

FILMING IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA. BRILLIANT.



Film Locations
& Resources



FILMING IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Situated in the heart of the Midwest, just hours south of Chicago, the Champaign-Urbana area offers an ideal film location for a variety of projects. Whether you're looking for historic architecture, farmland, a university campus or wide open spaces—all within a 15-minute drive from each other—Champaign-Urbana offers a diverse landscape with affordable, local services. Among the many film-friendly spots is our regional airport, Willard, with the potential to utilize local planes through FlightStar. Additionally, the former Chanute Air Force Base provides opportunities to access hangar space for set production.

The Champaign-Urbana area has a rich history in film, most notably with the renowned Ebertfest, Roger Ebert's Film Festival held at the Historic Virginia Theatre. Additionally, the CU Film Society has introduced the Pens to Lens series, introducing K-12 students to filmmaking as their screenplay is brought to life by local filmmakers.

Among recently filmed projects in Champaign County: "Albany Road", Tubi's "Black Mold", "You're Out!", AMC's "Revealer", Knocked Loose "Deep in the Willow"—with a million views in 48hrs and is nominated for a Grammy—and many others feature films and commercial productions.

Our local crews and post-production services offer an impressive array of talent to help drive the success of your project.

In addition to our various landscapes and broad services, the state of Illinois offers a 30% Film Tax Credit that will help you stay on budget. Champaign-Urbana's housing options and services also offer affordable rates.

In the following pages, you'll glimpse just a fraction of the types of locations available within a 30 square mile distance. Additionally, our easy to use film permit is your one stop for getting the permissions you need throughout Champaign County. We'll guide you through the process to guarantee a successful production in our brilliant community.



ACCESS PHOTO LIBRARY



CHAMPAIGN-URBANA FILMING PERMIT GUIDELINES

The following guidelines must be adhered to in order to film in Champaign-Urbana:

1. Film permit applications will be arranged through the Champaign-Urbana Film Office, who will coordinate the process with the appropriate municipalities and city or county services. Permits will be issued by the municipality in which filming will take place.
2. Permits are required when filming impacts the public way (streets, sidewalks, alleys, etc.). Permits may also be required when filming in City Parks or Forest Preserves, or on the University of Illinois campus. *NOTE: News crews, handheld interviews, documentaries, B-roll, and other low impact productions typically do not require a permit, as long as it does not interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic.*
3. Permits are valid for specific locations, dates and times as requested in the application.
4. Applications for permits must be submitted 30 days prior to the beginning of filming. Rush fees may apply for obtaining permits prior to 30 days. Processing time for films with pyrotechnics, closure of city streets or rerouting of public transportation may take longer so plan accordingly.
5. There is a non-refundable \$25 application-filing fee for a film permit. Permits will incur a \$50 per day fee made payable to Experience Champaign-Urbana prior to granting the permit.
6. A certificate of insurance naming the appropriate City or Village as an additional insured in the amount of \$1,000,000 general liability, and \$1,000,000 bodily injury, property damage and automobile liability, must be received with the permit application. (**Students and Filmmakers with budgets under \$50,000—Please contact the Champaign-Urbana Film Office regarding insurance needs.*)
7. Uniformed Police Officers will be assigned to production at the expense of the production company, when the Chief of Police or his designee deems it advisable for public safety and convenience. The number of officers assigned will be determined by the police department based on the needs of the production to guarantee maximum safety and security of the public. Contact the Film Office for the fee schedule based on your location.
8. No parking signs/meter covers must be posted by the production company or the appropriate City or Village Parking Enforcement, at the expense of the production company within 72 hours prior to closing streets or parking lots.
9. The relocation of parked vehicles from permitted zones can only be performed by the appropriate City or Village Parking Enforcement per arrangement with the Champaign-Urbana Film Office.
10. Arrangements for overflow crew parking must be made in advance with the Champaign-Urbana Film Office.
11. Residential areas can be used for filming between 7:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. in accordance with the Champaign-Urbana Nuisance Ordinance. Filming at any other time must receive prior approval from the Champaign-Urbana Film Office and the appropriate City and Police personnel.
12. A minimum of 72 hours notice is required to notify residents within a 1–2 block radius of the shooting location depending on the scope of the production. Notification fliers must include the production company, shooting times, parking or traffic restrictions, any special effects utilized (pyrotechnics, simulated gunfire, etc.) and the appropriate contact names and phone numbers for on-site personnel. Sample template can be provided by the Film Office. Final piece must be approved by the Champaign-Urbana Film Office prior to mailing or canvassing.
13. The production company shall not interfere with the normal activities of a neighborhood. Filming crews and equipment should not interfere with garbage collection, street sweeping, etc. and access to private property cannot be blocked unless permission is procured.
14. No littering is permitted and all garbage must be cleaned up prior to leaving the location.



CHAMPAIGN-URBANA APPLICATION FOR FILM PERMIT

Date of Application: _____

Project Title: _____

Project Type: Film TV Commercial Music Video Industrial Student* (must have valid Student ID)

Filming Timeline: _____ Estimated Number of Production Days: _____

Company Name: _____ Federal ID#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____ On-Set Phone: _____

Producer Name: _____

Director Name: _____

SHOOTING SCHEDULE BY LOCATION (Please attach additional sheet if necessary)

DATE	LOCATION (List streets/sidewalks to be used for filming and vehicle staging)	START TIME	END TIME

Describe Scenes (Please attach additional sheet if necessary): _____

Will any of the following occur during filming?

Simulated Gunfire: ___ Yes ___ No
Live Burn: ___ Yes ___ No
Child Actors: ___ Yes ___ No

Pyrotechnics: ___ Yes ___ No
Animal Use: ___ Yes ___ No
Aircraft Use: ___ Yes ___ No

Will you be using any of the following equipment?

Jib Arm: ___ Yes ___ No
Tents: ___ Yes ___ No

Dolly Track: ___ Yes ___ No
Generator: ___ Yes ___ No

Will your production require:

Temporary Street Closure: ___ Yes ___ No
Traffic Control: ___ Yes ___ No
Pedestrian Control: ___ Yes ___ No

Date/Time of Closure: _____
Date/Time Needed: _____
Date/Time Needed: _____

Please note that police must be present for road closures and traffic/pedestrian control; Film Office will coordinate with the appropriate department.

Estimated Number of Cast & Crew: _____

Estimated Number of Vehicles:

Personal Cars: _____ Equipment Trucks: _____ Passenger Vans: _____
Camera Cars: _____ Picture Cars: _____ Motorhomes: _____
Dressing Rooms: _____
Other Vehicles (please describe): _____

Application Guidelines

The producer agrees to pay in full the cost of repair for any damage to public or private property as a result of production activities.

The producer agrees to pay in full the costs, as appropriate, of any parking enforcement, police or fire department or other City/Village/County personnel utilized in conjunction with the location shoot at the established rate, determined on a case-by-case basis. Contact the Film Office for any appropriate fees for your production.

The producer agrees to obtain permits, when appropriate, from governmental institutions affected by the production.

Producer Signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructions

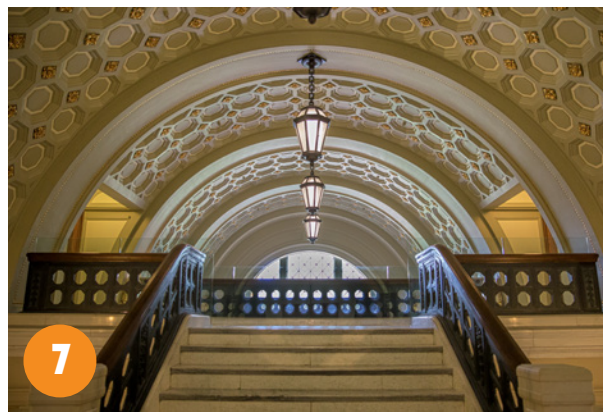
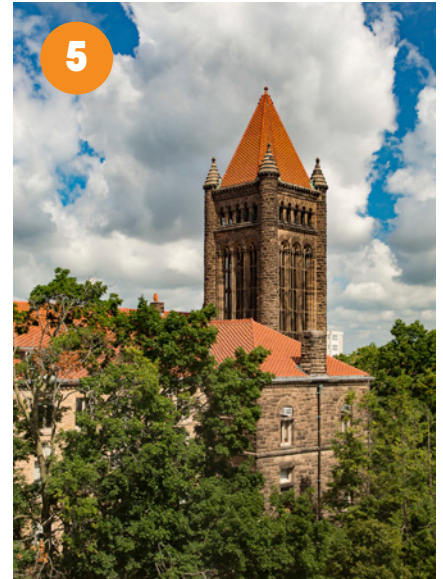
Please attach a certificate of insurance name the appropriate City or Village as an additional insured in the amount of \$1,000,000 general liability, and \$1,000,000 bodily injury, property damage and automobile liability. (***Student filming and films with a total budget less than \$50,000—contact the Champaign-Urbana Film Office regarding your insurance requirements.***)

This is an application only and must be submitted with \$25 application fee made payable to Experiencec Champaign-Urbana and required insurance documents prior to approval. (*No fee for student filming or films with a budget less than \$50,000 in Champaign-Urbana.)

Send completed applications to Mark Brown, markb@experiencecu.org or Experience Champaign-Urbana c/o Film Office, 17 E. Taylor St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Thank you for considering Champaign-Urbana as your filming backdrop.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS—Campus & Academic Backdrops





The University of Illinois offers scenic outdoor and indoor backdrops, with a range of historic buildings dating back to 1867 and modern facilities. Sports facilities, arts and cultural spaces, and wide-open outdoor settings provide a diverse mix of options.

Filming on the campus requires permission from the University of Illinois. Their dedicated office has a seamless permit process and location agreement that can be facilitated through the Champaign County Film Office.



1. Foellinger Auditorium
2. Mumford Hall
3. Illini Union—Anchors the north end of the Main Quad



4. Main Quad
5. Altgeld Hall
6. State Farm Center
7. Lincoln Hall



8. Campus Instructional Facility
9. Krannert Center for Performing Arts
10. Japan House & Arboretum
11. Memorial Stadium
12. Graduate Library
13. Siebel Center for Design
14. Beckman Institute
15. Engineering Quad

URBAN DISTRICTS—Downtown Champaign & Urbana





Downtown districts in Champaign and Urbana offer a mix of architectural backdrops, streetscapes, local businesses, theaters, parking garages, and murals.

Surrounding our downtown areas are quaint residential neighborhoods, with historic homes, brick-lined streets, and charming street lights.

Through the Permit Application, and filming on the public way in these districts is coordinated by the Film Office. Coordination with local businesses is also available to secure space.



1. Downtown Champaign, Corner of Main & Neil
2. One Main Plaza, Downtown Champaign
3. The Virginia Theatre
4. The Art Theater
5. Blind Pig Beer Garden / Champaign City Building
6. Downtown Champaign - Neil St.
7. Barrelhouse, Corner of Main & Walnut
8. Downtown Urbana, Main St.
9. The Sipyard, Downtown Urbana
10. Urbana Free Library
11. Market at the Square Entrance
12. Main Street, Downtown Urbana
13. Champaign County Courthouse

RURAL & OUTDOOR SPACES—Champaign County Area





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From small town charm to rich agriculture to scenic outdoor spaces, our community quickly goes from urban to rural in less than 10 minutes from the city center.

Area park districts and forest preserves are friendly to filming in their spaces, while partnerships with area farms and the Champaign County Farm Bureau help identify agricultural locations open to filming. Small towns offer a variety of backdrops, often along the railroad.

Details in the film permit are shared with all parks, preserves, and rural locations to facilitate permissions.



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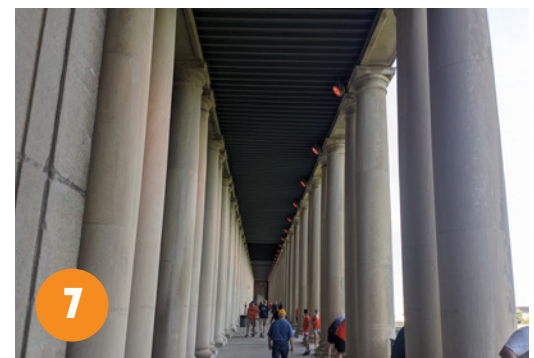
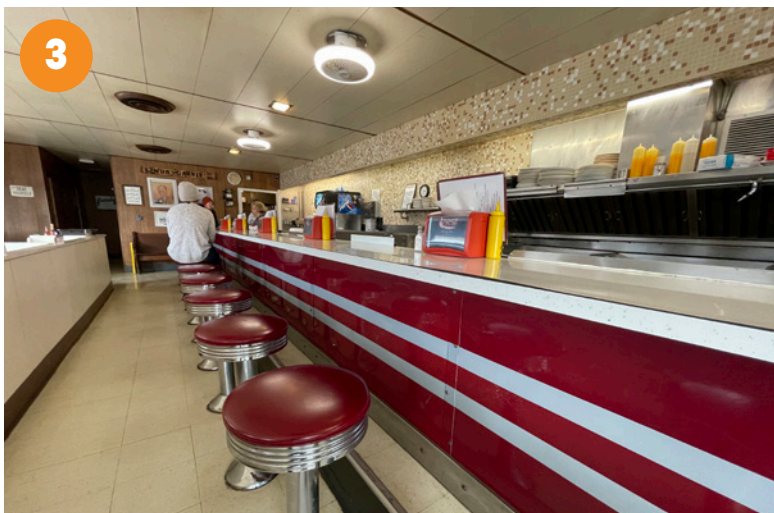
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1. Allerton Park—Mansion
2. Allerton Park—Formal Gardens
3. Homer Lake Forest Preserve
4. Middle Fork River Forest Preserve
5. Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve
6. West Side Park, Champaign
7. Meadowbrook Park, Urbana
8. Arthur, Amish Country
9. Prairie Fruits Farm & Creamery
10. Monticello Railway Museum
11. St. Joseph, trailhead for Kickapoo Rail Trail
12. Overhead of Kickapoo Rail Trail with farms
13. Paxton—Centrail Illinois Railroad
14. Historic Homes in Monticello

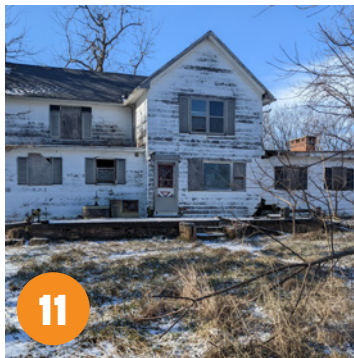
INTERIORS & UNIQUE EXTERIORS





From timeless homes and neighborhoods, to dilapidated buildings, and diners to stadiums, there are endless opportunities to film throughout Champaign County. Between the Champaign County Film Office and locally-based location scouts, our photo library showcases the mix of interiors and exteriors that are film-friendly in our community.

Let us help you find the perfect locations for your next project!



1. Prairie Glass House exterior, Champaign
2. Prairie Glass House interior
3. Ott's Diner, Rantoul
4. Rose Bowl Tavern, Urbana
5. Test Cells at Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul



6. Memorial Stadium, Champaign
7. Memorial Stadium, Champaign
8. Home interiors from 50's with original appliances, Clark Park, Champaign



9. Sidney Dairy Barn, Sidney
10. Willard Airport, Savoy
11. Rustic housing throughout Champaign County
12. Morgan Memorial Home, Savoy
13. Allerton Park & Retreat Center Library, Monticello
14. See You CD & Vinyl / Cafeteria & Co., Urbana

The Champaign-Urbana area has the infrastructure and relationships in place to help make your project run smoothly and be successful.

Our diverse backdrops allow you a wide variety of choices at low to no cost.

With over 4,500 hotel rooms in the area, we can also work with your housing needs. Area caterers and food trucks are also available to provide the sustenance your crew and talent need to last throughout the shoot.

Finally, our robust local film scene offers talent and production assistance, making the Champaign-Urbana a brilliant choice for your next project.

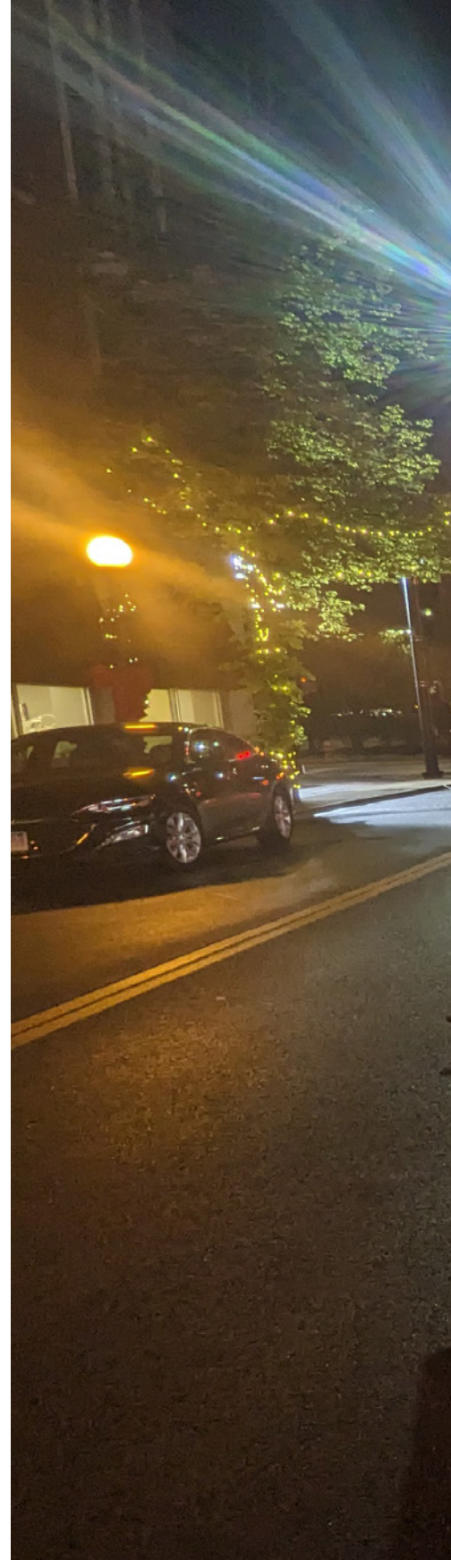
Contact us today to get started!



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FILM OFFICE CONTACTS

Mark Brown, Director of Sports, Events & Film
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Terri Reifsteck, Vice President of Marketing & Community Engagement
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experiencecu.org/film

