

20 Delightful Ways To Celebrate Pride 2023 In San Francisco

San Francisco doesn't play around when it comes to Pride Month. Here are our favorite events uplifting the LGBTQ+ community this June.



JAMIE FERRELL - STAFF WRITER · JUNE 6, 2023



SF Pride 2018. Courtesy of SF Travel Association

Happy Pride Month, San Francisco!

June brings a special lineup of events and activities around San Francisco in honor of **Pride Month**. From the highly-anticipated [Pride March](#) to a [Candlelight concert](#)

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1. Drag Me Downtown pop-up drag shows



Courtesy of The Downtown SF Partnership

Thursdays in June

Downtown San Francisco is bringing the party this Pride Month with **Drag Me Downtown**, an epic series of **free pop-up drag performances**. Get ready for a lineup of entertaining performers including Bobby Friday, MGM Grande, and Bionka Simone.

If you **pre-register for the event with a \$10 donation**, you'll receive your own feat

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The energetic performances will take place from **5-7pm on Thursday evenings in June** at different venues around Downtown San Francisco.

- **June 1:** Schroeder's
- **June 8:** Latin Steakhouse
- **June 15:** Nigella
- **June 22:** One Market Restaurant
- **June 29:** Pagan Idol

2. National Queer Arts Festival



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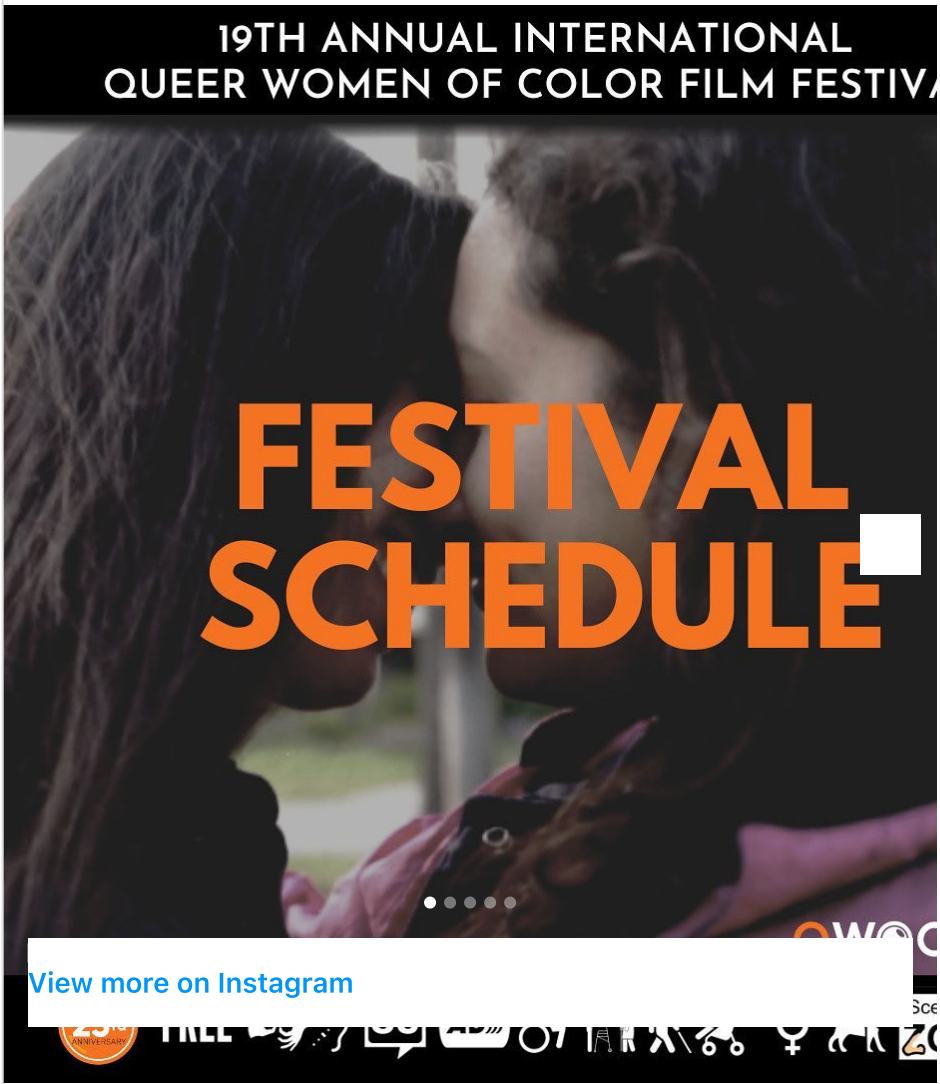
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June 9-July 2

The 26th annual **National Queer Arts Festival (NQAF)** is a hybrid virtual/in-person art festival taking place throughout the Bay Area. This year's theme is **"Murmurations of Queer Power,"** a celebration of work by QT12SBIPOC (Queer, Trans, Gender Nonconforming, Intersex, Two-spirit, Black, Indigenous, People of Color) artists. NQAF has presented over 800 events since it began in 1998.

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June 9-11

This free film festival has showcased works from **Queer women of color** for 19 years running. See six films across three days at the Presidio Theatre, along with a panel about disability justice and a free reception on June 10. The festival is presented by the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project, and their Filmmaker Training Program has helped to produce over 465 new films over the years.

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June 10

The SF Giants will play at home against the Chicago Cubs on June 10. In honor of SF Pride, the **first 20,000 fans to arrive will receive a rainbow SF Giants Pride jersey**, presented by Gilead. Make sure to arrive early if you want a chance at snagging one, because the jerseys will go first-come first-served and there's no special event ticket to receive them.

5. [Frameline: San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival](#)

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SEE & BE SCENE



Frameline47

San Francisco International
LGBTQ+ Film Festival

In Theaters: June 14–24, 2023

Streaming Encore: June 24–July 2, 2023

Premier Sponsors



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June 14-24

As the largest and longest-running LGBTQ+ film festival in the world, Frameline

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6. Pink Triangle

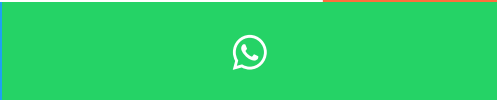




@marcus_aureliuz on Instagram

June 17-30

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the LGBTQIA+ community. It is **illuminated nightly** with thousands of LED lights courtesy of Illuminate SF, and they still need volunteers to help out with the installation.

7. Rainbow lighting at [SF City Hall](#) and other SF landmarks



Courtesy of [Pankaj Bhargava](#)

SF City Hall releases a comprehensive lighting schedule every single month, and June will bring plenty of **Pride-themed lighting schemes** throughout. Here are a few to keep an eye out for:

- **June 17** – Pink in recognition of the 28th annual Pink Triangle Celebration
- **June 20** – Rainbow in recognition of SF PRIDE Week
- **June 23** – Blue/pink/white in recognition of the annual SF Trans March
- **June 24** – Pink in recognition of Pink Saturday
- **June 25** – Rainbow in recognition of SF PRIDE Weekend

Other SF landmarks known to light up for Pride Month include **Salesforce Tower**

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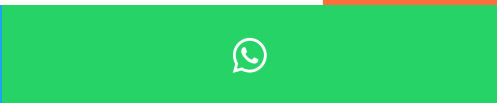
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The **SF LGBT Center** is a local nonprofit organization providing economic services, youth services, community programs and more to the LGBTQIA+ community of San Francisco. You've likely seen their **bright purple building at 1800 Market Street** showcasing a lovely rainbow mural called [Queeroes](#). Here are some of the exciting events they're putting for Pride Month:

- **June 10:** Pride Iconathon – Celebrating the LGBTQ+ Community

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9. Pride offers and events at the [Ferry Building](#),





@emilyinnewyork on Instagram

San Francisco's Ferry Building has some special **Pride-themed programming** on

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- **Make it Gay sundae** with pink marshmallow fluff and Froot Loops at [Humphry Slocombe](#)
- **Pride Stripe shag mats** on sale at [The Gardener](#)
- **Pride Love Hazy IPA** from [Almanac Beer Co.](#), with proceeds going to the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center
- **Frosé** from [Gott's Roadside](#)
- **Lemon almond cookies with rainbow sprinkles** from [Acme Bread Company](#)

10. Un Viaje: Pride at the Park at [Salesforce Park](#)



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June 17

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11. Pride in Gotham



JUNE 20-24, 2023
AT 7PM

HIBERNIA BANK
1 JONES ST



PRIDE IN GOTHAM

DRINK IN THE PENGUINS

ICEBERG LOUNGE

EXPLORE CATWOMAN'S

DOMINATRIX DUNGEON

DON'T GET CAUGHT BY VILLAINS

HARLEY QUINN AND THE JOKER

SOLVE THE RIDDLER'S ROOM TO ACCESS

THE MAYORAL SUITE

SUCCUMB TO POISON IVY'S

DEADLY DANCERS

THE DARK KNIGHT'S IMMERSIVE THEATER COSPLAY SOIREE

THE WAYNE FOUNDATION CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO GOTHAM'S FIRST ANNUAL PRIDE GALA!
ATTEND AN UNFORGETTABLE PARTY WITH THE CITY'S FAMED HERO, AND ITS NOTORIOUS
VILLAINS, IN A FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND IMMERSIVE THEATER COSPLAY SOIREE.

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See 45 of SF's best Queer performers recreate the world of Gotham here in San Francisco. This black tie-meets-cosplay event is the first annual Pride Gala supporting the Wayne Foundation. SF drag sensation Peaches Christ will host this legendary celebration featuring a dueling DJ set, burlesque and exotic dancers, and a full dominatrix dungeon where guests can be (consensually) rope tied.

NOTE: Secret San Francisco readers can get **\$10 off tickets** by using the code **SecretGotham** at checkout!

12. [After Dark: Pride in our Future](#)



© Exploratorium, www.exploratorium.edu

June 22

The Exploratorium hosts fun kid-free After Dark events every Thursday at Pier 15 in San Francisco. On June 22 they'll celebrate SF Pride with the theme **"After Dark: Pride in our Future,"** with the idea of looking at the most innovative LGBTQ+ achievements that

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Photo by Kathryn Whitney, courtesy of California Academy of Sciences

June 22, 29

NightLife at the California Academy of Sciences is one of our favorite ongoing events featuring live DJs, outdoor bars, ambient lighting, and more. On June 22 they'll ring in **SF Pride** with a [Pride NightLife](#) event with drag performances from Oaklash, the *Queer From Here* photography project, and booths from local Queer organizations. One week later on June 29 you can check out [NightLife: Says Who? Vol. 3 Gender](#) where you can learn from scientists who are pushing the gender binary.

14. [San Francisco Trans March](#)



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June 23

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15. San Francisco Dyke March



sfdykemarch
2,743 followers

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June 24

The SF Dyke March will kick off at **5pm at the intersection of Dolores Street and**

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16. Candlelight Pride: Celebrating Queer Musical Icons



June 24

This sensational Candlelight tribute concert gives you the chance to celebrate Pride in a **completely new and unique way** this June at the **International Art Museum of America**. Honor some of the most iconic Queer musicians in history with classical renditions of timeless songs including “Unholy” by Sam Smith and Kim Petras, “Your Song” by Elton John, and “Montero (Call Me By Your Name)” by Lil Nas X.

17. SF Pride 2023

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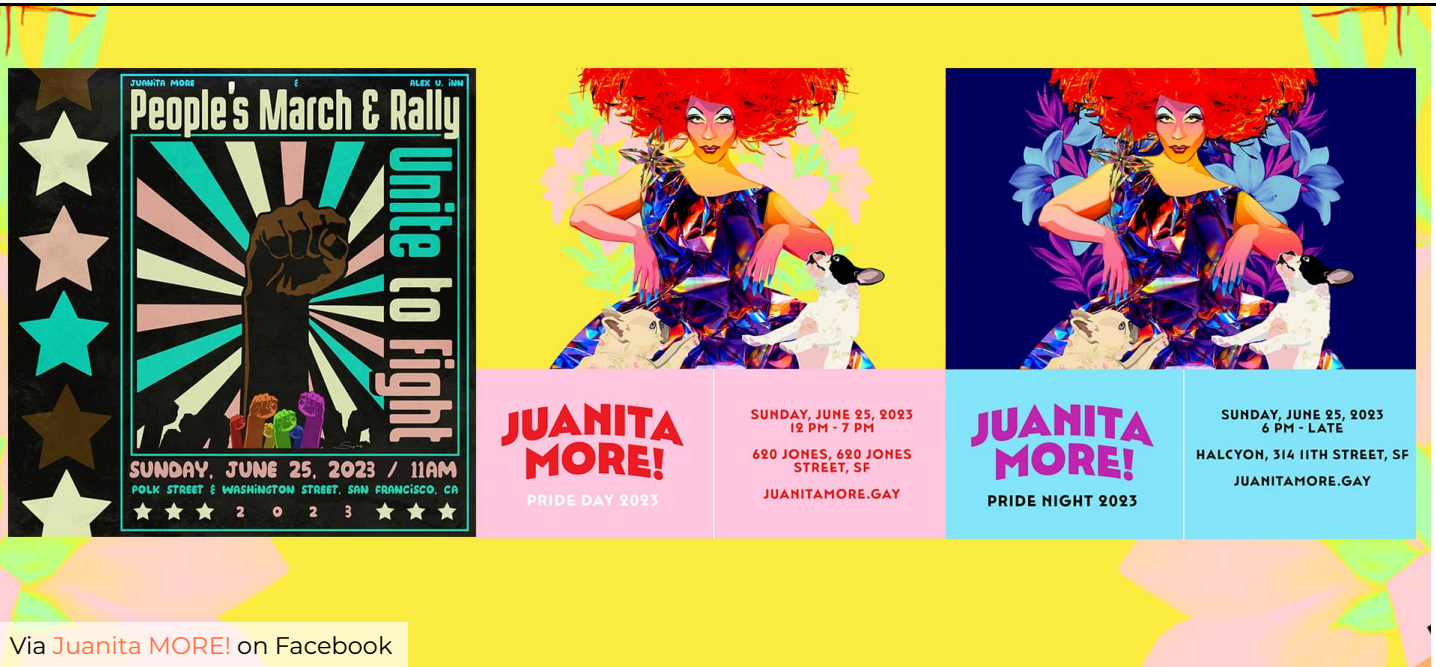


SF Pride 2018, courtesy of SF Travel Association

June 24-25

SF Pride is the United States' **largest gathering of the LGBTQ+ community and allies**, making for a vibrant and memorable day every single June for 53 years. This year's **Pride Celebration** will take place on June 24-25, 2023 at Civic Center, and the **Pride Parade/March** will happen on Sunday, June 25 starting from the Embarcadero.

18. [Juanita MORE!'s Pride Party](#)



June 25

This popular **Pride party** is one of SF's most popular events every June, raising over 1 million dollars for the LGBTQ+ community over the past 19 years. Here's where everything's going down.

- **Morning: People's March and Rally (11am-3pm):** A procession along the original route of SF's first Pride Parade beginning at Polk and Washington Streets.
- **Day: 620 Jones celebration (12-7pm):** This giant day party takes advantage of 620 Jones' expansive indoor and outdoor space for the ultimate Pride celebration.
- **Night: Halcyon celebration (6pm-late):** Halcyon will host evening Pride festivities in its large modern warehouse space in SoMa.

19. Stroll along the [Rainbow Honor Walk](#)



canyalcin via Shutterstock

SF's Castro neighborhood features a walk down memory lane honoring queer icons throughout history. Keep an eye out for the **Rainbow Honor Walk**, which is composed of **36 bronze plaques** on the sidewalk commemorating such figures as Keith Haring, James Baldwin, Virginia Woolf, Freddie Mercury, Gertrude Stein, and Frida Kahlo.

20. Pay a visit to these [LGBTQ+-owned businesses](#) recommended by locals

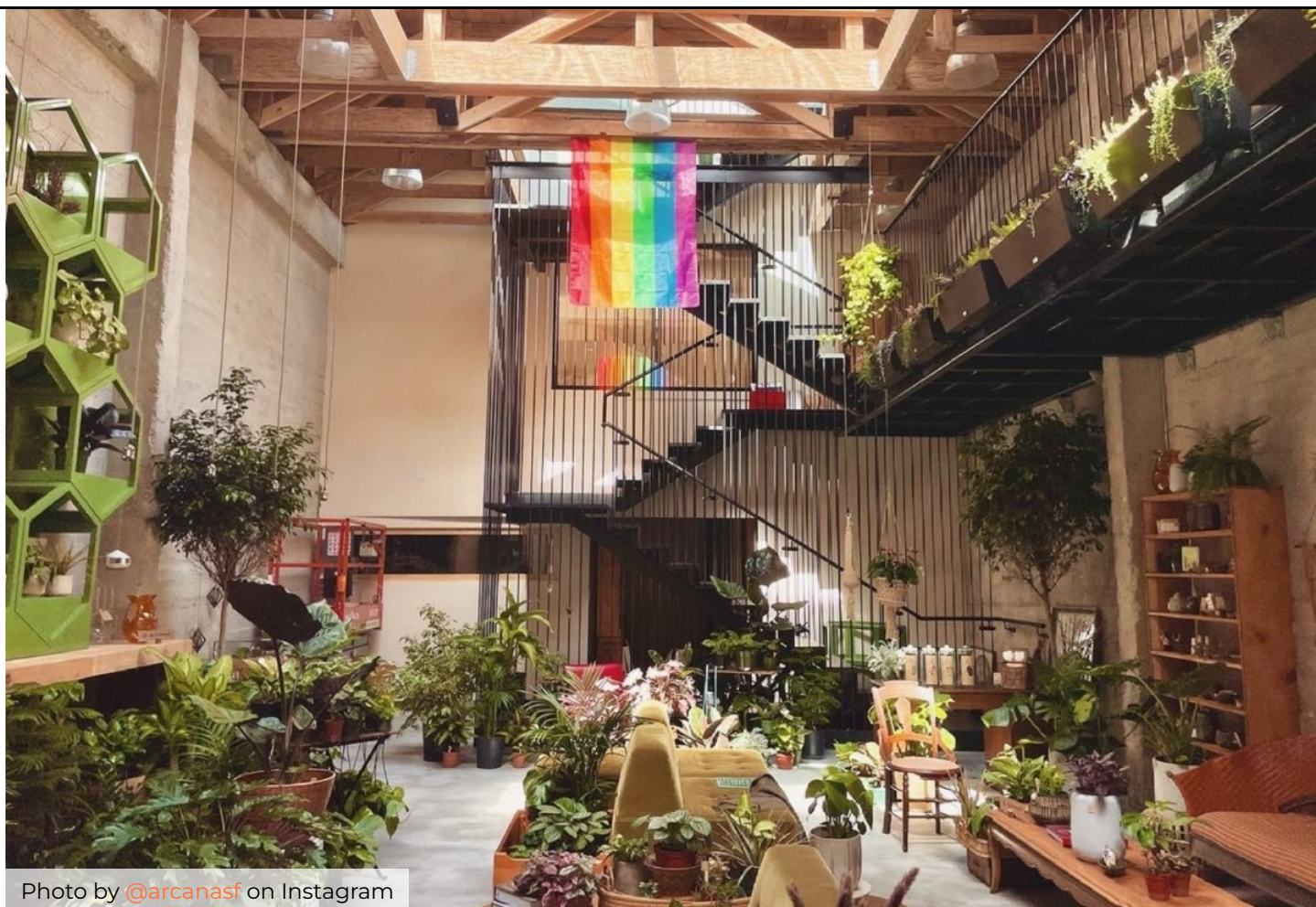


Photo by @arcanast on Instagram

We asked our Instagram followers for recommendations about **LGBTQ+-owned businesses** that they love supporting in the Bay Area. Y'all didn't disappoint, and below you'll find a variety of businesses that proudly represent the Bay Area's LGBTQ+ community, all while providing stellar service and products.

- [Local Brewing Co.](#)
- [Yield Wine Bar](#)
- [Arcana](#)
- [And more](#)

See also: [8 fantastic ways to celebrate Juneteenth 2023 in San Francisco](#)

38 Epic Bay Area Film Festivals To Put On Your Calendar

There are dozens of San Francisco Bay Area film festivals happening all year round in a variety of genres and formats. Here's your ultimate guide for enjoying the Bay Area film scene.



JAMIE FERRELL - STAFF WRITER · JUNE 8, 2023



Photo by Tommy Lau, courtesy of SF International Film Festival

San Francisco is home to the **second-largest film market in the country**, meaning that local cinephiles have an exciting lineup of film festivals to enjoy all year round. Here we've outlined a running list of **nearly 40 film festivals** happening in San Francisco and surrounding Bay Area cities, from the highly-anticipated [SF International Film Festival](#) in April to the swanky [Napa Valley Film Festival](#) in November.

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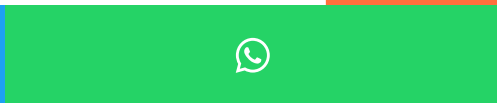


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Photo by Pamela Gentile, courtesy of SF Film Festival

Summer film festivals in the Bay Area

- 1. [SF Documentary Festival](#) – June 1-11, 2023 – San Francisco – A unique documentary film fest geared toward younger subcultures.
- 2. [Queer Women of Color Film Festival](#) – June 9-11, 2023 – San Francisco – A free film festival 19 years running, showcasing works from queer women of color.
- 3. [Frameline: San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival](#) – June 14-24, 2023 – San Francisco – The largest and longest-running LGBTQ+ film festival in the

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5. [SF Jewish Film Festival](#) – July 20-Aug. 6, 2023 – San Francisco, Albany – The world's largest and longest-running Jewish film festival spotlighting Jewish stories and perspectives.
6. [Cinequest – San Jose Film Festival](#) – Aug. 16-29, 2023 – San Jose – An international film festival marrying the cinematic arts with the innovation of Silicon Valley.
7. [Brainwash Film Festival](#) – Aug. 25-27, 2023 – Oakland – Watch a fun mix of shorts and feature films in an Oakland parking lot at this drive-in, walk-in, bike-in event.



Courtesy of Jewish Film Institute

Fall film festivals in the Bay Area

1. [Crossroads \(SF Cinematheque\)](#) – Sept. 8-10, 2023 – San Francisco – Annual avant-garde film festival from SF Cinematheque, a media arts organization dating back over 50 years.
2. [Cine+Mas SF – SF Latino Film Festival](#) – Sept. 29-Oct. 14, 2023 – San Francisco – A festival spotlighting films from the US, Latin America, Spain and Portugal.
3. [Cinema Italia San Francisco](#) – Sept (2023 dates TBA) – San Francisco – Film festival dedicated to classic Italian cinema.

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Francisco – A presentation of films from the South Asian diaspora including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, France, UK, Canada and the USA.

6. [Mill Valley Film Festival](#) – Oct. 5-15, 2023 – Mill Valley – An internationally-renowned and prestigious film festival celebrating independent and world cinema.
7. [San Francisco Short Film Festival](#) – Oct. 12-22, 2023 – San Francisco – SF IndieFest presents this popular film festival dedicated to shorts.
8. [Green Film Festival](#) – Oct. 12-22, 2023 – San Francisco – SF IndieFest presents this film festival dedicated to celebrating our planet and sustainability.
9. [United Nations Association Film Festival](#) – Oct. 16-19, 2023 – Palo Alto, San Francisco – A festival demonstrating the power of international documentary films in dealing with global crises.
10. [Superfest Disability Film Festival](#) – Oct (2023 dates TBA) – Berkeley, San Francisco – The world's longest-running disability film festival dedicated to portraying disability and prioritizing disabled filmgoers.
11. [SF Dance Film Festival](#) – Oct-Nov (2023 dates TBA) – San Francisco – Celebrate the artistry of dance with this film festival screening both local and international dance films.
12. [American Indian Film Festival](#) – Nov. 3-11, 2023 – San Francisco – The world's longest-running film exposition dedicated to Native American Cinema.
13. [Arab Film Festival](#) – Nov. 11-20, 2023 – SF Bay Area – The nation's oldest and largest Arab film festival dedicated to films showcasing Arab culture and perspectives.
14. [Napa Valley Film Festival](#) – Nov. 13-17, 2023 – Napa Valley – A prestigious film festival celebrating independent cinema accompanied by wine tasting, gourmet cuisine, and parties.
15. [San Francisco International New Concept Film Festival](#) – Nov. 15-19, 2023 – San Francisco – An international film festival dedicated to scouting new talent and encouraging new filmmakers.
16. [Tiburon International Film Festival](#) – Nov (2023 dates TBA) – Tiburon – A festival dedicated to its motto of “understanding the world through film.”
17. [San Francisco Transgender Film Fest](#) – Nov (2023 dates TBA) – San Francisco – The longest-running transgender film festival in the world, showcasing beautiful films centered on the trans and gender non-conforming community.
18. [California Independent Film Festival](#) – Nov (2023 dates TBA) – Orinda – The “fastest growing film festival in California” screens independent films celebrating diversity and human rights.



Courtesy of SF Independent Film Festival

Winter film festivals in the Bay Area

1. [Another Hole in the Head Film Festival](#) – Dec. 1-17, 2023 – San Francisco – SF IndieFest presents this festival dedicated to science fiction, fantasy, horror, and other genres.
2. [Coven Film Festival](#) – Dec (2023 festival postponed) – San Francisco – A film festival showcasing works by women and non-binary filmmakers.
3. [Legacy Film Festival on Aging](#) – Jan (2024 dates TBA) – San Francisco – A film festival highlighting shorts and feature-length films about the process of growing older.
4. [Noir City Film Festival](#) – Jan (2024 dates TBA) – Oakland – A popular film noir festival screening films from Hollywood's film noir movement in 1948.
5. [SF Independent Film Festival](#) – Feb. 1-11, 2024 – San Francisco – SF Indie's titular film festival of the year with thousands of moviegoers in attendance.
6. [Noise Pop](#) – Feb (2024 dates TBA) – San Francisco – A series of film screenings about music accompany Noise Pop's annual music and arts festival.



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211 likes

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Spring film festivals in the Bay Area

1. [SF Urban Film Fest](#) – Mar. 6-12, 2023 – San Francisco – A diverse presentation of films that use storytelling to promote civic engagement around urban issues.
2. [Berlin & Beyond Film Festival](#) – Mar. 23-28, 2023 – San Francisco, Berkeley – An exhibition of contemporary German cinema 27 years in the making.
3. [Poppy Jasper International Film Festival](#) – Apr. 12-19, 2023 – Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Hollister, San Juan Bautista – An award-winning film festival promoting diverse voices.

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- 5. [SF International Film Festival](#) – Apr. 13-23, 2023 – San Francisco – The longest-running film festival in the Americas, featuring consistently impressive lineups from filmmakers both local and international.
- 6. [DocLands Documentary Film Festival](#) – May 10-14, 2023 – San Rafael – A documentary film festival presented by the California Film Institute.
- 7. [CAAMFest](#) – May 11-21, 2023 – San Francisco – The Center for Asian American Media presents Asian American documentary works on public television.

See also: [13 essential SF movie theaters for all you cinephiles out there](#)

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