

I first joined BEA in 2013, and I submitted my documentary *Cowboy Christmas* for the 2014 Festival of Media Arts, which won Best of the Fest for Faculty Documentary. I've been in love with BEA since, as you can imagine. A documentary I produced with a colleague, *In the Shadow*, won first place for faculty documentary.

I have not a leadership role of any kind in BEA, partially because I was a very active member of UFVA, BEA's cousin organization with an independent production bent. I acted as the Screenings co-chair for three UFVA Conferences (2014-16) and was the Conference Vice-president for three conferences (2017-19). I still love UFVA and will still participate in their conferences, but as a Chair of two production departments at Southern Illinois University (Dept of Radio, Television and Digital Media, and the Department of Cinema and Photography), I want to be more in touch with the business side of the industry, in order to understand the trends of the industry, and the steps forward into the media future . . . and unknown.

I do believe, however, we should forge stronger ties with UFVA. While there is an agreement of reciprocity in place (or, at least, there had been) in terms of entry fees to the respective conferences, I know that we can provide more knowledge shares and exchanges. As simple, and maybe obvious, as having a screening of BEA Best of Fest winners at UFVA, and have the winning UFVA films showcased at BEA. A review of policies and procedures for all of our members schools could be codified by a joint board of BEA and UFVA members, including a tenure and promotion best practices guide for the member institutions of each organization, among other best policy practices papers.