W E A R E H U M A N F E S T I V A L

AI in Service of Humanity

RULES OF THE CALL FOR FILMS

2026 Edition

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Palais de Chaillot, Paris, 10 December 1948.

Call opens: 1 June 2026

Submission deadline: 30 September 2026 (11:59 p.m., Paris time)

Official Selection announcement: 20 October 2026

Awards Ceremony: 24 November 2026, Forum des Images, Paris

Revised version dated 14 September 2026 (initial version: 1 June 2026)

Update of 23 October 2026

This update concerns only the number of films in the Official Selection,
increased from twenty (20) to twenty-two (22) in Article 12.
All other provisions of these Rules remain unchanged.

These Rules constitute the official document governing participation in the We Are Human Festival, Edition 1, dedicated to Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Organised by the We Are Human association (French Law of 1901, Saint-Mandé, Greater Paris area), the Festival brings together creators from around the world around one conviction: artificial intelligence can uphold humanist values. The French version of these Rules shall prevail. An English version is provided for convenience.

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE AND ORGANISATION

The We Are Human Festival (hereinafter the “Festival”) is an international event dedicated to films made in the age of artificial intelligence and committed to human rights. It is organised by the We Are Human association (French Law of 1901, hereinafter the “Association”), whose registered office is in Saint-Mandé (94160), Greater Paris area.

The first edition is dedicated to Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Awards Ceremony will take place on 24 November 2026 at the Forum des Images (Paris), with an international rollout at partner venues (New York, São Paulo, Nairobi, Johannesburg, Mumbai, Quito, Geneva).

Participation in the call for films constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of these Rules, in the version in force on the date of submission.

ARTICLE 2: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Eligible authors

The call for films is open to any filmmaker, visual artist, studio, collective or independent creator, of any nationality, whether amateur, student or professional, aged 18 or over.

2.2 Eligible works

Audiovisual works are eligible if they cumulatively meet the following criteria:

- The film uses artificial intelligence in its conception, production or form, whether as a creative tool, artistic material or technical device. The use of AI is mandatory. Any work with no identifiable use of artificial intelligence may not be submitted.
- The film has a direct or metaphorical connection with Article 1 of the UDHR: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”
- The film is available in a digital version viewable by the selectors: a file uploaded to FilmFreeway or a protected viewing link (unlisted Vimeo / unlisted YouTube, with password where applicable).
- The film was made on or after 1 June 2025.
- The submission includes a fully completed Ethics Notebook, consisting of four questions relating to the creator’s approach to AI. An answer to all four questions is mandatory, and the absence of one or more answers renders the submission incomplete. However, the content of the answers does not in itself constitute an eligibility or exclusion criterion: no type of answer is eliminatory.

2.3 Accepted formats

All audiovisual formats are accepted between 1 minute (minimum) and 10 minutes (maximum): fiction short film, documentary, animation, experimental film, cinematic essay, music video, video art.

The maximum duration of ten (10) minutes includes credits, from the first to the last frame of the work. No tolerance beyond 10:00 is permitted.

2.4 Languages

Films may be presented in any language. Every film, including films in French, must be accompanied by English subtitles at the time of submission, or the applicant must undertake to provide them if selected.

2.5 Previous presentation

No world premiere requirement applies. Films that have already been broadcast, screened or made available online are eligible, provided that the necessary screening and distribution rights are available.

ARTICLE 3: SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

3.1 Platform

All submissions must be made exclusively via the FilmFreeway platform, accessible from wearehuman.foundation. Submission is free of charge for applicants.

3.2 Submission file

The submission file must include:

- The work, made available via FilmFreeway by direct upload or protected viewing link, and accessible until notification of the selection.
- The film title, the name of the director or team, nationality, year of production and running time.
- A synopsis in French or English (300 words maximum).
- The completed Ethics Notebook (4 questions integrated into the FilmFreeway form).
- Explicit acceptance of these Rules.

3.3 Language of submission

The submission file (synopsis, statement of intent) may be written in French or English.

3.4 Schedule

- Call opens: 1 June 2026
- Submission deadline: 30 September 2026 (11:59 p.m., Paris time)
- Notification of selected filmmakers: 20 October 2026
- Awards Ceremony: 24 November 2026, Forum des Images, Paris

3.5 Number of submissions per creator

Each creator may submit a maximum of two (2) works to this edition. Each work must be submitted separately and accompanied by its own completed Ethics Notebook.

ARTICLE 4: SELECTION AND JURY

Submitted films are evaluated by a preselection committee appointed by the Association, according to the following criteria:

- Artistic and cinematic quality of the work
- Relevance and originality of the approach to AI and human rights
- Consistency with the theme of the edition (Article 1 of the UDHR)
- Completeness and consistency of the Ethics Notebook with the work, without any type of answer being eliminatory
- Potential for international resonance

The shortlisted films are then submitted to an independent international jury, whose composition will be published on wearehuman.foundation on 13 October 2026. The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal. No individual feedback will be provided to applicants whose films are not selected.

If selected, the director and the Association will enter into a specific participation agreement setting out the technical arrangements and screening and distribution conditions applicable to the selected work. This agreement may modify the provisions of these Rules only in favour of the director, never to the director's detriment.

ARTICLE 5: SCREENING AND DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS GRANTED TO THE FESTIVAL

5.1 Non-exclusive screening and distribution licence

By submitting a work, the applicant grants the Association, free of charge, on a non-exclusive basis and for the period specified below, the right to:

- Screen and distribute the work as part of the Festival, in the partner cities and venues whose updated list is published on wearehuman.foundation, in person or in a hybrid format.

- Make the work available online securely for viewing by the selection committee and jury, with restricted and protected access.
- Reproduce excerpts from the work (limited to 20% of the total running time, not exceeding 2 minutes) in an official Festival teaser or trailer, for the purpose of promoting the event, on any media.
- Create a programming teaser compiling excerpts from several selected works, subject to the limit of 20% / 2 minutes per work, with mandatory mention of the title and director's name for each excerpt.
- Reproduce screenshots and visuals taken from the work for Festival communications, press and promotional purposes.
- Include the title, synopsis, statement of intent, director's name and supplied visuals in the official Festival catalogue (print and digital).

5.2 Online and platform distribution: regulated authorisation

If selected, the Association is authorised, under the non-exclusive licence provided for in these Rules, to make the work available in full on online platforms and on the internet, within the following strictly defined framework:

- Duration: 24 months from the selection date (20 October 2026), unless an extension is accepted in writing.
- Platform: distribution on the Festival's official platform (wearehuman.foundation or any designated partner platform), in a non-commercial and secure environment.
- Territory: worldwide distribution authorised.
- Security: the Association takes all reasonable measures to protect works made available online against unauthorised access or downloading.
- Free access: online distribution within this framework is non-commercial and free of charge for viewers.

5.3 Term of the licence

This licence is granted for a period of 24 months from the date of notification of selection (20 October 2026). Subject to the conditions set out in Articles 5.1 and 5.2, it covers:

- theatrical screening as part of the Festival and its international rollout;
- secure online distribution, in full or in excerpt form, for the non-commercial promotion of the work and the Festival;
- reproduction of excerpts (within the limit of 20% of the total running time, not exceeding 2 minutes) in any Festival promotional material.

This licence is non-exclusive and free of charge. It does not entail any transfer of intellectual property rights. The director remains free to distribute and exploit the work through their own channels and to show it privately at any time. The director remains free to submit it to other festivals or platforms from 1 April 2027, in accordance with Article 6. At the end of the 24-month period, any extension is subject to the express written agreement of the rights holder.

5.4 Subtitling

If selected, any work whose content is not in English must be subtitled in English. Works without dialogue are exempt from this requirement. Subtitles may be produced by the director or by the Association, as agreed between the parties.

5.5 What the Festival does not do

This licence does not entail any transfer of intellectual property rights in the work. Under no circumstances may the Association:

- Assign or sell the work to third parties, or authorise its commercial exploitation, without the prior written consent of the rights holder.
- Modify, adapt or alter the work other than for the subtitling provided for in Article 5.4.
- Distribute the work in full outside the framework defined in Article 5.2 without the prior written consent of the rights holder.

The Association cannot be held liable for the unilateral removal of a work by a third-party platform resulting from an algorithmic decision, a third-party report or any other cause beyond the Association's control. The Association nevertheless undertakes to take reasonable steps to contest any unjustified removal as promptly as possible.

ARTICLE 5 BIS: DISTRIBUTION BY OFFICIAL PARTNERS

5 bis.1 Distribution in official partner venues and on official partner platforms

As part of the Festival and its international rollout, the Association may organise the distribution of selected works in the Festival's official partner venues and, where applicable, on their platforms, under the conditions defined in these Rules.

- Exclusively non-commercial use: no direct or indirect monetisation of the work by the Partner is authorised without the written consent of the rights holder.
- Duration strictly limited to the Festival period and the promotional window defined in Article 5.2.
- Mandatory mention of the title of the work, the director's name and the wording "Film selected for the We Are Human Festival 2026" in any screening or distribution.
- Theatrical screening: authorised in the Festival's official partner venues, as part of screenings dedicated to the Festival. Any independent redistribution outside the partnership framework is prohibited.
- Internet and platform distribution: authorised on Partner platforms in a non-commercial framework, for the period specified in Article 5.2.
- It is prohibited to assign, redistribute or authorise the exploitation of the work by third parties outside the Festival framework without the prior written consent of the rights holder.

5 bis.2 Information to the creator

The applicant is informed, by these Rules, that the Festival's official Partners may distribute the work in accordance with the conditions defined above. By submitting the film, the applicant expressly accepts this possibility. No remuneration is due to the rights holder as a result of such partner distribution.

5 bis.3 Compliance with distribution conditions

The Association ensures that the Partners to whom it entrusts a selected work comply with the distribution conditions defined in this Article and in the applicable partnership agreements. Any use of the work outside this framework requires the prior written consent of the rights holder.

5 bis.4 Responsibility of screening venues

Partner screening venues remain responsible for their own facilities, operations and relations with third parties. The Association remains responsible for the obligations directly incumbent upon it under these Rules and its agreements with rights holders.

ARTICLE 6: RIGHTS OF APPLICANTS

Submitting a film to the Festival does not entail any transfer of rights for purposes other than those provided for in Article 5. The applicant remains the holder of all copyright and related rights in the work.

Films not retained at the end of the selection process are subject to no restriction on presentation: their authors remain free, at any time, to submit them to any other festival, platform or competition.

In the event of official selection (notified on 20 October 2026), the director undertakes not to present the work in selection or competition at another festival between the date of notification of selection, 20 October 2026, and 31 March 2027 inclusive. This obligation concerns presentation of the work as part of another festival; it does not restrict distribution by the director through their own channels, private screenings, or distributions that took place before submission (Article 2.5). From 1 April 2027, the director regains full freedom to submit and present the work to any other festival, platform or competition.

If selected, the Association undertakes systematically to mention the title of the work, the director's name and, where applicable, the production company in all communications relating to the Festival.

ARTICLE 7: APPLICANT WARRANTIES

By submitting a work, the applicant represents and warrants that:

- The applicant is the author or duly authorised representative of the work and holds all rights necessary to authorise the uses provided for in these Rules.
- The work is free of any third-party rights that could prevent its distribution as part of the Festival, including music rights, image rights and archive rights.
- The work contains no illegal, defamatory or pornographic content, no content inciting hatred, and no content infringing human dignity.
- Any use of artificial intelligence in the creation of the work is accurately and truthfully disclosed in the Ethics Notebook.
- The information provided in the submission file is accurate and complete.

The applicant undertakes to indemnify the Association against any claim, legal action or loss arising from a breach of the above warranties.

7.1 Music rights

The applicant declares the status of the music rights for any music contained in the work: original music, royalty-free music, festival-only licence, or full licence including online and international distribution. In the case of a festival-only licence, if the work is selected, the applicant undertakes either to provide evidence of an extension of the licence for the uses provided for in these Rules, or to provide an alternative version of the work with compatible music, within the period specified by the Association.

7.2 Content generated by third-party artificial intelligence

Where the work incorporates content generated using third-party artificial intelligence tools, the applicant declares that they have reviewed and complied with the terms of use of those tools, particularly with regard to the rights to exploit and publicly distribute the generated content. The applicant is solely responsible for the legal status of such content in the countries in which the Festival is distributed.

7.3 Co-directed works

In the case of co-direction, the submission file must designate a single representative, duly authorised by all co-directors to act on their behalf. This representative signs the participation agreement and receives the prize on behalf of the team. The Association accepts no liability for internal team disputes relating to the allocation of rights or prizes.

ARTICLE 8: PROTECTION OF WORKS AND SECURITY

The Association takes all reasonable measures to protect submitted works against unauthorised access, copying or unlawful reproduction. Video files submitted via FilmFreeway are accessible only to members of the selection committee and jury, subject to confidentiality.

The Association cannot be held liable in the event of theft, unauthorised access or copyright infringement resulting from a technical failure beyond its control. The applicant acknowledges this residual risk by submitting the work.

ARTICLE 9: PRIZES AND AWARDS

The Festival awards three prizes at the official ceremony on 24 November 2026 at the Forum des Images, Paris:

- Grand Prix: Best film, across all dimensions. Award: €5,000 + international screenings.
- Best Screenplay Award: Best writing, regardless of the production. Award: €3,000 + international screenings.
- Ethics Award: The film that most clearly raises the question of AI and humanity. The only award that also evaluates the director’s approach through the Ethics Notebook. Award: €2,000 + international screenings.

The prizes are presented at the official ceremony or, for winners unable to attend, delivered in accordance with arrangements agreed with the Association.

Receiving a prize does not entail any additional transfer of rights in the work beyond those provided for in Article 5.

Winners authorise the Association to use their name or entity name and the mention of their prize for Festival communication and promotional purposes, without limitation in time.

ARTICLE 10: PARTICIPATION IN THE FESTIVAL

If selected, the director or their representative undertakes to:

- Provide a high-quality screening copy (MOV or MP4, minimum 2K resolution) within the period specified by the Association.
- Where applicable, provide subtitle files in the requested languages or approve subtitles created by the Association.
- Authorise screening of the work in the Festival's partner cities.
- Keep the work accessible (file or viewing link) until the notification date.

The Association covers the technical costs associated with screening. Directors' travel and accommodation expenses are not covered by the Association.

Detailed technical arrangements (formats, delivery deadlines, screening-copy specifications) are set out in the participation agreement entered into with each selected director in accordance with Article 4.

Archiving and return of the copy - At the end of the 24-month licence period, the Association undertakes to destroy or return, at the director's choice and upon written request, any screening copy of the work in its possession.

ARTICLE 11: WITHDRAWAL OF A WORK

A submitted work may not be withdrawn from the competition after the submission has been validated, except in a duly justified case of force majeure. A selected work may under no circumstances be withdrawn from the Festival programme after notification of selection.

The Association reserves the right to disqualify any work where the submitted information proves to be inaccurate, incomplete or misleading, or where the content breaches these Rules or the values of the Festival.

ARTICLE 12: PERSONAL DATA

Personal data collected as part of the call for films is processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Association's privacy policy, published on wearehuman.foundation. It is used for the purposes of managing the call for films, selection and communications relating to the Festival. It is under no circumstances transferred to third parties.

The Ethics Notebook forms an integral part of the work (Article 2.2). Accordingly, for works included in the Official Selection, the Ethics Notebook is presented by name alongside the work during Festival screenings, in Paris and as part of its international rollout, under the conditions of the screening and distribution licence provided for in Article 5. This presentation concerns all twenty-two (22) selected films, not only the prize winners.

Independently of this use, all Ethics Notebooks from the edition, without exception, may be used for analysis, study, reporting, publication, educational or research purposes relating to the collective reflection fostered by the Festival. Such use is carried out exclusively in aggregated and anonymised form, preventing the direct or indirect identification of their authors; no personal data, nor any element likely to enable the re-identification of an applicant, is disclosed for this purpose, including when excerpts are quoted. By submitting a work, the applicant is informed of and accepts these uses.

In accordance with the GDPR, every applicant has the right to access, rectify and erase their data by writing to: contact@wearehuman.foundation. The exercise of these rights does not prevent the anonymised use provided for in this Article, provided that the data concerned no longer allows the applicant to be identified.

ARTICLE 13: AMENDMENT OF THE RULES

The Association reserves the right to amend these Rules where necessary. Any amendment will be published on wearehuman.foundation and notified to applicants who have already submitted. In the event of disagreement with a material amendment, the applicant has 15 days to withdraw the submission without prejudice.

The Association also reserves the right to cancel or postpone the Festival in the event of force majeure, without any compensation being claimable by applicants.

ARTICLE 14: GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

These Rules are governed by French law. In the event of a dispute concerning their interpretation or performance, the parties undertake to seek an amicable solution before commencing legal proceedings. Failing this, the competent courts shall be those of Créteil.

These Rules are drafted in French, which constitutes the sole official version. Translations into English, Spanish and Portuguese may be made available to applicants for convenience. In the event of any discrepancy in interpretation between the French version and any translation, the French version shall prevail absolutely.

ARTICLE 15: DECLARATION OF THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

15.1 Transparency requirement

The We Are Human Festival places artificial intelligence at the heart of its artistic and ethical project. Accordingly, every applicant is required to disclose accurately and truthfully the use of AI in the creation of the work, through the Ethics Notebook integrated into the submission form. This declaration is a constituent part of the submission file and is taken into account in the evaluation of the work.

15.2 Recognised categories of use

The Festival recognises the following non-exhaustive categories:

- AI as a post-production or technical assistance tool (AI-assisted editing, colour grading, automatic subtitling, noise reduction).
- AI as a tool for visual, sound or narrative creation integrated into a meaningful human artistic approach.
- Generative AI having produced all or part of the audiovisual content of the work.

15.3 False declaration

Any false declaration concerning the use of AI, identified before or after selection, results in the immediate disqualification of the work and, where applicable, the withdrawal of any prize awarded. The Association reserves the right to make the disqualification public.

15.4 Use of AI mandatory, with no discrimination based on degree of use

The use of artificial intelligence is mandatory in every work submitted to the Festival (see Article 2.2). The Festival does not discriminate between works according to the degree or nature of such use: a work generated entirely by AI is eligible on the same basis as a work using AI as an assistance tool, provided that the declaration is truthful and the work is driven by an identifiable human artistic intention. The jury takes into account the consistency between the declared approach and the work presented.

ARTICLE 16: IMAGE RIGHTS AND CONSENT OF FILMED PERSONS

Any film featuring identifiable natural persons is the sole responsibility of the director. By submitting a work, the applicant represents and warrants that they have:

- Obtained the written consent of every identifiable person appearing in the film for distribution as part of the Festival and by its partners, including internationally and online.
- Obtained the specific authorisations required for vulnerable persons in accordance with the laws applicable in the countries of distribution.
- Informed the persons filmed of the international and multi-platform nature of the proposed distribution.

The Festival reserves the right to verify these warranties and to request copies of the authorisations obtained before any public screening. Any breach of this obligation is the sole responsibility of the applicant.

ARTICLE 17: NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE AND FESTIVAL VALUES

The We Are Human Festival is grounded in the values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Accordingly, the Association reserves the right to refuse distribution or to remove from the programme, at any time and without compensation, any work whose content:

- Incites hatred, discrimination or violence based on origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or any other protected characteristic.
- Infringes human dignity within the meaning of the UDHR.
- Disseminates manifestly false or misleading information harmful to human rights.
- Would be contrary to public policy or to the laws in force in any of the countries in which the Festival is distributed.

This decision rests solely with the Festival's Artistic Committee, with no obligation to provide detailed reasons. The applicant concerned is informed in writing as soon as possible.

ARTICLE 18: CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE FESTIVAL

In the event of cancellation or postponement of the Festival due to force majeure, the Association undertakes to:

- Inform all applicants and prize winners as soon as possible.
- Where possible, propose a rescheduled date or an alternative distribution format (online or hybrid).

No compensation may be claimed by applicants or prize winners.

ARTICLE 19: COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Any applicant who considers themselves adversely affected by a Festival decision may submit a written complaint to contact@wearehuman.foundation within 15 days of notification of the disputed decision.

The Association undertakes to acknowledge receipt within 5 business days and to provide a reasoned response within 30 days of receipt of the complaint. Jury decisions relating to selection and prizes are not subject to complaint.

ARTICLE 20: SCREENING COPY AND TECHNICAL COSTS

If selected, the director provides a high-quality screening copy (MOV or MP4, minimum 2K resolution) within the period specified by the Association.

If the film does not have a DCP and the screening venue requires one, the Association covers the cost of creating the DCP from the digital copy supplied by the director, following written agreement between both parties. The DCP thus created is returned to the director at the end of the Festival.

Technical costs associated with screenings in partner cities are covered by the Association or the relevant partner venues, unless otherwise expressly agreed in writing.

ARTICLE 21: SELECTION MENTION

Any film selected for the We Are Human Festival is authorised to use the official wording “Official Selection - We Are Human Festival 2026” as well as the selection laurel or logo provided by the Association, in accordance with the Festival's brand guidelines.

Directors are invited to display this wording on the film's communication and promotional materials, including posters, trailers, press kits, websites and digital publications.

Prize-winning works are authorised to use the wording and laurel corresponding to the prize received.

Use of the Festival's name, logo or laurels must comply with the brand guidelines provided by the Association and may not imply the existence of any partnership, support or commercial relationship other than the selection or prize actually received.

ARTICLE 22: LIABILITY OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association implements the reasonable means necessary for the organisation of the Festival and for the selection, preservation and distribution of works under the conditions provided for in these Rules.

It cannot be held liable for damage resulting from an event of force majeure, a technical failure beyond its control, an interruption or unavailability of a third-party platform, or any act attributable to a partner, service provider or third party reasonably beyond its control.

The applicant remains solely responsible for the submitted work, its content, and for holding the rights and authorisations necessary for its presentation and distribution, particularly in relation to intellectual property, music rights, image rights and the use of content generated or assisted by artificial intelligence.

Subject to mandatory provisions of law, the Association is liable only for direct and foreseeable damage resulting from a breach directly attributable to it. It cannot be held liable for indirect damage, operating losses, loss of opportunity or loss of profit.

Nothing in this Article shall have the effect of excluding or limiting the Association's liability where such liability cannot legally be excluded or limited, in particular in the event of gross negligence, wilful misconduct or bodily injury.

We Are Human. Association under the French Law of 1901, recognised as serving the public interest. RNA W942012248. SIREN 931 320 691. Saint-Mandé (94160), France.

wearehuman.foundation - contact@wearehuman.foundation

Revised version dated 14 September 2026, updated on 23 October 2026. The French version shall prevail.