Cantonal grants general	3'400'000	3'400'000
Cantonal grants for projects	51'223	-
Municipal grants general	475'000	514'500
Municipal grants for projects	276'100	435'950
Grants from Tourist Boards and other public organizations	271'429	287'000
Total Public Grants	6'998'751	7'279'631

The grants from the federal government for MCHF 1,730 are contributions recognised annually on the basis of a performance contract renewed at the end of 2021 for the years 2022 - 2025.

Confederation grants for projects refer to tied grants, as follows:

	2023	2022
DEZA grants	665'000	736'680
Media grants	130'000	175'501
Total Grants	795'000	912'181

The DEZA grant is essentially earmarked to highlight and support the film industry (films and filmmakers) in the countries of the Global South and East, and was entirely used to cover project costs. This contribution does not reach the 7% of revenue required by the agreement.

The Media grant is usually used to partially cover costs incurred for the organisation of events (meetings, round tables etc.) related to the film industry present in Locarno (producers, salesmen, journalists, critics etc.).

The grants from the Canton of Ticino concern MCHF 3,400 contributions recognised annually on the basis of a performance contract valid from 2021 to 2025. This contract also provides for the recognition of a fixed amount of MCHF 30 bound for the event "L'immagine e la parola" and MCHF 30 bound for the subtitling in Italian of at least 30 films. In addition, every two years (2021/2023/2025 etc.) the item includes further MCHF 30 related to the subsidies recognised by the Canton for the Premio Cinema Ticino cash prize awarded for the same amount (MCHF 30 prize + costs incurred)".

Grants from municipalities

Grants from municipalities refer to general tied contributions received from the following municipalities:

	2023	2022
Locarno	220'000	220'000
Ascona	56'000	56'000
Muralto	40'000	50'000
Minusio	70'000	80'000
Losone	10'000	10'000
Lugano	20'000	30'000
Other	59'000	68'500
Total Grants from Municipalities	475'000	514'500

Grants from municipalities for projects refer to restricted contributions received from the following municipalities:

	2023	2022
Losone for BaseCamp project	50'000	50'000
Muralto for Locarno Kids project	5'000	5'000
Muralto for contribution to awardees reception	20'000	20'000
Various grants for awards received from regional municipalities	200'500	207'500
Various municipalities in Switzerland to contribute chairs	600	153'450
Total Grants from municipalities for projects	276'100	435'950

Support relationships are governed by agreements that are renewed annually with each municipality.

Tourist Boards and other public organisations: the amount 2023 includes MCHF 230 free contributions recognised by the Lake Maggiore and Valleys Tourist Organisation (OTLMV) (2022: MCHF 230) and the amount of MCHF 32.5 refers to the subsidy from Hotellerie Suisse for MCHF 30 (2022: MCHF 40) and from Gastro Ticino for MCHF 2.5 (2022: MCHF 2).

12. TICKET AND REGISTRATION REVENUES

	2023	2022
Sale of Tickets	198'948	157'810
Sale of Piazza Grande Tickets	553'635	515'321
Sale of Day Pass	307'524	267'724
Sale of Festival Pass	435'684	385'152
Sale of Premium Tickets	238'332	292'056
Sale of Accreditations	162'914	146'287
Revenues from Participation in Projects	25'739	12'439
Revenue from various registrations	277'076	226'620
Revenues from Membership Fees	112'900	107'025
Total revenue from tickets and registrations	2'312'752	2'110'434

13. REVENUE FROM SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

	2023	2022
13a. Advertising revenue	81'680	39'193
13b. Revenues from sales of materials and publications	136'407	66'187
13c. Revenues from events and receptions	1'023'381	873'819
13d. Commission on sales	-61'578	-53'464
13e. Revenue from rental and leases	180'888	202'566
Total revenue from supplies and services	1'360'779	1'128'301

13b. The sale of posters and gadgets was well received, bringing in more revenue than MCHF 70 thanks also to the graphics of the edition.

13d. The sale of tickets via E-Shops and credit cards incurs a commission cost on each credit that has been classified as a reduction in revenue.

13c. Revenues from events also include income from the operation of the 'ROTONDA':

14. OTHER REVENUES

	2023	2022
Miscellaneous revenues	289'499	385'082
<u>Revenues from cost recovery:</u>		
Revenue from recovery of accommodation and travel costs	69'589	58'913
Revenue from recovery of costs	242'139	-
Income from re-invoicing miscellaneous costs	56'304	732
Total miscellaneous revenues	657'531	444'727

15. SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT COSTS

	2023	2022
15a. Rental costs for space	541'462	462'647
15b. Costs for the purchase of infrastructure	206'931	131'333
15c. Infrastructure rental costs	513'812	329'946
15d. Costs for infrastructure management services	1'817'326	1'493'858
Total space and infrastructure management costs	3'079'531	2'417'784

16. PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITY ORGANIZATION COSTS

	2023	2022
16a. Programming costs	285'892	302'690
16b. Projection costs	710'066	558'044
16c. Costs of educational and entertainment activities	244'637	634'145
16d. Costs for prizes	402'230	380'172
TOTAL PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITY COSTS	1'642'825	1'875'050

17. MARKETING & PROMOTION COSTS

	2023	2022
17a. Advertising and Promotional Costs	1'071'362	1'036'263
17b. Costs for materials and publication resale	161'316	147'756
17c. Public relations costs	463'647	726'847
TOTAL MARKETING AND PROMOTION COSTS	1'696'325	1'910'866

18. HOSPITALITY COSTS

	2023	2022
18a. Hospitality costs	1'615'926	1'601'780
18b. Guest travel costs	685'317	705'831
Total costs for hospitality	2'301'243	2'307'612

19. PERSONNEL COSTS

	2023	2022
19a. Administrative personnel costs	1'829'831	1'491'799
19b. Operating personnel costs	3'179'776	2'947'369
Social security costs	861'430	729'763
19d. Other personnel costs	559'710	431'943
19e. Costs for services of independent third parties	1'095'963	1'410'784
Total personnel costs	7'526'712	7'011'657

In 2023, the permanent team was strengthened and departments were reorganised according to the new verticalised organisation chart, with the recruitment of key figures for optimisation and professionalisation.

The administrative staff includes 40 people on permanent contracts (34 in 2022)

In 2023, the Festival staff comprises 722 employees hired solely for the preparation and running of the event with contracts that can be either a periodic lump sum, hourly rate or fixed monthly rate depending on the type of activity (688 in 2022).

20. OTHER OPERATING COSTS (OVERHEAD)

	2023	2022
20a. Administrative rental costs	130'110	115'710
20b. Maintenance and repair costs	10'349	-
20c. Executive bodies costs	41'343	37'506
20d. Insurance and tax costs	455'877	430'660
20e. Energy and disposal costs	16'140	44'023
20f. Administrative costs	215'225	48'851
20g. IT costs	419'121	473'465
Total Other Operating Costs	1'288'167	1'150'215

21. DEPRECIATION

	2023	2022
Depreciation of machines and equipment	222'920	230'169
Depreciation of furniture and fixtures	72'275	40'240
Depreciation of office machines, IT and communication technology	55'383	24'345
Depreciation of vehicles	8'900	9'035
Depreciation of tools and electrical equipment	8'100	27'590
Amortization of software, licences, rights	97'740	-
Total Depreciation	465'318	331'380

22. FINANCIAL COSTS AND REVENUES

	2023	2022
Bank interest	358	6'563
Exchange rate differences	2'986	3'619
Customers discounts	476	149
Suppliers discounts	-187	-
Total Financial Costs and Revenues	3'632	10'331

23. EXTRANEOUS, EXTRAORDINARY OR RELATED TO OTHER PERIODS**23a. Extraordinary income and expenses**

	2023	2022
Costs of previous editions	27'972	19'150
Revenues from previous editions	-16'679	-13'088
Total Extraordinary Income and Expenses	11'293	6'062

23b External Costs and Revenues

	2023	2022
External costs	6'280	-
External revenues	-32'820	-
Total External Costs and Revenues	-26'540	-

Information on the cash flow statement

Cash and cash equivalents at year-end are lower than the previous year by MCHF 972. MCHF 106 resulted from operating activities (of which MCHF 485 was due to the negative result) and MCHF 866 from new tangible investments

Transactions with related parties

A related party is any person (natural or legal) who directly or indirectly exercises significant financial or operational influence over the organisation.

Therefore, the company Festival Services Sagl was identified as the only related party, which will no longer be operational in 2023 and will be permanently closed in 2024. Consequently, no transactions took place during the financial year.

Information on the Board of Directors, Executive Board and General Management**Until September 20, 2023:**

The Board of Directors consists of the following members:
Marco Solari, President
Carla Speziali, Vice President

Franco Ambrosetti
Daniel Beier
Manuele Bertoli
Felice Dafond
Karin Dietrich Wartmann
Nadia Dresti
Felix Ehrat
Edna Epelbaum
Stefano Gilardi
Felix Hächler
Josefa Haas
Jean-Pierre Hoby
Kandemir Bordoli Pelin
Pius Knüsel
Brenno Martignoni
Aldo Merlini
Giovanni Merlini
Roberta Pantani Tettamanti
Luigi Pedrazzini
Luca Pissoglio
Aldo Rampazzi †
Giò Rezzonico
Alain Scherrer
Sven Wälti

The Board of Directors consists of the following members:
Marco Solari, President
Carla Speziali, Vice President

Nadia Dresti
Giovanni Merlini
Alain Scherrer

Daniele Jörg, Secretary and Legal Advisor

In 2023 the total amount of payments made to Board members is MCHF 99 (2022: MCHF 97).

Management is entrusted to the following members:

Giona A. Nazzaro, Artistic Director
Raphaël Brunschwig, Managing Director
Simona Gamba, Deputy Operations Director & Chief Innovation Officer
Fabienne Merlet, Member of the Executive Board

The payments made to the Executive Board for 2023 amount to MCHF 494 (2022: MCHF 490).

From September 20, 2023:

The Board of Directors consists of the following members:

Marie-Anne Hoffmann, President
Luigi Pedrazzini, Vice President
Nadia Dresti, Board Member
Jean-Philippe RoCHAT, Board Member
Alain Scherrer, Board Member

Stefano Lappe, Secretary to the Board of Directors

No fees were paid to the members of the Board of Directors in the financial year 2023 as in the previous year.

The Policy Advisory Board consists of the following members:
Alain Scherrer

The Industry Advisory Board consists of the following members:

Nadia Dresti
Bobby Allen
Emmanuel Cuénod
Edna Epelbaum
Ted Hope
Marion Klotz
Gerardo Michelin
Beki Probst

General Management is entrusted to the following members:

Giona A. Nazzaro, Artistic Director
Raphaël Brunschwig, Managing Director

Free benefits and services

As a free service, the Piazza Grande and spaces for receptions and official meetings were made available to the Association by the City of Locarno for the Festival days (estimated value MCHF 100)

Off-balance sheet transactions

Commitments under long-term leasing or rental/lease agreements amounted to MCHF 2,451 as at 31.12.2023 and have the following maturity structure:

	2023	2022
Expiry up to 1 year	474'877	372'217
Expiry 1 to 5 years	1'473'288	734'997
Expiry beyond 5 years	503'361	262'151
Total	2'451'526	1'369'365

The assets used to secure the company's debts amount to MCHF 60 by way of rent and liquidity guarantees to cover the company's credit cards (2022: MCHF 40).

Approval of accounts

Approval of the 2023 accounts is expected at the General Assembly to be held on 2 May 2024.

Events after the balance sheet date

There were no events after the balance sheet date.

ANNEX 1 - ACTUAL VS. BUDGET COMPARISON

		2023 Actuals	2023 Budget
REVENUES		17'578'600	16'815'000
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLIC GRANTS	11	13'247'538	12'956'000
TICKET AND REGISTRATION REVENUES	12	2'312'752	2'079'800
REVENUES FROM SUPPLIES AND SERVICES	13	1'360'779	1'199'200
OTHER REVENUES	14	657'531	580'000
OPERATING EXPENSES		-18'079'397	-17'365'000
SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT COSTS	15	-3'079'531	-2'751'820
PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITY ORGANIZATION COSTS	16	-1'642'825	-1'634'365
MARKETING AND PROMOTION COSTS	17	-1'696'325	-1'572'800
HOSPITALITY COSTS	18	-2'301'243	-2'286'150
RECOVERABLE COSTS		-75'644	
OPERATING EXPENSES		-8'795'568	-8'245'135
PERSONNEL COSTS	19	-7'526'712	-7'550'400
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES (OVERHEAD)	20	-1'288'167	-1'079'465
TOTAL COSTS		-17'610'447	-16'875'000
EBITDA		-31'847	-60'000
DEPRECIATION	21	-465'318	-490'000
FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES	22	-3'632	0
OPERATING RESULT		-500'797	-550'000
EXTRAORDINARY RESULT OR RELATED TO OTHER PERIODS	23	15'247	0
ANNUAL RESULT BEFORE ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL		-485'550	-550'000
ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL		485'550	550'000
PERIOD RESULT		0	0

BUDGET 2024

		Budget 2024	2023 Actuals
REVENUES		17'159'890	17'578'600
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLIC GRANTS		13'170'360	13'247'538
TICKET AND REGISTRATION REVENUES		2'196'952	2'312'752
REVENUES FROM SUPPLIERS AND SERVICES		1'381'857	1'360'779
OTHER REVENUES		410'721	657'531
OPERATING EXPENSES		-17'895'769	-18'079'397
SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT COSTS		-3'126'302	-3'079'531
PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITY ORGANIZATION COSTS		-1'651'915	-1'642'825
MARKETING AND PROMOTION COSTS		-1'488'714	-1'696'325
HOSPITALITY COSTS		-2'423'747	-2'301'243
RECOVERABLE COSTS		-1'650	-75'644
OPERATING EXPENSES		-8'692'328	-8'795'568
PERSONNEL COSTS		-7'400'308	-7'526'712
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES (OVERHEAD)		-1'242'633	-1'288'167
TOTAL COSTS		-17'335'269	-17'610'447
EBITDA		-175'379	-31'847
DEPRECIATION		-556'500	-465'318
FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES		-4'000	-3'632
OPERATING RESULT		-735'879	-500'797
EXTRAORDINARY RESULT OR RELATED TO OTHER PERIODS		0	15'247
ANNUAL RESULT BEFORE ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL		-735'879	-485'550
ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL		735'879	485'550
PERIOD RESULT		0	0

BUDGET 2024	Budget 2024	2023 Actuals
REVENUES	17'159'890	17'578'600
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLIC GRANTS	13'170'360	13'247'538
TICKET AND REGISTRATION REVENUES	2'196'952	2'312'752
REVENUES FROM SUPPLIERS AND SERVICES	1'381'857	1'360'779
OTHER REVENUES	410'721	657'531
OPERATING EXPENSES	-17'895'769	-18'079'397
SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT COSTS	-3'126'302	-3'079'531
PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITY ORGANIZATION COSTS	-1'651'915	-1'642'825
MARKETING AND PROMOTION COSTS	-1'488'714	-1'696'325
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TOTAL COSTS	-17'335'269	-17'610'447
EBITDA	-175'379	-31'847
DEPRECIATION	-556'500	-465'318
FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES	-4'000	-3'632
OPERATING RESULT	-735'879	-500'797
EXTRAORDINARY RESULT OR RELATED TO OTHER PERIODS	0	15'247
ANNUAL RESULT BEFORE ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL	-735'879	-485'550
ALLOCATION TO THE ORGANIZATION'S CAPITAL	735'879	485'550
PERIOD RESULT	0	0



Staff

Locarno Film Festival

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Information

IT Infrastructure & Cybersecurity

Over the past three years, the Locarno Film Festival has renewed its IT infrastructure, adopting several services in SaaS mode to replace old legacy on premise platforms, upgrading storage systems, and systematizing data and resource mapping activities. In 2022, an initial Security Assessment was conducted to determine cybersecurity in light of the implemented changes. The analysis showed a suitable level of protection, although it identified some critical issues, mainly due to the obsolescence of some services already being decommissioned. During 2023, the major critical issues were remediated by applying all updates, completely decommissioning obsolete services that were no longer active, and concluding

the systematization of backup activities and recovery procedures. In late 2023, it was also decided to strengthen the existing monitoring systems on Cyber Security and to perform a new Vulnerability Assessment, to be completed by the first quarter of 2024. The goal is to verify and validate the actions taken and to define and produce a comprehensive procedural vademecum for the comprehensive integration of Cyber Security within the organization, while developing staff awareness of cyber risks.

New Developments in Accounting and Financial Controlling

In 2023, the Festival embarked on a process of developing internal regulations dedicated to particularly sensitive areas, including purchasing authorization and personal data management. In parallel, cost accounting was introduced - a strategic move that allowed for in-depth tracking of both ongoing projects and departments undergoing restructuring. This step was key to achieving a comprehensive mapping of financial transactions that offered a detailed view of internal economic dynamics.

These efforts provide a solid foundation for further progress in the Festival's internal control system. Work is currently underway on further regulations, the creation of specific procedures for each department, and the subsequent assessment of associated risks. It should be emphasized that this is a long-term process that will take at least two more years to complete, but it reflects our dedication to strengthening the effectiveness of the internal management system.

Additional Information

Information Policy

The Locarno Film Festival is committed to open, transparent and regular communication with all stakeholders and interested parties, especially partners, public institutions, and media representatives. Communication takes place through the annual report, the general assembly, and all communications on the Festival's official channels. Whenever possible, employees are the first to be informed about important events. Open communication at all levels is a key element of management responsibility for the Locarno Film Festival.

Methodology

In order to provide a comprehensive overview of the Locarno Film Festival's work, this annual report brings together the 2023 Activities Report, the Sustainability Report, and the Festival's Economic Report in one document. The aim is to present the Festival's stakeholders with the results achieved and the main activities carried out during the year, establishing a transparent dialogue with all parties involved. This report refers to the period 1.1.23 - 31.12.23.

The sustainability report, published for the third year and again on a voluntary basis, aims to measure and analyze the economic, social, and environmental impacts, and to illustrate and elaborate on issues related to the governance of the Festival. The documentation mainly refers to the Global Reporting Initiative's updated GRI Standards 2021 framework, using only selected standards, or part of their content, to present specific information ("with reference to the GRI Standards" option). The information will be enriched in the coming years

in order to cover a progressively larger and more comprehensive number of indicators, with a view to increasingly comprehensive and transparent reporting. The scope of the survey includes the Locarno International Film Festival Association and Festival Services Sagl. The information presented has been reported in such a way as to allow for a comprehensive evaluation of the measures implemented. Therefore, the results were expressed with both qualitative assessments and quantitative measurements, with special care taken for objectivity and neutrality to ensure that the information was easy to read.

The audit of the financial side, on the other hand, was conducted by the Multi Group, a Ticino-based company that has been active in consulting for over 45 years: the audit was carried out in full compliance with Swiss Accounting Recommendations (GAAP FER), the accounting standards that provide a true and fair view of the financial position, cash flows and results of operations.

Photography Credits

Annie Leibovitz
Locarno Film Festival | Ti-Press
Virginia Bettoja

GRI Index

Statement of Use

The Locarno Film Festival has reported the information mentioned in this GRI content index for the period 01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023 with references to the GRI Standards.

GRI 1 used GRI 1: Foundation 2021

GRI STANDARD	DISCLOSURE	LOCATION
GRI 2: General Disclosures 2021	2-1 Organizational details	16
	2-2 Entities included in the organization's sustainability reporting	127
	2-3 Reporting period, frequency, and contact point	127
	2-5 External assurance	94-95
	2-6 Activities, value chain, and other business relationships	22-30, 48-89
	2-7 Employees	17,18,19
	2-9 Governance structure and composition	16,17,18
	2-10 Nomination and selection of the highest governance body	16
	2-11 Chair of the highest governance body	16
	2-15 Conflicts of interest	16
	2-22 Statement on sustainable development strategy	94-95
	2-25 Processes to address negative impacts	90
	2-28 Membership associations	2,17
	2-29 Approach to stakeholder management	91
GRI 3: Material Topics 2021	3-2 List of material topics	16, 30, 31, 33, 36, 55, 61, 64, 67, 72, 80, 90, 91, 94-95, 96-97, 102, 127
GRI 201 Economic Performance 2016	210-1 Direct economic value generated and distributed	33
	201-4 Financial assistance received from government	115-116
GRI 302: Energy 2016	302-1 Energy consumption within the organization	36, 90
	302-4 Reduction of energy consumption	36, 90, 94-95
GRI 401: Employment 2016	410-1 Recruitment of new employees and employee turnover	18
	401-3 Parental leave	17
GRI 405: Diversity & Equality 2016	405-1 Diversity of governance bodies and employees	16,17, 96, 97
GRI 413: Local Communities 2016	413-1 Operations with local community engagement, impact assessments, and development programs	33, 80, 91