

## Hmong film festival explores new ways of storytelling through film

Written by  
Tuesday, 13 May 2014 15:55

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On May 15–16, Metropolitan State University hosts the *Qhia Dab Neeg* Film Festival. The festival screens films that take the tools of contemporary American storytelling and place them in the hands of Hmong artists. The event includes a Hmong photography show by In Progress Hmong youth artists, exhibited in the university's Founders Hall reception area through May.

An opening reception takes place on Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at 700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, to introduce the filmmakers and photographers and to honor the storytellers selected to share their stories. The reception includes previews of the films to be presented during the festival.

Friday, May 16, features youth and family friendly screenings from noon-1:30 p.m., and educational and cultural workshops at 4 p.m. (led by the Hmong Cultural Center, 3HmongTV, 690AM Radio and Hmong Radio). Concurrently, a filmmakers' group discussion will take place, led by Porsha Chang, Yengtha Her and Thuy Dihn, to discuss the successes, challenges and the importance of Hmong storytelling through filmmaking and the difference it makes in the community.

Friday's evening screenings begin at 7 p.m. and include the films "Triumph, Leaving a Legacy and Sacrifices." All films are in English or subtitled. A brief question and answer session will follow each screening. Photo Exhibition artists are available to give tours and answer questions

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about their artwork. More information is available at the In Progress website, <http://in-progress.org/qhia-dab-neeg/>

The Qhia Dab Neeg Film Festival is a program of In Progress, a nonprofit media arts organization in Saint Paul and is cosponsored by Metropolitan State University. The festival is funded through the support of individual contributors, funds awarded to the university's Asian

Student Organization, Gordon Parks Youth Outreach initiatives, and the Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship. From In Progress, a dedicated force of volunteers, along with community members, and Metropolitan State students, faculty and staff, make the Qhia Dab Neeg Film Festival an annual success.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, is America's premier university for lifelong learning, providing unsurpassed, competitive academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels while maintaining affordability.