



ADMINISTRATION / PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

420 N. Front St.

Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 8:30 am

AGENDA

Call to Order

1. Reports (staff)
 - a. Treasurer Report
2. Public Comments
Please limit remarks to no more than three (3) minutes or less.
3. Committee Business
 - a. Film Proposal- Keith Famie
 - b. Work Plan
4. Status Update – Other Committees
5. Public Comments/Written Communication
6. Committee Member Comments
7. Announcements
8. Adjournment



*A Film Proposal to
The Village of Suttons Bay*



Manager Copy



June 28th, 2023

Mr. Rob Larrea
Village Manager
Village of Suttons Bay
420 N. Front St.
PO Box 395
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Dear Mr. Larrea,

After a very exciting successful showing of ***Detroit: The City of Hot Rods & Muscle Cars*** this past weekend in the historical Bay Theatre, an idea surfaced from several community members I was with about the vast history of Suttons Bay itself and its early Norwegian settlers as well as the indigenous tribes from the Grand Traverse Bay of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians.

I felt the community leaders as well as the Village leadership might have an interest in seeing the history of Suttons Bay come to life through an in-depth, one-hour long film that could be shared throughout the State of Michigan on a streaming platform and quite possibly on PBS affiliates in the state. We took the liberty of creating the enclosed film overview for your review that could be ready as early as Spring 2024.

Typically, with our productions, community leaders step up individually as Executive Producers or through their companies or foundations as Leading Community Supporters to donate funds needed to produce the film, basically as a form of crowdfunding, so the cost could be minimal for the Village depending on community support.

A bit about who we are, most recently we were awarded five Michigan Emmy's for our film ***Detroit: The City of Churches***. Over a two-year production with seventeen churches and their spiritual leaders, we told the history of Detroit. Over the years we have been fortunate to have been awarded nineteen Michigan Emmy's and several other national film festival awards for our inspirational and educational style of storytelling. I have included that film for your review as well as ***Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower?***, about the daily lives of children & young adults with Down Syndrome.

If you feel there might be an interest in pursuing a film about one of Michigan's true crown jewels, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Famie', is written over a large, stylized blue 'V' logo that is partially visible behind the text.

Keith Famie
Producer / Director
Visionalist Entertainment Productions

famie@famie.com
248-869-0096

The Village on the Bay

Director / Producer Keith Famie takes the audience on a journey back to the early days of 1854 when founder Harry C. Sutton first settled with his crew of woodsmen in Suttons Bay, Michigan.


Through in-depth interviews with locals and historians, we will gain a rich understanding of how the small village on Grand Traverse Bay developed as from its early years to today.

Opening scene:

*We see several couples in period costumes from the 1940s arriving in cars from that era walking into The Bay Theatre. On the screen would be one of the films from 1946, *The Big Sleep*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Note: the attending movie goers could all be local residents.*



Visionalist



The Village on the Bay

The Production

Filming Timeline:

- The filming for this six-month project would need to take place in September / October 2023, sometime well before the snow flies.
- A pre-production meeting would need to take place 4 - 6 weeks before filming begins.

Community Members Featured in the Film:

- Through a creative overview script, we could include locals who would be excited about making a donation in exchange for being featured in the film in some context, if their presence makes sense to the story, such as the opening scene.

Film Delivery:

- We will deliver the film master as an electronic file that can be uploaded to any streaming platform the village chooses as well as the village's website.
- In addition to the electronic file, we will custom create a DVD and deliver 500 DVDs that the village can hand out or sell.
- The film would be offered to PBS affiliates in the State of Michigan for broadcast consideration.

Film Premiere:

- We would have the completed film ready for a community celebration premiere at The Bay Theatre by May 2024.

Added Value: Suttons Bay promotional marketing story

- From the footage and interviews filmed, we will create for Suttons Bay a 2 - 3 minute marketing video story that the village can use anyway they wish on any media platform.



The Village on the Bay

Narrative Areas of Focus

- The lumber industry in the area including the story of the city's namesake, Harry Chittenden Sutton (1809 - 1907), who arrived in 1854 with a crew of woodsmen to supply fuel for passing wood steamboats.
- The Native American tribe of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians were integral to the area's early logging industry and its tribal office is now located in Peshawbestown, just north of Suttons Bay. The tribe now owns & operates the Leelanau Sands Casino, the Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel and the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa.
- Father Andrew Herbstreit, a missionary priest and real estate operator, platted six thousand lots in 1871 and laid out Pleasant City. His avowed intention being to establish a 'National University' on the bay, endowing it with one half the proceeds from the sale of lots.
- Why Norwegians settled in this area. The names you'll see on Suttons Bay's streets and stores, which include Anderson, Johnson, Thoreson, Holton, Garthe, Mork, Clausen, Setterbo, and Bahle, provide surface links to the past. Many of the descendants of the original Norwegian immigrants still live in the area, and proudly carry on the legacy of their ancestors. The true "freshwater Norwegians" in the area break out the nostalgic, if not ill-named foods of their childhood, like head cheese, liver sausage, or dried cod.

- Stories about the early residents, such as Lars Bahle & his family who came to Suttons Bay from Northport in 1871. After owning a large plot of land a mile from town, Lars eventually sold the land & went all-in on a 24-by-40-foot store in town in 1876. Bahle's Department Store is still there, though larger now, and still owned by the Bahle family. Esten Bahle (born in 1881) who spent hours as a boy watching the sailing vessels on the bay. At age 16, he sailed as a wheelsman & lookout. In 1905, he went to work for the Pere Marquette car ferries & is believed to have set a record at the time with more than 1,000 crossings of Lake Michigan. Another Norwegian seafarer, Captain J.C. Anderson, was born in Norway & was considered a master of the sea. He would later purchase the Union Hotel in Suttons Bay in 1879.
- Other notable Norwegian settlers included Lars J. Gronseth, who came to Suttons Bay in 1886 and opened a shoe store. Native Norwegian Louis (Lars) R. Sogge came to Leelanau County in 1884, worked on a farm, and later purchased an interest in the Leland Lumber Co. In 1899, he opened a general store in Suttons Bay. His daughter later married Otto Bahle, who took over the Bahle's store.
- How the Manistee and Northeastern Railroad stop in Suttons Bay in 1903 brought trade and other settlers to the area.
- Stories about the early schooners on the bay that carried lumber, cordwood, and tanbark which later turned into steamships providing passenger service between Suttons Bay and nearby ports.
- Early farming in the area that focused on potato production before cherries & grapes for local wineries became the agricultural focus. This includes the "School Potato Vacations" during the 1930s & 40s.
- Leelanau County is home to over 20 award winning wineries with many located in or around Suttons Bay. Some notable wineries include Ciccone Vineyard & Winery, Black Star Farms & Mawby Vineyards & Winery and Chateau De Leelanau to name a few.
- The story of the Bay Theatre. Originally, it was home to several commercial enterprises built in 1920 with wood from Elmer Peterson Sawmill. It was home to Hansen Brothers Hardware, a blacksmith / livery business & Suttons Bay's Volunteer Fire Department. Empty during WWII, it was transformed into a movie theatre in 1946 by Bion Rockwell.
- Where Suttons Bay is at today with its year-round activities including hiking, biking trails, art festivals, the TART (Traverse Area Recreational Trail) Trail, kid's activities, snowshoeing, kayaking, boating, sampling Michigan wines, shopping, touring Inland Seas Education Association, & basking along impressive sandy beaches, all located within walking distance from downtown Suttons Bay.

The Village on the Bay

Budget Overview

\$95,000.00



This overview outlines our budget for the development and production of the 2023 one hour long documentary film, *The Village on the Bay*.

The audience will journey back to 1854 when settler Harry Chittendon Sutton arrived with a crew of woodsmen to supply wood for passing wood steamboats. Through in-depth interviews with locals and historians, we will gain a rich understanding of how the small village of Suttons Bay developed over the years.

Pre-Production / Promotional Trailer Development / Website & Social Media Development

Summer 2023

\$5,000.00

- Location scouting in Suttons Bay.
- Casting for 1940's "period" scene.
- Historical image research.
- Research narratives by locals & historians.
- Create the film's website & social media pages along with a promotional trailer.
- **NOTE: accommodations for the crew during location scouting & "period" casting to be supplied by the Suttons Bay community.**

Principal Filming

Sept. – Oct. 2023

\$45,000.00

- This will cover 10 days of filming including all travel, production coordination, production insurance, 6-person crew & equipment costs.
- This will also cover any wardrobe rental costs needed to recreate period costumes & propping from the 1940's.
- **NOTE:** accommodations for the crew during filming to be supplied by the Suttons Bay community.

Post Production

Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

\$30,000.00

- This stage involves interview transcriptions, narrative scriptwriting, graphic development & design, set design for photo filming, music selection & licensing, audio mixing, editing & mastering.

DVD Duplication

Spring 2024

\$2,500.00

- We will deliver the film master as an electronic file that can be uploaded to any streaming platform the village chooses as well as the village's website.
- In addition to the electronic file, we will custom create a DVD and deliver 500 DVDs that the village can hand out or sell.

Printed Program Booklet

Spring 2024

\$5,000.00

- A special printed full-color booklet will be created that will feature the film's production stories and photos, recognize all the film's supporters and profile the individual and organizations featured in the film.

Film Premiere Celebration

Spring 2024

\$2,500.00

- Suttons Bay to host a media and community leader premiere at The Bay Theatre. This event will allow us to introduce the film and recognize the individuals and organizations who have supported the film.

Misc. Costs / Contingency

Summer 2023 - Spring 2024

\$5,000.00

- As with any documentary film, there are always unforeseen costs during the production. By budgeting for this, we are allowed the flexibility to pivot to a narrative we feel will enhance the overall story.

Total Budget Estimate: \$95,000.00

EMMY AWARD-WINNING VISIONALIST ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS

WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1997 BY PRODUCER/DIRECTOR KEITH FAMIE. SINCE THESE EARLY YEARS, FAMIE AND HIS TEAM HAVE PRODUCED A WIDE RANGE OF PRIMETIME PROGRAMS.

DOCUMENTARIES

- Ice Warriors (2005)** An action-packed journey with the Detroit Red Wings' Alumni team through Russia.
- Our Italian Story (2006)** Progress, passion and promise – Detroit's Italian heritage.
- Our Arab American Story (2007)** Reverence, resourcefulness and respect-Detroit's Arab American Heritage.
- Our Greek Story (2007)** Antiquity, modernity, and destiny- Detroit's Greek Heritage.
- Our Polish Story (2007)** Family, faith and fortitude- Detroit's Polish Heritage.
- Our India Story (2008)** Amity, diversity and sovereignty- Detroit's Indian Heritage.
- Detroit: Our Greatest Generation (2009)** A tribute to our Michigan WWII veterans, both men and women, who fought for the freedom of our families and our country.
- Our Vietnam Generation (2011)** A long overdue welcome home to the men and women who served during Vietnam.
- Can You See How I See? (2011)** An inspiring look into the life of those who are without sight.
- One Soldier's Story (2011)** the profound story of Sgt. Michael Ingram, Jr. and his legacy.
- The Embrace of Aging: Men's Series (2012)** 13-part series on men and 7-part series on women.
- The Embrace of Aging: Women's Series (2014)** 13-part series on women and 7-part series on men.
- The Embrace of Dying (2015)** 8-part series on how we deal with the end of life.
- Maire's Journey (2016)** Follow Maire Kent as she sets sail on an epic journey to fulfill her dying wish.
- Death is NOT the Answer (2016)** A deep look into the complex world of depression and suicide.
- Enlisted (2017)** Choice. Adventure. Growth. Why would one enlist in the military?
- Those on the Front Lines of Alzheimer's & Dementia (2018)** What can be done to stop this truly devastating disease?
- Those on the Front Lines of Cancer (2019)** Can the uncommon journey that cancer patients undergo result in anything positive?
- Blessed Solanus Casey's Journey to Sainthood (2019)** How does a humble boy from Irish immigrant parents rise to the rare and distinguished honor of beautification?
- Shoah Ambassadors (2021)** Bridging the chasm of the younger generation of today with that of the Holocaust generation through the exploration journey that two young non-Jewish individuals go on.
- Hospice Care in America Today (2022)** Where did Hospice originate? Why is this service so important for end of life care?
- Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower? (2022)**
A story of those living and thriving with Down Syndrome.
- Detroit: The City of Churches (2022)** The significance the many Detroit churches played on some of the most iconic moments in Detroit's history.
- Detroit: The City of Hot Rods & Muscle Cars (2023)** A celebration of the unique Detroit hot rod & muscle car community & how Motor City iron has circumnavigated the globe & shaped world culture.

MICHIGAN EMMY AWARD WINNERS

- Taste of Taiwan (2006)**
On-Camera Talent – Keith Famie
- Our Italian Story (2006)**
Best Human Interest Special, Best Director
- Our Polish Story (2007)**
Best Director: Post-Production
- Our Greek Story (2007)**
Best Cultural Documentary,
Best Human Interest Program Special
- Our Arab American Story (2007)**
Societal Concerns Program Special
- Our India Story (2008)**
Best Documentary Cultural
- Detroit: Our Greatest Generation (2009)**
Best Editor
- Our Vietnam Generation (2011)**
Best Documentary Historical
- The Embrace of Aging: The Female Perspective of Growing Old (2014)**
Best Director: Post-Production
- Shoah Ambassadors (2021)**
Best Director, Best Lighting, Best Editing
- Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower? (2022)**
Best Human Interest - Long Form Content
- Detroit: The City of Churches (2022)**
Best Director, Best Editing, Best Photography, Best Lighting

PRODUCTIONS IN 2023 / 2024

- Detroit: The City by The River** - A journey up and down our beloved Detroit River, to uncover the richness of the past and gain a better understanding of where the river's meandering course will take us in the future.
- Fork in the Road** - Step into the lives of children who are thrust into the world of foster care through a series of life circumstances they had nothing to do with.
- The Razor's Edge** - A day in the lives of those that live on the razor's edge of society who face poverty and survival every day with many calling the streets their home.

AWARDS & HONORS

2016 - Maire's Journey-

- DOCUTAH 2016 – International Documentary Film Festival – Winner

2021 - Shoah Ambassadors-

- Toronto Indie Filmmakers Festival - Best Feature Documentary - Winner
- SR Socially Relevant Film Festival NY – Honorable Mention
- Tokyo International Short Film Festival – Honorable Mention
- Austin Lift-Off Film Festival – Official Selection
- LA Documentary Film Festival – Official Selection
- Miami Jewish Festival – Official Selection
- Santa Monica Film Festival – Official Selection
- Malibu Film Festival – Official Selection

2022 - Chromosomally Enhanced: What's Your Superpower?-

- Grand Rapids Film Festival - Award Winner





Keith Famie **Director/Producer/Author**

Director/Producer Keith Famie was, for many years, known as a celebrity chef and a metro Detroit restaurateur. He was selected as one of America's "Best New Chefs" in 1989 by Food and Wine magazine; Esquire Magazine chose his restaurants as "Best New Restaurant" in America on two separate occasions. Famie was also a finalist on the 2001 reality television series, "Survivor, the Australian Outback."

Keith hosted his own Food Network series, "Keith Famie's Adventures," traveling the world documenting cooking styles from the plains of Africa to monk monasteries of Taiwan, to the lifestyle of Key West. In 2004, the Adventure Chef embarked on a new journey - documentary filmmaking. "I didn't want to be the 'Adventure Chef' guy anymore. I wanted to help people tell their stories."

Since that life-changing decision, Famie has been awarded twelve Michigan Emmys and been nominated several other times for his rich, human-interest storytelling, from ethnic documentaries to military tribute films. He and his team at Visionalist Entertainment Productions create informative, entertaining films that touch a wide audience.

Along with documentary filmmaking, Famie has released several books throughout his career, *Famie's Adventures in Cooking* (2001), *You Really Haven't Been There Until You've Eaten the Food* (2003), *Living Through the Lens* (2019), and *Papa's Rules for Life* (2021).

Outside of documentary production, Keith is involved in charitable projects. In 2003, Keith finished the 25th anniversary Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kona with Team In Training for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In 2015, he was awarded the 2015 Diamond Award by the Association for Women in Communications Detroit Chapter. In 2017, Keith was presented the Media Award by the Gilda's Club of Metro Detroit, and in 2023, Keith was awarded a Dove Award from The Arc of Oakland County for Media Distinction. Over the years, Keith has been actively involved in several well-respected, Michigan-based 501(c)(3) organizations that support everything from children with cancer and hunger relief to veterans' issues.

Visionalist Entertainment Productions | www.v-prod.com





***The Village on the Bay
Supporter Opportunities***



Visionalist
Entertainment Productions



The Village on the Bay

Title Presenting Supporter

\$25,000.00

As one of the Title Presenting Supporters, you, your company or your foundation will receive and be recognized in the following manner:

Film Opening

- You will be featured as a Title Presenting Sponsor on the opening billboard slate of the film for all theatrical showings as well as the DVD.

Film Credits

Your name will be featured in the opening & closing credits as a Title Presenting Sponsor.

Featured in the Film

- You (or a chosen representative) will be featured in the film through a sit-down interview talking about the history of Suttons Bay. Historical family imagery (photos, videos, newspaper clippings, etc.) would be included as visuals with your interview.

Documentary Film Website

- You, your company or your foundation will be listed on the film's website as a Title Presenting Sponsor.
- Your company's or foundation's logo and a direct link to the company's website will be placed on the front page of the film's website.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have twenty (20) VIP tickets to the community and media leader premiere celebration of the documentary at The Bay Theatre or a TBD location.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Premiere Celebration

- A full color, printed program booklet will be created from the production including production imagery along with a historical written essay about Suttons Bay's history.
- As a Title Presenting Supporter, you will receive the inside front or inside back cover of the program booklet for an advertisement or message.
- There will be a two-page spread in the program booklet about Title Presenting Supporter's impact in the Suttons Bay community.

Note: You will be able to write your check to The Suttons Bay Community Foundation, a Michigan 501(c)3.





The Village on the Bay

Executive Producer

\$10,000.00

As an Executive Producer, you, your company or your foundation will receive and be recognized in the following manner:

Film Opening

- You will be featured as an Executive Producer on the opening billboard slate of the film for all theatrical showings as well as the DVD.

Film Credits

Your name will be featured in the opening & closing credits as one of the Executive Producers.

Featured in the Film

- You (or a chosen representative) will be featured in the film through a sit-down interview talking about the history of Suttons Bay. Historical family imagery (photos, videos, newspaper clippings, etc.) would be included as visuals with your interview.

Documentary Film Website

- You, your company or your foundation will be listed on the film's website as an Executive Producer.
- Your company's or foundation's logo and a direct link to your website will be placed on the front page of the film's website.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have ten (10) VIP tickets to the community and media leader premiere celebration of the documentary at The Bay Theatre or a TBD location.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Premiere Celebration

- A full color, printed program booklet will be created from the production including production imagery along with a historical written essay about Suttons Bay's history.
- Supporters will have the opportunity to be featured in the program booklet with a full-page advertisement or message.

Note: You will be able to write your check to The Suttons Bay Community Foundation, a Michigan 501(c)3.





The Village on the Bay

Historic Community Leader \$5,000.00

As a Historic Community Leader, you, your company or your foundation will receive and be recognized in the following manner:

Film Credits

- You, your company, or your foundation will be specially thanked in the film's credits.

Featured in the Film

- You (or a loved one) will be featured in the film as an extra in one of the scenes.

Documentary Film Website

- You, your company or your foundation will be listed on the film's website as a Historic Community Leader.
- Your company's or foundation's logo and a direct link to your website will be placed on the front page of the film's website.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have six (6) VIP tickets to the community and media leader premiere celebration of the documentary at The Bay Theatre or a TBD location.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Premiere Celebration

- A full color, printed program booklet will be created from the production including production imagery along with a historical written essay about Suttons Bay's history.
- Supporters will have the opportunity to be featured in the program booklet with a full-page advertisement or message.

Note: You will be able to write your check to The Suttons Bay Community Foundation, a Michigan 501(c)3.





The Village on the Bay

Supporter of the Story

\$2,500.00

As a Supporter of the Story, you, your company or your foundation will receive and be recognized in the following manner:

Film Credits

- You, your company, or your foundation will be specially thanked in the film's credits.

Documentary Film Website

- You, your company or your foundation will be listed on the film's website as a Supporter of the Story.
- Your company's or foundation's logo and a direct link to your website will be placed on the front page of the film's website.

Community & Media Leader Premiere

- You or your company will have six (6) VIP tickets to the community and media leader premiere celebration of the documentary at The Bay Theatre or a TBD location.

Printed Program Booklet for Community & Media Premiere Celebration

- A full color, printed program booklet will be created from the production including production imagery along with a historical written essay about Suttons Bay's history.
- Supporters will have the opportunity to be featured in the program booklet with a full-page advertisement or message.

Note: You will be able to write your check to The Suttons Bay Community Foundation, a Michigan 501(c)3.

