



2026



# Overview

The second annual Colorado Diasporic Film Festival (CDFF), hosted by Askkanwii Filmmaking Hub, took place from August 28 – 31, 2025, at the the SIE Film Center in Denver, Colorado, Village Exchange Center and the Vintage Theatre in Aurora, Colorado. The festival continued its celebration of diverse cultures, elevating BIPOC voices and spotlighting stories of migration, identity, and belonging through curated films, documentaries, and discussions. Building on the success of its inaugural year, this year's event deepened its focus on cross-cultural understanding and provided an even stronger platform for diasporic communities and cinematic artists to share their experiences and creative works. We welcomed filmmakers from across the globe, including Senegal, France, Nigeria (Nollywood), Ghana, Canada and across the United States. The four days included film, art, culture and trade. We look forward to continuing the connections in 2026. The Colorado Diasporic Film Festival is the only one of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region and it aims to promote cultural diplomacy in the film industry between the US and Africa.

**"THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE EVER SHOWN MY FILM AT A FESTIVAL OR ANYWHERE IN COLORADO. IT FELT AMAZING TO BE ABLE TO SHARE MY ART WITH MY FELLOW ETHIOPIANS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY. I LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT OTHER CULTURES THIS WEEK AND LOVED BEING ABLE TO SHOW UP AS MY SELF."**

**-YESHIMEBET BELAYNEH, DIRECTOR, FILMMAKER, ACTRESS AND ARTIST**



Ousmane Ndoye, Founder (center)



Brooke Dilling, Denver Arts & Venues



Yeshimebet Belayneh

## Why focus on Diaspora?

**Diaspora** is a term that describes a large group of people who share a regional or cultural origin but live away from their traditional homeland. The term comes from an ancient Greek word that means "to scatter about". Diasporas can be the result of immigration or forced movements of people. The people of a diaspora spread their culture as they move. We are proud to encourage and include films and industry professionals from all over the globe, especially those who currently reside in Colorado.





August 06 – August 09, 2026  
More than just a film festival

Film



Art



Culture



Trade



### Locations

Sie Film Center, Denver

Vintage Theatre, Aurora

Roshni Healing Arts Sanctuary, Aurora

### Contact

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