



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

BraveMaker Film Festival
On Its 8th Anniversary

WHEREAS, **BraveMaker** is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to educating, entertaining, and creating community through film, with a commitment to justice, diversity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, under the vision and leadership of Founder and Executive Director Tony Gapastione, **BraveMaker** has cultivated an inclusive creative community that empowers filmmakers, elevates historically underrepresented voices, and uses courageous storytelling to foster empathy, meaningful dialogue, and positive change; and

WHEREAS, since launching the **BraveMaker Film Festival** in 2019, **BraveMaker** has provided a platform for emerging and established filmmakers and brought audiences together through meaningful stories, education, professional development, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the 8th Annual **BraveMaker Film Festival**, taking place July 8–12, 2026, will bring five days of films, panels, workshops, performances, networking opportunities, and community events to venues throughout downtown Redwood City; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 festival will welcome acclaimed artists, filmmakers, industry leaders, and advocates, including Emmy Award-winning actress and **BraveMaker** Legend Award recipient Loretta Devine, mental health advocate and filmmaker Kevin Hines, actors and directors Keith Powell and Khary Payton, filmmaker Christine Swanson, IndieWire Editor-in-Chief Dana Harris-Bridson, and actor Phillip Andre Botello; and

WHEREAS, festival programming will highlight important themes including mental health, hope, resilience, accessibility, identity, cultural heritage, belonging, and social justice, while celebrating Black creators, LGBTQ+ stories, local filmmakers, and diverse voices in the entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, **BraveMaker** expands access to the arts through free public programming and supports the next generation of creative professionals through workshops, filmmaker conversations, and an Entertainment Industry Career Fair; and

WHEREAS, the **BraveMaker Film Festival** strengthens Redwood City’s cultural vitality by bringing together filmmakers, artists, residents, visitors, local businesses, and community partners through the transformative power of storytelling.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, hereby celebrates the 8th Annual **BraveMaker Film Festival** and commends Founder and Executive Director Tony Gapastione, along with **BraveMaker**’s staff, filmmakers, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners, for their leadership and dedication to advancing education, artistic expression, justice, diversity, inclusion, and community through film.

Date: July 10, 2026

SUPERVISORS:

NOELIA CORZO, PRESIDENT

JACKIE SPEIER

RAY MUELLER

LISA GAUTHIER

DAVID J. CANEPA

ATTEST: _____
DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS