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Milwaukee Film's Historic Oriental Theatre Awarded Cream of the Cream City Award for Commercial Rehabilitation

The City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission selected award recipients for the 2025 Cream of the Cream City Awards

MILWAUKEE – Thursday, May 29th – Milwaukee Film is thrilled to announce that on May 5th, the historic Oriental Theatre was awarded a [2025 Cream of the Cream City Award](#) in the category of Commercial Rehabilitation, as selected by the City of Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission.

Milwaukee Film's executive director Susan Kerns expressed, "Milwaukee Film is so honored by this award and by the trust the Milwaukee community puts in us as stewards of this gorgeous movie palace." She continued, "Each restoration decision was made with care so we can welcome film audiences and architectural enthusiasts into the space for generations to come, especially as we look forward to the 100th anniversary of the Oriental Theatre in 2027."

The winners of this year's Cream of the Cream City Awards will be honored at a ceremony this evening at Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery (917 W. Juneau Ave.), starting at 5:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public.

"Every time I am in the theatre, I think of the legends whose artistry has graced the theatre's stage and screen, from vaudeville greats to classic Hollywood stars to punk bands to the filmmakers just here for the Milwaukee Film Festival," Kerns stated. "The Oriental Theatre embodies nearly 100 years of artistry and reminds us of the importance of coming together collectively to celebrate art, life, and our fair city," she concluded.

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About Milwaukee Film

Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community through cinematic experiences, with a vision to make Milwaukee a center for film culture. Milwaukee Film is committed to high-quality and accessible film programming through their operation of the magnificent Oriental Theatre, a historic cinema palace, and the iconic Downer Theatre, Milwaukee's oldest running cinema. The second [Dialogues Documentary Festival](#) will take place September 18-21, 2025. The 18th annual [Milwaukee Film Festival](#) will take place April 16-30, 2026. For more information or to become a Member, visit mkefilm.org.

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