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Tallahassee film-festival name online voting poll opens today

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Vote for your favorite film-festival name at Tallahassee.com/news through Friday.

It's time to choose a name, Tallahassee. For next year's film festival, that is.

Residents have the opportunity to vote in an online poll at Tallahassee.com/news today through Friday for one of three semi-finalists.

The festival is part of Knight Creative Communities' economic-development program and is one of four local "community catalysts" launched by the foundation. Festival representative Stacey N. Getz said the board, which closed its call for entries July 27, received almost 200 submissions from Tallahassee residents.

The organizers chose three: "GreenLight Tallahassee," "Estrella" (pronounced 'es-tray-ya') and "South by Southeast."

In film jargon, said Getz, to "greenlight" means taking a film from the script or concept phase to actual production, and represents the idea of moving the city forward with the film festival and the other three KCCI initiatives (Get Gaines Going, Greenovation and Jump Start Plan X).

"Estrella," which means star in Spanish, would recognize the impact of the Spanish on Florida history and refer to the stars who could emerge from the community.

The name "South by Southeast" plays off the name of the annual South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas.

The three-day May festival will host educational seminars and workshops. There will be a variety of film presentations, including some award-winning films and those produced by local residents and college students.

The event's planning committee will present a Lifetime Achievement Award as well as an Emerging Talent Award at the event's opening reception.

There will be a party called "STARFEST," which will showcase artistic talent in Downtown GetDown-style, and the festivities will conclude on the third day with an "It's a Wrap" party.