



Helpful Links: [Student Leadership & Involvement](#) | [Campus Connect](#) | [RSO Policy 6-401A](#)

## RSO Guide to Showing Movies on Campus

Last updated: 9/29/2023

*This information is subject to change/modification by Student Leadership & Involvement*

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### Purpose

This document intends to provide Recognized Student Organization (RSO) Student Leaders with resources and guidelines for showing movies, tv shows, and other copyrighted materials publicly on campus.

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## Movie Guidelines

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### Securing Temporary Public Viewing Rights

Is your Recognized Student Organization (RSO) planning to show a movie? **Do not schedule a film showing without first securing the rights to show the film.** There are some important aspects of obtaining rights to show a film that you need to know before you proceed in planning an event of this type. The following information is specifically designed for securing *temporary public viewing rights*, for which a film can be shown once.

For any film you plan to show publicly (to individuals outside of your organization), you need to contact the owner of the film rights, or an agency that is licensed to sell you the rights temporarily. The owner or agency that is licensed to sell you the rights may be different than the platform on which you might typically watch the film. When you inquire with such a group, you need to request specifically that you are seeking “**temporary public viewing rights**” (if you only plan to show the film once). When you purchase these rights, you must be prepared to answer the question with the agency of whether or not you plan to charge admission for your audience to see the film as this will impact how much of a fee you will need to pay the agency.

### Marriott Library Resources

We encourage RSO’s to review titles already secured through the Marriott Library for the purposes of public viewing. RSO’s can review these titles [here](#) and work with Marriott Library staff to make a request to purchase titles that are not listed.

In addition to films available through the Marriott Library, RSO’s can work with outside vendors to secure rights or ask the filmmaker directly for permission. More information on ways of getting permission can be found [here](#).

### Utilizing ASUU Funding

Securing film rights of any type is the responsibility of the Recognized Student Organization, not Student Leadership & Involvement or the Associated Students of the University of Utah. RSO’s may ask for and utilize funding from ASUU’s Assembly process to offset the cost of the film rights. Please review the ASUU Funding [webpage](#) for more information regarding ASUU Funding.

## Knowing When You Need Temporary Public Viewing Rights

Even if you are not requesting ASUU funding for film screening, double check to make sure you are compliant with copyright law.

- How will I know if I need to secure public viewing rights?
  - Rights must be secured if a film is shown “at a place open to the public or at any place where a substantial number of persons outside a normal circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered.”
  - If you are planning on showing a movie to individuals outside of your RSO, you will need to secure temporary public viewing rights. If the event is limited to a small number of folks inside your organization, you will not need to secure temporary public viewing rights.
  - Please contact the Student Leadership and Involvement Department at [studentorgs@utah.edu](mailto:studentorgs@utah.edu) with any questions regarding hosting event involving film rights.