

# Press Release

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
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This September, the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities hosts its 21st annual Cinema Touching Disability Film Festival (CTDFF). The largest and longest-running cinematic celebration of disability in Texas, CTDFF features the work of independent filmmakers complemented by wraparound events such as guest speakers and live music.

This year, over 100 filmmakers from around the world submitted entries to the international short film competition. Our judging panel of artists, activists, and academics curated a program that aims to celebrate positive and accurate portrayals of disability culture. The 2024 selected shorts come from as far as Nepal and Samoa to as close as Austin, Texas and cover a wide range of topics, genres, and emotions.

“Having a disability can mean so many different things, depending on who you are and where you are,” says CTDFF programmer Louise Ho. “Even two people with similar disabilities – a grandma in Vanuatu who uses a wheelchair and is grappling with the effects of climate change (*Rising Tides, Raising Voices*) is going to tell a completely different story than a teenaged wheelchair user in the UK, working up the nerve to ask out her crush at the last school dance (*Mo<3Kyra*). We wanted to capture some of that vast range of experience with this year’s Fest.”

CTDFF takes place Friday September 27th and Saturday September 28th at the Rollins Theater in Austin. Each night’s program will be unique and include extra offerings such as live music from multi-instrumentalist Gretchen McMahon (a local musician with a disability), screenings of winners and finalists of this year’s competition, the Gene Rodgers Creative Advocacy Award, and a Q&A with local filmmakers Aaron Abolt and Jenn Covington, director and star of winning entry, “Existing Patient”. There will also be a volunteer deputy registrar (VDR) on site to register attendees to vote in the upcoming election.

Cinema Touching Disability is open to the public for a sliding scale admission fee. Details, access information, and tickets at [www.ctdfilmfest.org](http://www.ctdfilmfest.org).

Cinema Touching Disability is a program of the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, whose mission is to ensure that all Texans with disabilities may work, live, learn, play and participate fully in the communities of their choice. The Festival is made possible with major sponsor support from United Healthcare, Superior HealthPlan, Genentech, and The Long Center.