



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE

Film Permitting
in the
City of Fort Lauderdale

June 16, 2026

Introduction

- The City's film permitting process:
 - Plays a critical role in attracting high-value productions that support local employment,
 - Enhances the City's national and international image, and
 - Drive economic growth across multiple sectors—from hospitality to transportation.
- This presentation:
 - Provides a comprehensive overview of the County's and City's current permitting process;
 - Highlights key achievements;
 - Summarizes direct local economic impact; and
 - Presents a proposal to introduce a modest film licensing fee aligned with regional and state best practices.



Permitting Process

The City of Fort Lauderdale collaborates closely with the Broward County Film Commission through **FilmLauderdale** to support and facilitate film, television, and commercial productions in the City.

FilmLauderdale serves as the official film commission for Broward County, offering a wide range of services to the production community including:

- Location scouting;
- Permitting assistance;
- Logistical support; and
- Liaison services with local agencies.

This partnership ensures a streamlined and production-friendly experience while promoting economic development and showcasing the diverse landscapes and offerings of Fort Lauderdale.

Permitting Process

While there has been a longstanding relationship between the City of Fort Lauderdale and the Broward County Film Commission, an official interlocal agreement was established in 2025.

The ILA provides:

- The Film Commission and City of Fort Lauderdale will process film permit applications for productions through a newly launched, user-friendly FilmApp system, powered by Apply4.
- The City of Fort Lauderdale will continue to oversee film permits within its jurisdiction and will collaborate with the Film Commission to facilitate productions and permitting.
- The City retains the right to approve or reject permit applications for filming activities on public and private property and will maintain control over film activities on City-owned land, including parks, beaches, and public streets.
- Fees and the cost of City services associated with film permits will be determined and collected by the appropriate City departments, including the Police Department for off-duty officers, the Transportation and Mobility Department for road closure permits and reserved parking spaces, the Parks and Recreation Department for facility rentals, and the Fire Department for off-duty fire services or required inspections. Productions are responsible for paying these departments directly in accordance with City regulations, as may be amended.

Key Achievements

Fort Lauderdale is by far the most utilized municipality in Broward County and was recently voted the #2 Best Place to Live & Work as a Filmmaker by MovieMaker Magazine. MovieMaker touts Fort Lauderdale as a booming film and TV scene, with diverse and dynamic locations, strong local support, and a thriving creative community that makes Fort Lauderdale a major hub for storytellers.



Key Achievements

- **FY 2023–2024:**
 - **Permits Issued:** 136
 - **Direct Local Expenditure:** \$81,653,364
 - **Jobs Supported:** 2,897 local workers
- **FY 2024–2025**
 - **Permits Issued:** 122
 - **Direct Local Expenditure :** \$49,530,639.05
 - **Jobs Supported:** 3929 local workers
- **FY 2025–2026 (to date)**
 - **Permits Issued:** 67
 - **Direct Local Expenditure :** \$42,452,732
 - **Jobs Supported:** 2832 local workers

These figures underscore the importance of the film industry to our local economy and demonstrate the program's effectiveness in creating employment and elevating Fort Lauderdale's visibility as a destination city.



Production Expenditures



Key Achievements

Category	Examples
Reality / Travel Series	<i>90 Day Fiancé, Love & Hip Hop, Match Me Abroad, Truck Dynasty, A Place in the Sun, House Hunters, Airport Seaport, PBS Family Travel, Alison Hammond's Florida Unpacked</i>
Sports Brand Commercials & Photoshoots	<i>NFL, NBA, NHL, ESPN, Swimmer Magazine, Dick's Sporting Goods, Adidas, Omega XL Sport, Celsius</i>
Celebrity Athlete Campaigns	<i>Bose (Coco Gauff), Puma (Luis Suárez), Soccer Unites (Inter Miami FC), NHL Tricky Tipping (Panthers players), Project X (Lionel Messi), Lowe's Loyalty (Messi), The World Cup promo campaign</i>
Athletics-Based Series / Documentaries	<i>Forecheck (tennis), Prodigy Child (track), Reel Rivals (sportfishing), Members Only (yachting), The Rebuild II (hockey), Chris & Martina, Hockey Fanatics with Dave Foley, Formula E, Faceoff S2</i>
Accessibility-Focused Productions	<i>Wheel The World, Abbas Karimi Documentary, Accessible Fort Lauderdale, Ki Mobility Power Assist Add-On</i>
Other Notable Productions	<i>M.I.A. (Peacock series), McDonald's, Coppertone, Coca-Cola, RJ Decker (ABC series), BMW, Burger King, Jet Blue, Home Depot</i>

Direct Local Expenditure

- **Employment of local cast and crew:** Productions often hire Fort Lauderdale-based professionals, including camera operators, electricians, makeup artists, production assistants, and more. These jobs frequently pay union or premium industry rates, supporting the livelihoods of hundreds of creative and technical workers.
- **Lodging and hospitality:** Multi-day shoots frequently require hotel accommodations for cast, crew, and production staff. This translates into booked hotel nights, increased room tax revenues, and additional spending at local bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues.
- **Catering and dining:** Productions routinely spend thousands of dollars on meals each day, sourcing from local caterers, coffee shops, and restaurants to feed large crews on location.
- **Equipment and vehicle rentals:** Cameras, lighting equipment, generators, production trucks, and other gear are often rented from local suppliers, reinforcing Fort Lauderdale's creative infrastructure.
- **Facility and venue rentals:** Schools, parks, storefronts, homes, and office spaces are often rented as filming locations or production bases—providing additional income for property owners and supporting maintenance and security services.
- **City services and permitting:** Productions pay the City for off-duty police officers, MOT services, metered parking reservations, and facility rentals—providing direct revenue to multiple departments.
- **Marketing and long-term tourism impact:** Productions shot in Fort Lauderdale contribute to our brand identity. When viewers see our beaches, waterways, and neighborhoods on screen, it drives interest in visiting the City, supporting long-term tourism and economic development goals.

Current Permitting Framework

- **Permit Process Overview:**
 - Film permits are coordinated through the City's Cultural Affairs Division in collaboration with FilmLauderdale
 - Where applicable, permits are reviewed internally through:
 - Cultural Affairs
 - Risk Management
 - Transportation and Mobility
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Police Department
 - Strategic Communications
- **Key Features:**
 - The City does not currently charge a fee for film permits.
 - Productions are responsible for all associated costs, including:
 - Off-duty police officers
 - MOT (Maintenance of Traffic) permits
 - Rental of City facilities and parks
 - Reserved metered parking or lots
 - **Certificates of Insurance (COIs)** are mandatory, naming the City as additional insured.
 - **Rapid Turnaround:** Permits are often processed on short notice; some are issued the same day.
 - **External Coordination** as needed with:
 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
 - Homeowners Associations (HOAs)
 - Civic Associations
 - Private businesses and property owners

Film Permitting Fees by Municipality

Municipality	licensing fee	Notes
Town of Oakland	\$500 per day to film	One of the highest rates in Central Florida
Miami-Dade County	\$150 per permit	Permit valid for 28 days. All associated City services billed separately. Park fee of \$300
Winter Park	\$100 per permit	Use fee of up to \$500/day depending on production size and location
Windermere	\$100 per permit	Standard commercial production rate
Orlando	\$50 - \$100 per permit	Fee varies by district or property owner
Maitland	\$75 per day to film	Based on daily activity; additional rental fees may apply
Seminole County	\$75 per permit	Processed through the County's Film Office
Altamonte Springs	\$50 per permit	Part of Film Orlando consortium
Lake County	\$50 per permit	Consistent with regional averages
St. Cloud	\$25 per permit	Minimal fee with basic processing
Winter Springs	\$25 per permit	Entry-level rate for small productions
Broward County	No permit fee	City services paid by production
Coral Springs	No permit fee	Charges apply for police, MOT, and City parks
Hollywood, FL	No permit fee	Charges apply for police, MOT, and City facilities, and public property as needed.
Miami Beach	No permit fee	\$150 per vehicle per day for beach productions

Film Permitting Fee Consideration

- **Permit Application Fee**
 - **Tiered licensing fee:** \$50 to \$300 per production
 - This fee would help offset staff time spent on reviewing applications, coordinating interdepartmental approvals, and ensuring public safety compliance.
 - **Estimated Annual Revenue Based on Historic Permit Activity:**
~\$15,000 to \$21,000
 - Allow waivers or discounts for:
 - Nonprofit or student productions
 - Charitable PSAs or tourism-promoting shoots during off-season
- **Park Fees, Public Property Use Fee, Sidewalk and/or Beach Fee**
 - City staff will develop a fee structure based on site attributes including location, local significance, interruption to use by the public, and the amount of time requested to be used for production.

Proposed Tiered Licensing Fee

Tier	Production Type	Qualifications	Departments Typically Involved	Administrative Fee
Tier 1	Still Photography / Small Production	1–5 cast/crew; no road closures; no MOT; no City facilities; sidewalk/right-of-way only	Cultural Affairs, Risk Management, Police	\$50
Tier 2	Small Film Production	6–20 cast/crew; minor coordination; may include sidewalk closures, parking spaces, or limited park use; no road closures	Cultural Affairs, Risk, Police, possibly Parks	\$100
Tier 3	Large Production	21+ cast/crew; filming in parks or City facilities; traffic or parking impacts; multiple departments involved	Cultural Affairs, Risk, Police, Parks, TAM	\$200
Tier 4	Major Production	Road closures, MOT plan, multi-day shoots, significant public safety coordination	Cultural Affairs, Risk, Police, Fire, Parks, TAM	\$300



Feedback and Questions