

CINEMATIC DEMOCRACY:

*Film Screenings for
Civic Engagement*

July 26, 2024

Paulina Witt

Karen Reiman- Sendi & Josh Harris



PLEASE VOTE
FOR ME

民主

Yes!



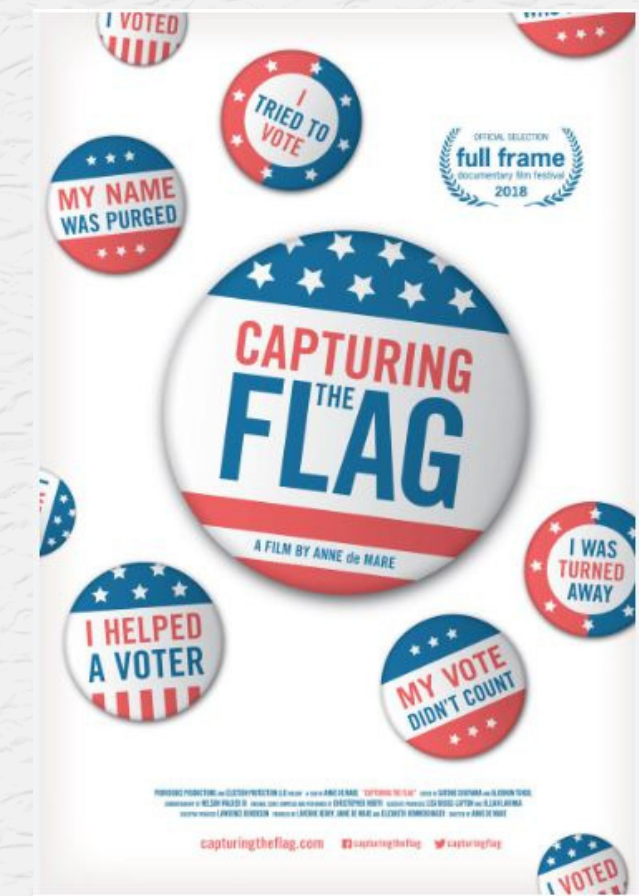
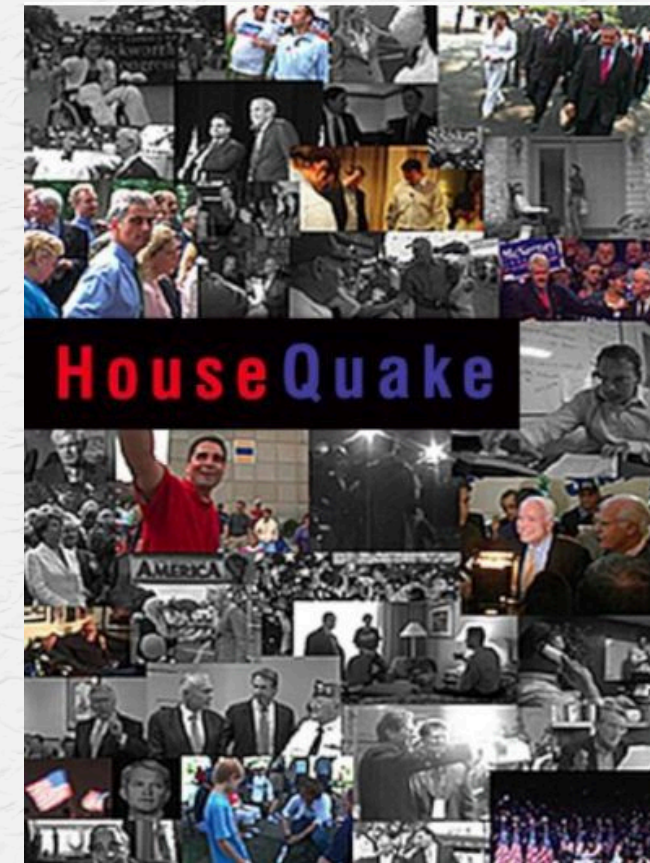
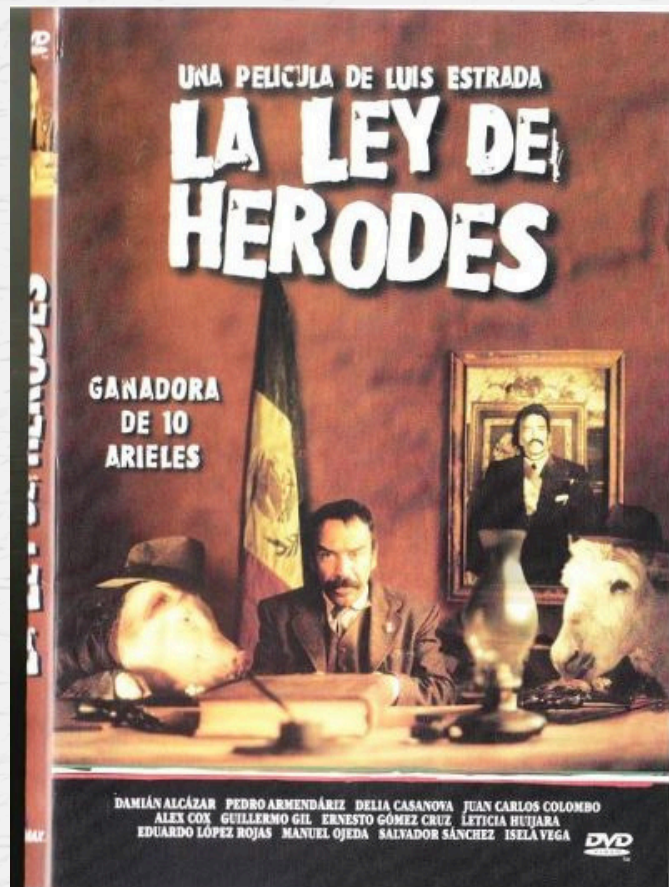
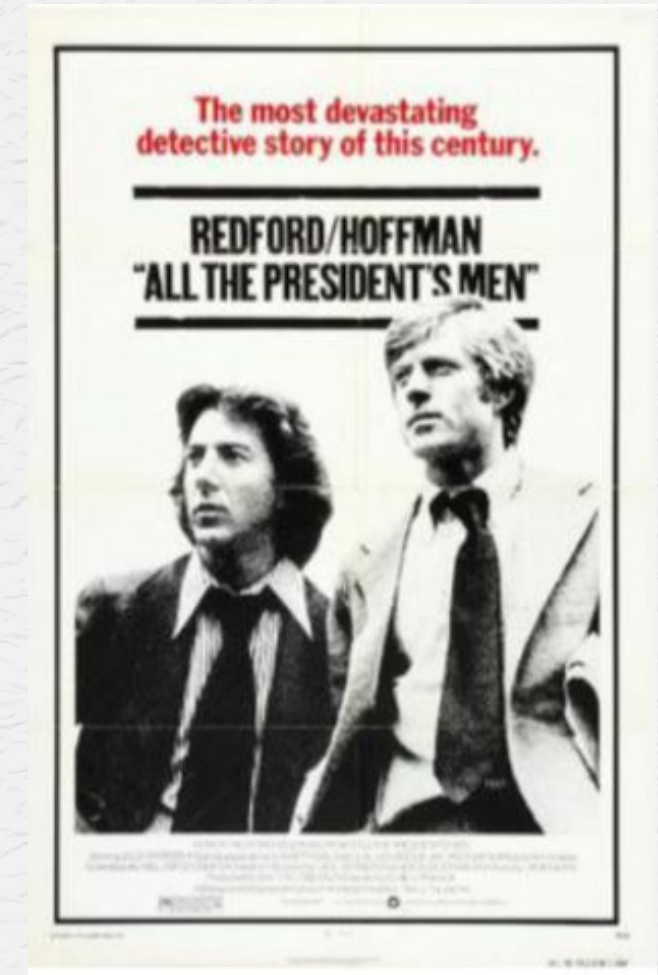
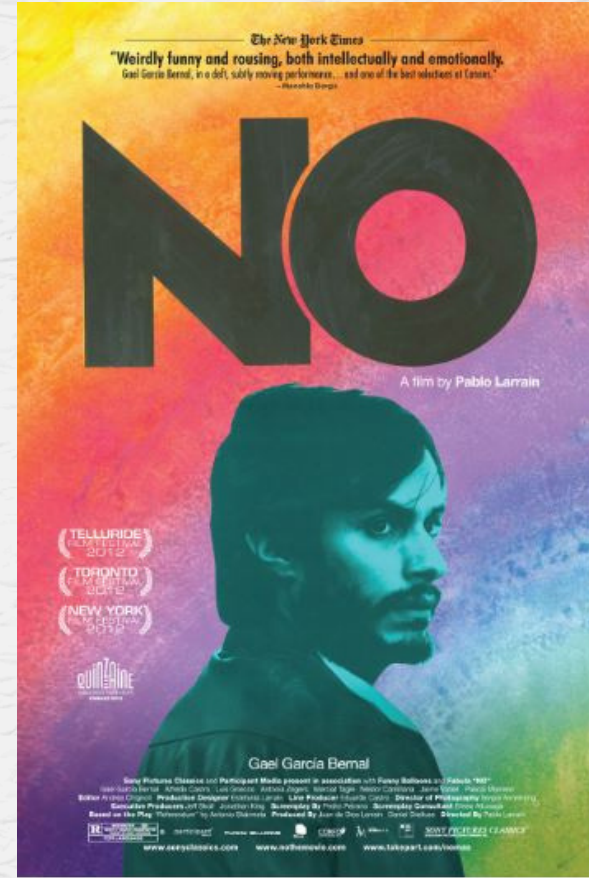
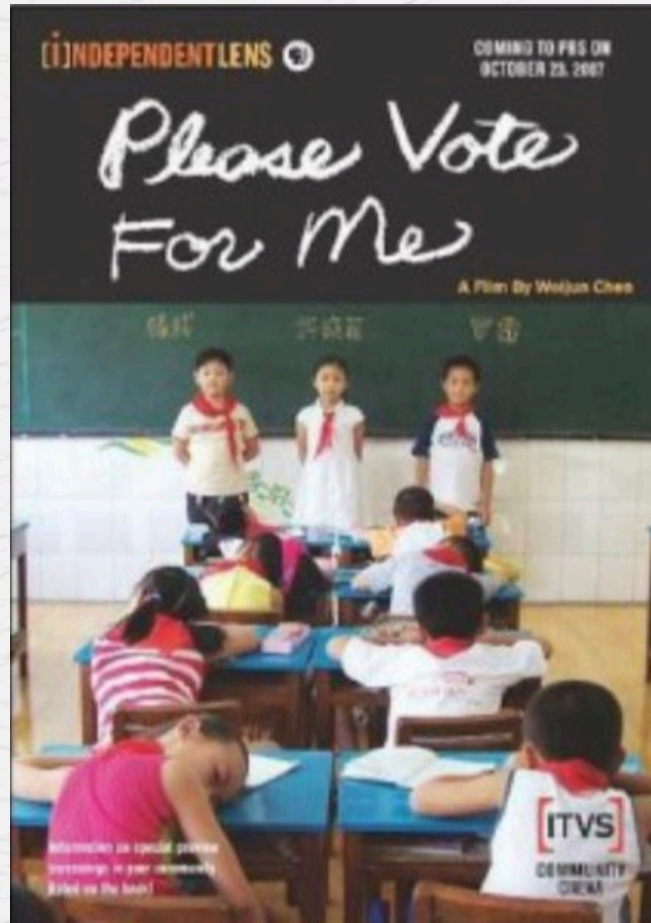
Objectives

- Organize a series of documentaries and feature films that are thematically related to democracy, voting, and elections in the U.S., potentially including films from other geographic areas
- Utilize the Askwith Media Library and U-M online platforms, library search to identify films of interest
- Meet with stakeholders and mentors and document the process!
 - Catherine Morse, Phil Hallman, Gabriel Duque
- Prepare well-researched screening guides that include background information and activities that align with the films

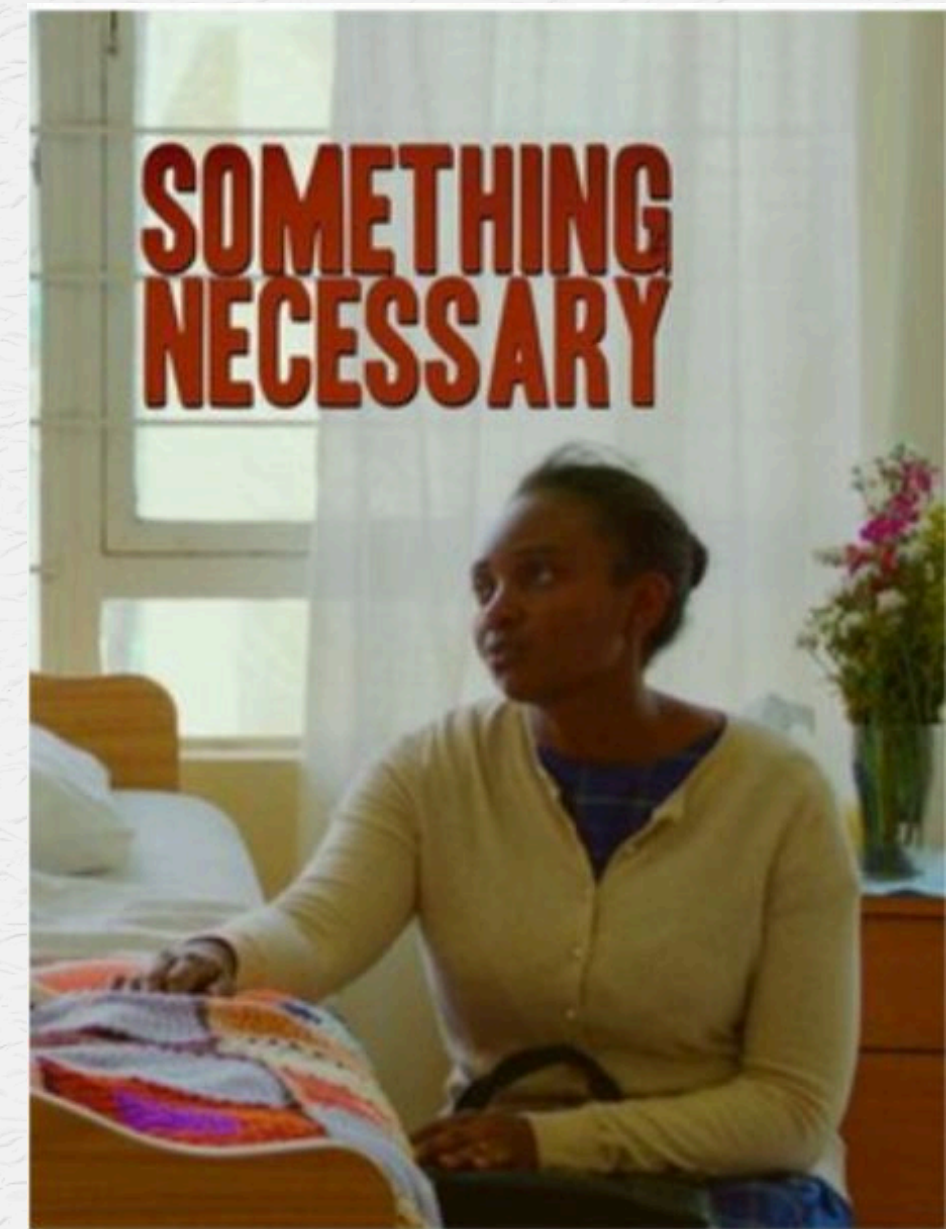
Development

- Regular check-ins
- Identify themes: *debate, voting rights, political efficacy*
- Screen films! Gauge fit, tone, and whether they will speak to students
- Stakeholder engagement
- Logistics: when, where, budget?





Film Identification





CINEMATIC DEMOCRACY: Film Screenings for Civic Engagement

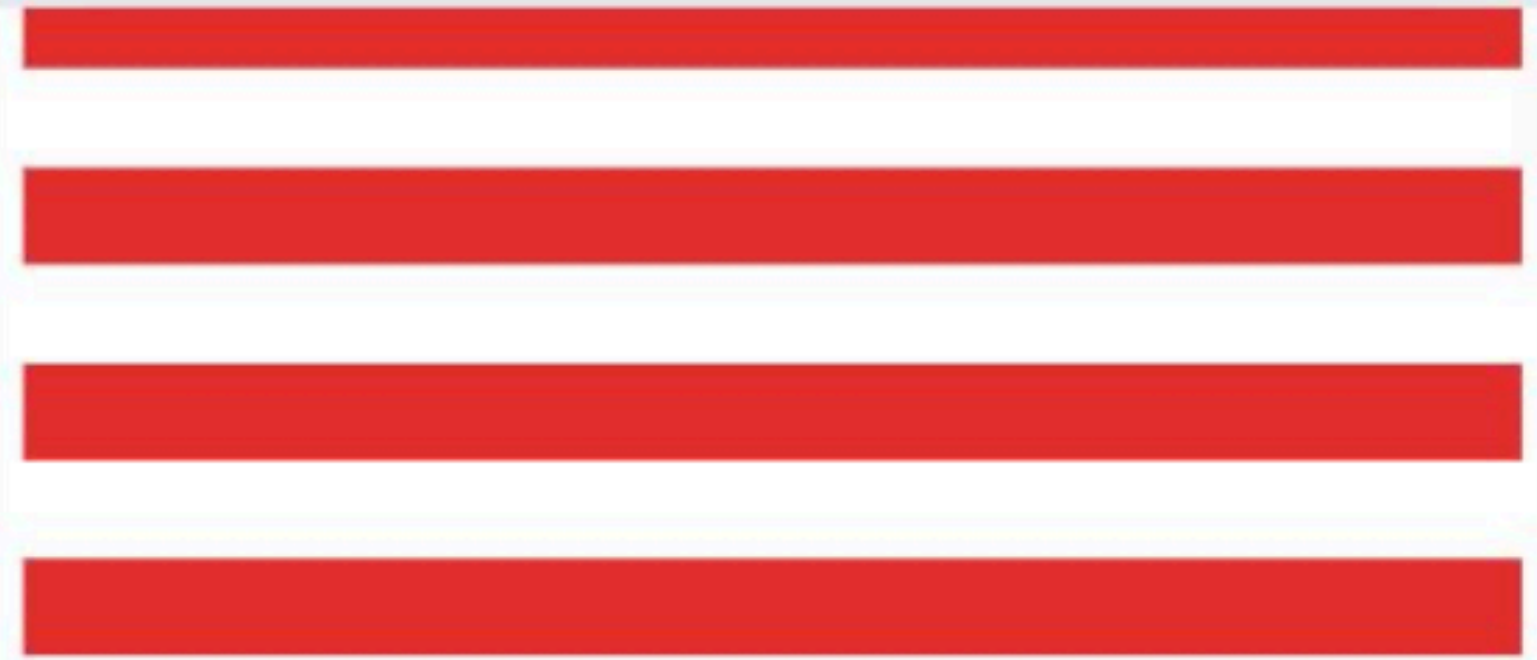
Please Vote for Me (2007, China)
Thursday, September 19, 2024

Capturing the Flag (2018, USA)
Wednesday, September 25, 2024

A Taxi Driver (2018, Korea)
Wednesday, October 17, 2024



6pm @ Hatcher Library 100



CINEMATIC DEMOCRACY FILM SCREENINGS FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Please Vote for Me (2007, China)
Thursday, September 19, 2024

Capturing the Flag (2018, USA)
Wednesday, September 25, 2024

A Taxi Driver (2018, Korea)
Wednesday, October 17, 2024



6PM @ HATCHER
LIBRARY ROOM 100



A Taxi Driver (2017)

Director: Jang Hoon

Country of Origin: South Korea

Run Time: 137 minutes

Language: Korean

Genre: Drama/ Feature Film

Introduction:

Long considered a pivotal moment for the democratization movement in South Korea, the 1980 Gwangju Uprising consisted of almost 250,00 citizens, many of them students, organizing to protest the newly declared martial law under General Chun Doo-Hwan and President Choi Kyu-Hah. Historically, Gwangju and the greater South Jeolla province actively resisted authoritarian regimes' establishments of academic suppression and political repression more than other regions within Korea.

In the 1970s, the Park regime's "Fourth Republic" ushered in a period of political turmoil shortly after President Park Chung-hee wielded the newly codified Yushin Constitution to grant himself de facto dictatorial authority. Business owners, politically outspoken citizens, and cabinet staff who threatened Park's authority or practices were persecuted and, in some cases, executed. The regime's formal end came in a dramatic sequence of events when Kim Jae-kyu, the head of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA), disputed Park's demand for violent suppression of protests in Jeolla. Park's insistence on

Screening guides

- Facilitate conversation or activities around each film
- Provide valuable historical context and contemporary parallels
- Includes annotated bibliography

Activities aligned with screenings





The screenshot shows the Voting Rights Lab website interface. At the top left is the logo "VOTING RIGHTS LAB". The navigation menu includes "Bill Search", "Session Snapshots" with a dropdown arrow, "Issues" with a dropdown arrow, "State Laws", "Analysis", "About" with a dropdown arrow, "Support the Tracker", and a red-bordered box containing "NW". Below the navigation is a large orange map of Michigan. The main heading "Michigan" is in large white font. Below it, a text line reads "In Michigan, we're tracking 31 bills impacting 13 issue areas." The bottom section is a blue bar with four items, each with an orange icon: a clipboard for "Same-day registration at", a person at a ballot box for "In-person early voting", an envelope for "No-excuse mail voting.", and a gavel for "Disenfranchisement for".

VOTING RIGHTS LAB

Bill Search Session Snapshots ▾ Issues ▾ State Laws Analysis About ▾ Support the Tracker **NW**

Michigan

In Michigan, we're tracking **31 bills** impacting **13 issue areas**.

-  Same-day registration at
-  In-person early voting
-  No-excuse mail voting.
-  Disenfranchisement for

| Recent Action ▾ | State ▾ | Bill Number ▾ | Intro Date ▾ | Latest Stage ▾ | Issues | Bill Impact ▾ |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 07/08/2024 | Michigan | S 603 | 10/24/2023 | Enacted | Criminal and Civil Enforcement | Mixed or Unclear |
| 06/27/2024 | Michigan | H 5871 | 6/27/2024 | Introduced | Standard Registration Process | Mixed or Unclear |
| 06/26/2024 | Michigan | S 404 | 6/22/2023 | Passed 1st Chamber Committee | Criminal and Civil Enforcement, Polling Place Procedures, Election Day Voting Sites, Early Voting Availability | Improves Voter Access / Election Administration |
| 06/26/2024 | Michigan | S 403 | 6/22/2023 | Passed 1st Chamber Committee | Standard Registration Process, Polling Place Procedures, Requesting Mail Ballots | Improves Voter Access / Election Administration |
| 06/26/2024 | Michigan | S 402 | 6/22/2023 | Passed 1st Chamber Committee | Emerging Issues | Improves Voter Access / Election Administration |



My MLS experience

- Digital media collection use
 - *Swank, Kanopy, Docuseek*
- Library search functions
- Public Performance Rights (PPR)
 - what *can* we show on campus?
- Structured and consistent
 - Independent *and* collaborative
- Excellent mentors !



Considerations

- How do we select films that will engage undergraduate students?
- Further, how do we promote the program during an already busy time of the year?
- Are there specific topics around which we want to generate conversation? ie, fair and free elections, the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Public Performance Rights: once selected and previewed, does the film or documentary carry with it PPR licensing?
- Accessibility: venue selection, online materials, language.

What I learned

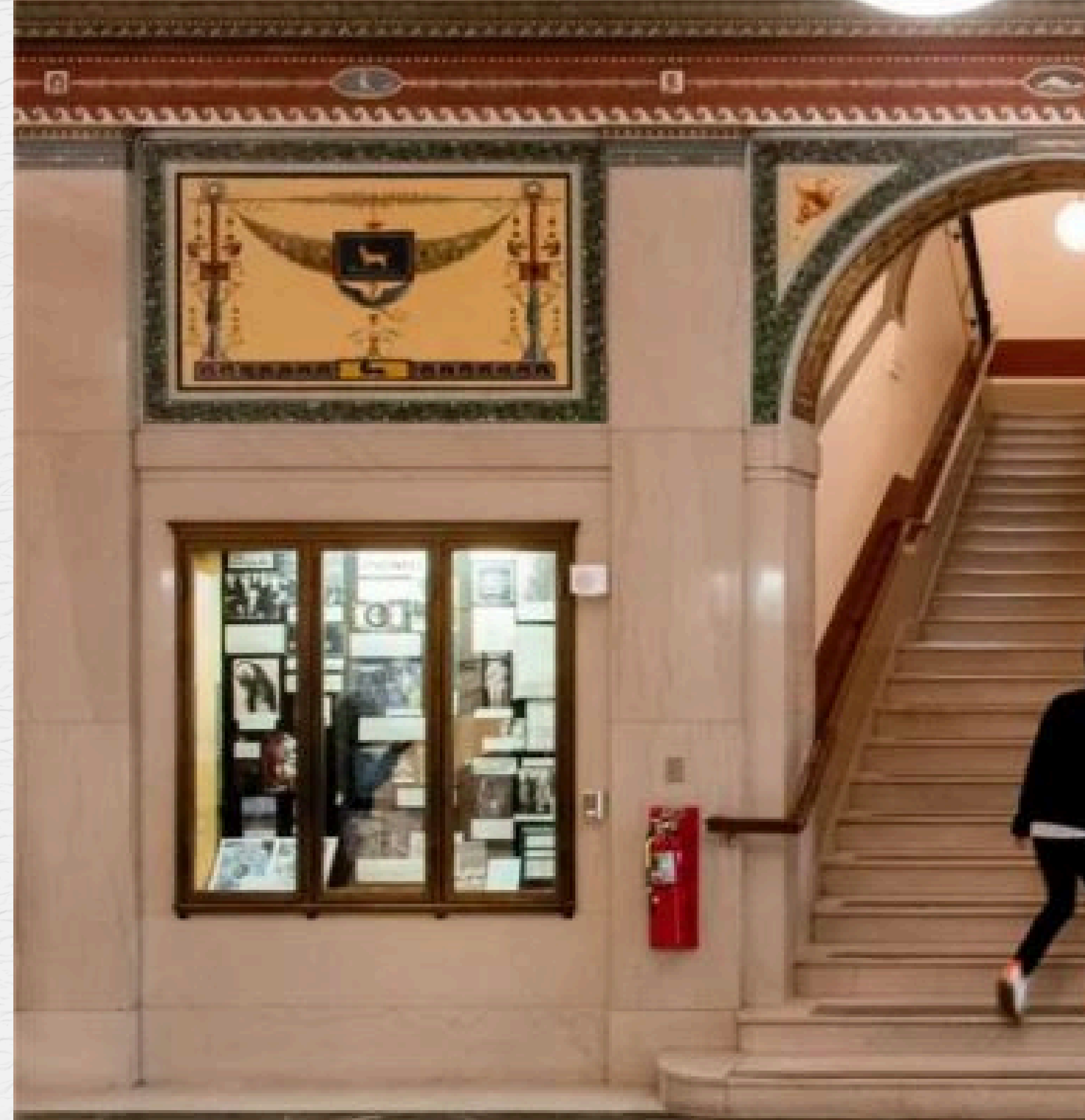
- Mostly, more about the breadth of the U-M Library collections!
- How to identify campus stakeholders who may have interest in supporting a project like this
- International resources that speak to democratic movements worldwide

Proof of concept

- Student-led pilot program launching in Fall 2024
- Research, utilizing U-M Library resources, contacting subject experts
- Planning documents for successful subsequent film screenings using materials from Askwith and beyond

Moving forward

- It's not over just yet!
 - *Cinematic Democracy* will screen on three dates in September and October 2024 at the Hatcher Gallery Space
- A detailed film screening guide has been developed that will allow anyone to easily adapt the program
 - Includes handout with more titles from the collection
- Critical thinking and research skills, project ideation, logistics



CINEMATIC DEMOCRACY:

Film Screenings for Civic Engagement

More titles in the U-M Library collection that explore the themes of democracy, voting, and elections:

All the President's Men (1976) -
Directed by Alan J. Pakula

Ballot Measure 9 (1995) - Directed by
Heather Lyn MacDonald

Democracy for Sale (2020) - Directed by
Tim Delmastro

Digital Disconnect (2018) - Directed by
Jeremy Earp

Dismantling Democracy (2020) -
Directed by Richard Hall, Sarah P.
Collins

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939) -
Directed by Frank Capra

No (2013) - Directed by Pablo Larrain

Street Fight (2006) - Directed by
Marshall Curry

Voting Matters (2018) - Directed by
Robert Greenwald

