



Lights, Camera, Kentucky: West Kentucky Film Commission to Launch New Regional Vision

PADUCAH, KY, May 27, 2025 — The West Kentucky Film Commission, a multi-city partnership dedicated to attracting new productions to the region, launches on Wednesday, May 28th with an event in Madisonville. This event, featuring Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and regional leaders, will officially debut the new commission and celebrate the growing film and television industry in Western Kentucky.

The event will be held at the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts and will include announcements on new industry initiatives, workforce development, and opportunities for local businesses and creatives. Governor Beshear’s presence underscores the Commonwealth’s commitment to building Kentucky’s creative economy and supporting regional investment.

What began as a bold vision in Hopkins County has grown into a united regional partnership strengthened by the support of neighboring cities and counties including Bowling Green, Oak Grove, Franklin, Central City, Henderson, Owensboro and Paducah.

“Film is a catalyst for tourism—it invites people to discover the places they see on screen,” said Alyssa Phares, Executive Director of the Paducah Convention & Visitors Bureau. “By joining this regional effort, Paducah is not just attracting productions, we’re creating new opportunities to showcase Western Kentucky’s culture, creativity, and hospitality to the world.”

Tricia Noel, Executive Director of Hopkins County Tourist and Convention Commission, emphasized the impact on local tourism and small businesses. “Every production that comes here fuels restaurants, hotels, and local businesses,” said Noel. “It’s about economic impact.”

At the Wednesday event, co-Commissioners Jeremy Winton and Kristi Kilday will share new initiatives from the Film Commission, including location developments, production interest, and education efforts.

“This is about creating a long-term creative economy in our region,” said Kristi Kilday. “The stories are here, the people are ready, and the film world is starting to take notice.”

“Our message is simple: Kentucky is open for production,” added Jeremy Winton. “We’re not just selling scenic views—we’re offering community support, talent, and access.”

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Time: Doors open at 1:00 PM CST

Location: Glema Mahr Center for the Arts 2000 College Drive Madisonville, KY 42431

For media inquiries or to RSVP, please contact tnoel@visitmadisonvilleky.com.