



The **Remix the Past Film Contest** challenges filmmakers and artists to see history differently. Drawing from selected archival footage in **TAMIS**, participants are invited to creatively reinterpret the enduring theme of **Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness**.

We're excited to discover how you remix the past—enjoy the journey!

Rules & Regulations

Length and categories:

- Maximum Length: 3 minutes
- Categories: 30 seconds-1minute OR 1-3 minutes
- You may submit up to one video per category
- Credits do not count towards video length

How to submit / entry fee:

Register at knoxcountylibrary.org/remixing-past | Submission deadline is July 15, 2026

- Select up to 5 clips from the 20 available TAMIS videos
- Receive unwatermarked files and full submission instructions via Dropbox

Entry Fee

- \$25 submission fee, payable to the Friends of the Knox County Public Library
- The fee supports the Tennessee Archive of Moving Image and Sound (TAMIS)
- Payment does not guarantee inclusion in the public screening due to time constraints
- Participants will be notified if their film is selected for screening

Public Screening

August 15, 2026 at the Tennessee Theatre as part of the History Fair

Judging criteria:

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of Knox County Library staff and professionals in video production and archives.

Remix & Transformation (15 pts)

Evidence of significant transformation (e.g., masking, speed changes, colorization, layering).

Theme (15 pts)

Connection to the theme “*Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.*” This connection may be evident in the film itself or explained in an accompanying statement.

Aesthetic & Creativity (10 pts)

Visual engagement, professional execution, and creative reinterpretation of archival material.

Sound Design (5 pts)

Effectiveness of sound, including music, narration, effects, or intentional silence.

Use of TAMIS Material (5 pts)

Projects using more TAMIS footage will score higher.

Contest Theme: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness

To commemorate the **250th anniversary of the founding of the United States**, submissions must engage with this theme in some way. Interpretation is intentionally broad.

Examples:

Life: how life has changed between the past and present, the human life cycle (childhood and aging), unexpected human moments in archival material, how we as humans engage with the world around us

Liberty: the struggle for freedom, how Americans fight for their rights, how technology has advanced society (for example, how cars and planes freed humans to travel longer distances, or how labor-saving devices like washing machines allow for more time to relax), or freedom to be yourself and express yourself as you desire

The Pursuit of Happiness: leisure, amusement parks and tourism, having fun at home, playing sports, the ideal of happiness through advertising, personal hobbies and pursuits, happiness with family and friends

Artists are free to interpret the theme in any way they choose—including flipping it on its head. Your work might examine how technological change has shaped society, or pair archival footage

with narration, such as a poem reflecting on the American Dream. Submissions may speak for themselves or include an optional artist statement of no more than 150 words describing how the work engages with the theme. Artist statements should be emailed to tamis@knoxlib.org after your submission has been uploaded to Dropbox.

Use of TAMIS materials:

- Submissions must consist of at least **75% TAMIS material**
- Remaining **25%** may include:
 - Original video/audio created by the artist
 - Public domain archival material
- Determining copyright status is the **entrant's responsibility**
- **Credits are required** for all non-TAMIS materials
 - All submissions must **transform** the TAMIS footage through editing or creative manipulation, such as:
 - Narrative voiceovers
 - Montage
 - Filters or effects
 - Collage or masking techniques

What about AI?:

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) software to enhance or edit this material must be disclosed in your submission, especially the use of generative AI. This disclosure can be in the credits or in an artist statement emailed to tamis@knoxlib.org.

Prizes:

- \$500 for the best 1–3 minute film
- \$150 for the best 30-second–1 minute film
- \$250 for the People's Choice Award. (People's Choice will be determined via digital poll at the public screening.)

For more information:

- Visit knoxcountylibrary.org/remixing-past
- Email tamis@knoxlib.org
- Phone: (865) 215-8856

Remix the Past Film Contest is made possible through the generous support of Friends of the Knox County Public Library.