Film/TV/Screenwriting Grants

TEXAS

Austin Film Festival Fiction Podcast Competition

https://austinfilmfestival.com/submit

<u>Submit-Podcast - Austin Film Festival</u>

Winners receive a \$1000 cash prize, AFF's Bronze Typewriter Award, reimbursement of up to \$500 of one round-trip airfare to attend AFF, and reimbursement up to \$500 for stay at an AFF hotel during the Festival.

Austin Film Festival Film Competition

https://austinfilmfestival.com/submit

Film Submissions - Austin Film Festival

All awards will be presented to the Writer of the winning films, apart from the documentary awards, which will be presented to the Director. The Jury Awards will be presented during the Austin Film Festival Awards Luncheon. Awards are based on overall merit of the entries. Jury members reserve the right not to grant an award.

Audience Award

Directly following each screening, viewers will be given an audience award ballot to judge each film on its overall quality and courage. Audience Awards will be awarded to Best Marquee Feature, Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary Feature, Best Comedy Vanguard Feature, Best Dark Matters

Feature, Best Texas Independent Feature, Best Stories from Abroad Feature, Best Heart of Film Feature, Best Narrative Short, Best Narrative Student Short, Best Documentary Short, Best Animated Short, and Best Produced Digital Series.

Award winners are announced within one week following the festival. The Audience Award is based solely on audience voting at the film's screening(s).

Jury Awards

Each competition filmmaker receives two film screenings; five complimentary tickets to each of the film's screenings; one ticket to the AFF Awards Luncheon (if in attendance, it is the preference of AFF that the writer be provided this ticket); the film featured in the AFF Program Book; and two

This list is a selection of grants & fellowships offered; it is not a comprehensive list of all available.

complimentary Producers Badges to the Austin Film Festival (if attendance, it is the preference of AFF that the writer be provided one the complimentary Producers Badges).

Feature Films

1st place winners in both the Narrative Feature Category and Documentary Feature Category receive a cash prize of \$2,500, reimbursement (up to \$500) of one round-trip airfare to Austin to attend AFF; reimbursement (up to \$500) for stay at an AFF hotel during the festival; and the AFF Typewriter Award.

The 1st place winner in the Dark Matters and Comedy Vanguard Feature Category receives a cash prize of \$1,000; reimbursement (up to \$500) of one round-trip airfare to Austin to attend AFF; reimbursement (up to \$500) for stay at an AFF hotel during the Festival; and the AFF Typewriter Award.

Short Films

1st place winners receive a cash prize a \$1,000 (Narrative Short Category only) or \$500 (Narrative Student Short, Documentary Short, Animated Short Categories); reimbursement (up to \$500) of one round-trip airfare to Austin to attend AFF; reimbursement (up to \$500) for stay at an AFF hotel during the Festival; and the AFF Typewriter Award. In addition, the winning films in the Narrative Short,

Animated Short, and Documentary Short categories are eligible to be nominated for an Academy Award.

Produced Digital Series

The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize; AFF's bronze typewriter statue; reimbursement (up to \$500) of one round-trip airfare to Austin to attend Austin Film Festival & Conference; reimbursement (up to \$500) for stay at an AFF hotel during the Festival.

AFF Produced Digital and Scripted Digital Series Competition https://austinfilmfestival.com/submit

Digital Series - Austin Film Festival

Scripted Digital Series

The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize; AFF's bronze typewriter stature; reimbursement (up to \$500) of one round-trip airfare to Austin to attend Austin Film Festival & Conference; reimbursement (up to \$500) for stay at an AFF hotel during the Festival.

Produced Digital Series

The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize; AFF's bronze typewriter statue; reimbursement (up to \$500) of one round-trip airfare to Austin to attend Austin Film Festival & Conference; reimbursement (up to \$500) for stay at an AFF hotel during the Festival. Additionally, all produced series finalists will be screened publicly at the Festival.

Austin Film Festival Screenplay and Teleplay Competition

Screenplay and Teleplay Submissions - Austin Film Festival

All awards are presented during the Austin Film Festival Awards Luncheon. Those advancing to the Second-Round level or beyond will have the option to attend exclusive panels hosted by participating panelists. Those advancing to the Semifinalist level or beyond will also be included in the Producers Book, distributed to competition judges and other industry professionals.

Screenplay Competition Prizes (One Winner Per Category)

The Drama Award

The category is open but not limited to feature drama scripts in genres such as historical, western, family, romance, horror, thriller, etc. Presented by Writers Guild of America, East Winner Receives: \$5,000 cash; reimbursement of round-trip airfare (up to \$500 per script, excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement (up to \$500 per script); and AFF Bronze Typewriter Award.

The Comedy Winner Receives

The category is open but not limited to feature comedy scripts in genres such as dark comedy, satire, family, animation, slapstick, horror, etc. The winner receives \$5,000 cash; reimbursement of round-trip airfare (up to \$500 per script, excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement (up to \$500 per script, excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement (up to \$500 per script); and AFF Bronze Typewriter Award.

The Horror Award

The Feature Horror Award is open to any feature horror script including dark suspense, thriller, sci-fi and macabre themes. The winner receives \$2,500 cash; reimbursement of round-trip airfare (up to \$500 per script, excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement (up to \$500 per script); and AFF Bronze Typewriter Award. In addition, the winner receives a Screenwriter Fellowship from Vertigo Entertainment. To be considered for this award, you must be entered in the Drama or Comedy Feature categories.

The Sci-Fi Award

The Feature Sci-Fi Award is open to science fiction, fantasy, horror, surrealism, myth/legend and fantastical storytelling. Winner Receives: \$2,500 cash; reimbursement of round-trip airfare (up to

\$500 per script, excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement (up to \$500 per script); and AFF Bronze Typewriter Award. To be considered for this award, you must be entered in the Drama or Comedy Feature categories.

The Short Screenplay

Category is open to any narrative short script in all genres 5 to 40 pages in length. Winner Receives: \$1,000 cash; reimbursement of roundtrip airfare (up to \$500 per script excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement at the Film Festival (up to \$500 per script); and the AFF bronze typewriter award. Teleplay Competition Awards (One Winner Per Category)

The Drama Pilot

Open to any original pilot script written in the one-hour or half-hour format for an original drama television series. Winner Receives: \$1,000 cash; reimbursement of roundtrip airfare (up to \$500 peer script excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement at the Film Festival (up to \$500 per script); and the AFF bronze typewriter award.

The Drama Spec

Open to any spec script for an existing drama television show, currently on or off the air, in the one-hour or half-hour format. Winner Receives: \$1,000 cash; reimbursement of roundtrip airfare (up to \$500 per script excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement at the Film Festival (up to \$500 per script); and the AFF Bronze typewriter award.

The Comedy Pilot

Open to any pilot script written in the half-hour or one-hour format for an original comedy television series. Winner Receives: \$1,000 cash; reimbursement of roundtrip airfare (up to \$500 per script excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement at the Film Festival (up to \$500 per script); and the AFF bronze typewriter award.

The Comedy Spec

Open to any spec script for an existing comedy television show, currently on or off the air, in the half-hour or one-hour format. Winner Receives: \$1,000 cash; reimbursement of roundtrip airfare (up to \$500 per script excluding frequent flyer miles); hotel reimbursement at the Film Festival (up to \$500 per script); and the AFF bronze typewriter award.

Finalists in All Categories Receive: one complimentary Producers Badge to attend the Austin Film Festival and Conference (value \$775). All Semifinalists may purchase a Producer's Badge at the discounted price of \$300. *Awards Luncheon tickets are only available to Producers and Conference Badge holders.

Austin Film Society Grant For Short & Feature Films

https://www.austinfilm.org/afs-grants/afs-grants-applications/

The AFS Grant awards funds annually to film and video artists in the state of Texas. Grants are provided to artists whose work shows promise, skill, and creativity. AFS is committed to fostering diverse and underrepresented voices in independent film with the intention of focusing on communities of color through an intersectional lens.

Funded by philanthropic revenue from Austin Film Society's annual Texas Film Awards and by private and institutional donations throughout the year, the AFS Grant serves to redress the loss of public funds for filmmakers by disbursing funds for production and offering travel stipends to Texas filmmakers.

AFS Grant recipients have shown their films at renowned festivals like Sundance, Berlin, Cannes, Toronto, Venice, Tribeca, Rotterdam, and SXSW, they have won Independent Spirit Awards and have even received nominations at the Academy Awards.

AFS Grant for Feature Films in Production

Filmmakers may apply for up to \$15,000 cash for preproduction, production, or post-production through the AFS Grant for Feature Films. Total cash support from the AFS Grant will not exceed \$15,000. However, applicants can apply to receive in-kind grants in addition to the \$15,000 cash request.

AFS Grant for Feature Films in Development

Intended to support a pipeline of independent film production in Texas, the AFS Grant for Development will award two career artists a one-time, unrestricted grant in the amount of\$10,000, to go towards any activity that advances a feature-length films project – either narrative or documentary-in development.

Filmmakers may apply for up to \$10,000 cash for pre-production, production, or post-production through the AFS Grant for Short films. Total cash support from the AFS Grant will not exceed \$10,000. However, applicants can apply to receive in-kind awards in addition to the \$10,000 cash grant.

Austin Film Society Grant For Travel Grant

https://www.austinfilm.org/afs-grants/afs-grants-applications/

AFS travel grants are awarded to Texas-based filmmakers to assist with the costs of participation in competitive film festivals around the world, Texas festivals will not be considered. Independent filmmakers often have minimal access to financial support during this key moment for filmmakers to

share their work with future stakeholders and develop relationships in the industry. Texas-based filmmakers with an official acceptance to a festival on the AFS Travel Grant list are eligible to receive grants in the amount of \$500 (for festivals in North America) and \$1000 (for a festival outside of North America). Filmmakers must supply proof of travel. Filmmakers can receive a total of \$1500 in AFS Travel grants in the life of their film.

The following events are eligible for the AFS Travel Grant: Academy Awards, AFI Docs, AFI Fest, American Film Festival (Wroclaw, Poland), Annecy International Animated Film Festival, Berlinale (Berlin International Film Festival), Berlinale Talent Campus, BFI London, CAAmFest, Cannes Film Festival (Film must be accepted in the Official Competition or Critics Week) *Short Film Corner is not eligible, CineMart, Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival, CPH: DOX, Deauville American Film Festival, DocNYC, Edinburgh Film Festival, Emmy Awards, FIND Screenwriters/Directors Lab, Frameline Film Festival, Full Frame Doc Festival, Galway Film Fleadh, Gotham Awards, Hamptons International Film Festival, Hot Docs, IFP No borders, IFP Filmmaker Labs, Independent Spirit Awards, International Documentary Festival Amsterdam, Locarno Film Festival, Los Angeles Film Festival, MoMA's Documentary Fortnight, New Directors/New Films, New Orleans Film Festival, New York Film Festival, New York Latino Film Festival, Outfest, Palm Springs Short Film Festival, Rotterdam Film Festival, San Francisco Internation Film Festival, Seattle Internation Film Festival, Sheffeld Doc/Fest, Slamdance Film Festival, Telluride Film Festival, Thessaloniki Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto Inside Out Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Tribeca All-Access, Tribeca Film Festival, True/False Film Festival, Urbanworld Film Festival, Vancouver Film Festival, Venice Film Festival, Viennale, Visions du Reel, Woodstock Film Festival.

Harrison McClure Endowed Film Fund

https://www.austinfilm.org/afs-grants/afs-grants-applications/

The Harrison McClure Endowed Film Fund, which is geared toward full-time undergraduate students making short film (a full listing of requirements is detailed in the section below). NOTE: Filmmakers are restricted to submitting one application per grant cycle.

Filmmakers must meet the following additional requirements if applying for the Harrison McClure endowed Film Fund:

- Applicants must be incoming juniors or seniors enrolled as full-time students in a four-year college or university located in Texas.
- The short film proposed will complete a course or degree requirement.
- Those applying for Harrison McClure funds will only be considered for this special grant and will not be considered for other AFS awards in the same grant cycle.

If you are a previous Harrison McClure Film Fund recipient, you cannot apply to receive funding twice for the same project. You are only eligible to apply to the Harrison McClure Film Fund if you are applying with a new project, or you are welcome to seek funding for your previously funded film by applying to the AFS Grant for Short Films.

A \$2,500 grant from the Harrison McClure Endowed Film Fund will be awarded to an undergraduate student making a short film that will complete a course or degree requirement. Students eligible to receive the grant must be incoming juniors or seniors and must be enrolled as full-time students in a four-year college or university located in Texas.

The selected film must agree to include a credit or thank-you message to the "Harrison McClure Endowed Film Fund" in addition to the crediting requirements of the AFS Grant. Additionally, the selected filmmaking is memorialized by this fund. Those applying for Harrison McClure funds will only be considered for this special grant and will not be considered for other AFS cash grants or inkind awards.

MPS Camera and Lighting Grant

https://www.austinfilm.org/afs-grants/afs-grants-applications/

The MPS Camera and lighting Austin Award is given in the form of a multi-day camera package rental from MPS Studios with a value of up to \$10,000. The camera package must be used by the awarded project and cannot be transferred or sold. Grantees must meet MPS' minimum insurance requirements, and package rentals are subject to availability. MPS must be acknowledged in the film's credits. The MPS Camera & Lighting Austin Award is only available for filmmakers applying to the AFS Grant for Short Films. Filmmakers applying to the Harrison McClure Endowed Film Fund are not eligible for this award.

Austin Film Society - North Texas Pioneer Film Grant

https://www.austinfilm.org/afs-grants/afs-grants-applications/

\$30,000 in cash grants will be awarded to emerging filmmakers residing in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and surrounding region. Grants ranging from \$5,000–\$15,000 will be awarded for the development, production, or post-production of feature-length films (40 minutes or greater). The grant aims to fund emerging filmmakers with first or second feature films and filmmakers with backgrounds that are traditionally underrepresented in independent film. Filmmakers wishing to be considered for this fund must provide proof of residency in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and the surrounding region. All other regular eligibility and application requirements for the AFS Grant must be met.

<u>Austin Film Society – New Texas Voices Award Grant</u>

Affirming its ongoing commitment to supporting diverse voices and growing new talent, AFS offers a \$10,000 New Texas Voice Award to filmmakers whose unique stories, identities, or heritage have found little support in the broader film industry. This grant will be accompanied by specialized consultation for the awarded filmmakers. Filmmakers who wish to be considered must have a first feature-length film (narrative or documentary) in early to mid-production and must provide demographic data in the application. All other eligibility and application requirements for the AFS Grant must be met.

City of Austin Creative Content Incentive Program

Film & Digital Media Production Incentives | AustinTexas.gov

Microsoft Word - Creative Content Incentive Guidelines

The Austin Creative Content Incentive Program offers incentives of up to 0.75% to qualifying film and television productions, 0.50% of wages paid to local residents (Austin Metro Area) and 0.25% if the project is produced by Austin-based company or promotes Austin.

Project Qualifications

- Provide end credit to The City of Austin, specifics listed in the Creative Content Guidelines
- Be in line with the Texas Film Commission Incentives categories; film & TV projects, video game projects, or visual effects (reality TV and commercial projects must pass the Significant Promotion of Austin Test)
- Follow union regulations, pay, and benefits described in union agreement and in the Creative Content Guidelines

- Primary place of business must be within the City of Austin's Desired Development Zone
- Attend a DSMBR meeting prior to the first day of production, submit a list of vendors to DSMBR after the production concludes, and provide feedback to EDD upon request

San Antonio Artist Grant

https://www.getcreativesanantonio.com/Grants

Arts Funding Guidelines for Nonprofits and Artists

The Department of Arts & Culture offers grant programs to support arts and cultural organizations and individual artists in their mission to deliver authentic, excellent and innovative programming that engage a wide variety of audiences in San Antonio's arts offerings. Programs range from multi-year grants to annual grants.

The Department of Arts & Culture offers grants to San Antonio-based professional artists and organizations each with their own eligibility requirements.

Artist Grants

Funded by the Hotel Occupancy Tax, these grants support professional artists in the creation of new works through awards to be used within and 18-month term. The grants are given in tiers; \$7,500 for individual artists and \$15,000 for artist collectives and ensembles and/ or individual artists presenting a larger production and applicants can only apply for one tier per cycle.

Operational Grants

Funded by the Hotel Occupancy Tax, these grants support non-profit organizations focused on providing arts and culture programming for locals and visitors for the area of San Antonio. Grant allocations are based on organizational budget, prioritization, as well as availability and operate on a 3-year cycle with an annual renewal process. Percentage of monetary support is only given to organizations with an annual operating budget between \$50,000 and \$15,000,000 and calculated via the organization's most recent three-year average of net operating expenses.

Event Grants

Funded by the Hotel Occupancy Tax, these grants support a single non-commercial artistic event, presentation, or performance that increases access to the arts and culture of San Antonio and have at least 25% resident participation. Grants operate on a 3-year cycle with an annual renewal process with amounts up to \$20,000 and event must have a budget exceeding \$5,000; grant cannot surpass 20% of event's budget. Awards can go towards:

- Contracted services and artist fees to include travel, per diem, and lodging
- Production expenses to include rentals, AV, lighting, production management
 Texas Film Commission Office of the Governor texasfilmcommission.com
 This list is a selection of grants & fellowships offered; it is not a comprehensive list of all available.

- Marketing and promotion
- Insurance
- Security and barricades

Film Festival Grants

Funded by the Hotel Occupancy Tax, these grants support a festival organized by a San Antonio-based 501(c)3 nonprofit overseen by an active Board of Directors and featuring education and professional development opportunities (workshops, panels, networking) for the San Antonio film industry. Grants operate on a 3-year cycle with an annual renewal process with financial assistance up to 20% of event's overall budget not exceeding \$15,000. Festival must include:

- 15 full-access festival passes for the Department of Arts & Culture
- Department of Arts & Culture listed as sponsor on news release and media materials
- Department of Arts & Culture logo on promotional materials (flyers, digital assets, etc.)
- Inclusion of San Antonio Film Office in any media opportunities, where applicable
- Copies of all print assets (poster, flyer, program, etc.)
- A locally juried process for film selections

Supplemental San Antonio Film Incentive Program

San Antonio Film Commission | Funding

The purpose of the Supplemental San Antonio Film Incentive Program (SSAI) is to assist in the attraction of film and television production to San Antonio and support local artists. The SSAI is a rebate program, with funds distributed to qualified applicants after the project is completed. The SSAI offers 7.5% rebate on eligible, verified Greater San Antonio Metropolitan Area spending of more than \$100,000, projects with a set percentage of local cast and crew. The maximum award for any single project is \$250,000.00. Eligible projects include: Feature Films, Short Films, Documentaries, TV Movies/ Movies of the Week (MOWs), TV Pilots, TV Series/ Miniseries, TV Episodes, Webisodes, Music Videos.

Texas Commission on the Arts - Young Masters Program

https://www.arts.texas.gov/initiatives/young-masters/

For Texas 8th to 11th grade students (or homeschooled students who have achieved a comparable status towards high school graduation) who are legal US and Texas residents. This program awards grants to talented young artists to further their studies in their chosen field. This grant is not a college scholarship. The most talented young artists will receive the title of Young Master and will

be awarded grants of \$5,000 per year to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines. Students are to receive the grant for up to two years, but they must submit a plan for study annually. Students must be participating in a school-based arts program, summer institute, a specialized course of study, or receiving private lessons from a qualified instructor. Students must maintain passing grades in all academic areas.

Women In Film Dallas - Suzanne Dooley Tuition Scholarship

Women in Film Dallas - 2024 Scholarships

The WIFD Suzanne Dooley College Tuition Scholarship is awarded to a full-time woman college student studying film, television or a digital media program at a College/University. It's named after the 1990 - 1991 WIFD President and lifetime member, Suzanne Dooley, who paved the way for women filmmakers in North Texas and beyond. Her experience as Actor, Director and Producer has given numerous members and scholarship recipients a deeper understanding of the industry, and the organization is proud to award this scholarship in her honor.

U.S. Narrative

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Gold Fellowship for Women

https://www.oscars.org/academy-gold/fellowship-for-women

The Academy Talent Development & Inclusion Initiative is pleased to offer the Academy Gold Fellowship for Women designed for emerging women filmmakers. The fellowship combines direct financial support with personalized mentorship, access to once-in-a-lifetime networking opportunities, and lifelong career advancement support via the Gold Alumni Program.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Nicholl Fellowships

https://www.oscars.org/nicholl

The Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting is an international screenwriting competition established to identify and encourage talented new screenwriters. Up to five \$35,000 fellowships are awarded to new screenwriters each year. Original feature film screenplay (no shorter than 70 pages and no longer than 160 pages) in PDF format only. Early entry fee of US \$50 or regular deadline entry fee of US \$70 or late deadline entry fee of US \$120.

Adrienne Shelly Foundation Awards and Scholarships for Women Filmmakers

https://adrienneshellyfoundation.org/how-to-apply/

The Adrienne Shelly Foundation provides awards and scholarships through various partnerships with some of the most prominent academic and filmmaking institutions in the country. We do not make direct awards to students and filmmakers. If you are interested in receiving funding from The Adrienne Shelly Foundation, please visit the websites of our current partners for further information.

American Zoetrope Screenplay Competition

https://www.all-story.com/american-zoetrope-screenplay-competition/

The mission of the American Zoetrope Screenplay Competition is to find and promote new and innovative voices in cinema with scripts for feature-length film scripts, as well as pilot scripts for television/streaming services. The winner of the competition will receive the grand prize of \$5,000. The winner and nine honorable mentions will be considered for representation by select agencies and their scripts will be considered for film option and development by leading production companies; American Zoetrope, Anonymous Content, Array, Cats & Dogs Productions, Double Hope Texas Film Commission • Office of the Governor • texasfilmcommission.com

This list is a selection of grants & fellowships offered; it is not a comprehensive list of all available.

Films, Fox Searchlight, Groundswell Productions, Icon Films, IFC Films, Jean Doumanian Productions, Lionsgate, LIT Entertainment Group, Lleju Productions, Netflix, Number 9 Films, Oasis Media Group, Pretty Pictures Productions, Roserock Films, Sony Pictures Classics, Verisimilitude, and Working Title Films.

BlueCat Screenplay Competition

https://bluecatscreenplay.com/

The BlueCat Screenplay Competition is committed to the undiscovered writer and provides written analysis on every screenplay and short film script submitted. There will be two winners for both Feature Screenplay and Short Script. We also award the Fellini prize to the best international screenplay submitted. Cash prizes are awarded totaling \$8000 for top scripts and all international scripts are eligible for \$2000 through the Fellini Prize. The winners and finalists will be introduced to over four hundred literary managers and agents. All writers who enter a script to competition will receive a written analysis of their script as a part of their entry fee.

BondIt Film Fund Grant Program

https://bondit.us/bondit-select/

This unique grant program is designed to help fund your vision. We consider a range of projects, from treatments, to standalone screenplays, to fully-packaged projects seeking finishing funds and will connect you with over 50 streaming platforms and broadcasters for creators, distributors and aggregators alike. Grant amounts will vary up to \$30,000 depending on the scale and merit of each project.

ConnectHER Film Festival

https://connectherfilmfest.org/awards/

The ConnectHER Film Festival welcomes submissions that focus on issues that affect the lives of women and girls with a special emphasis on amplifying BIPOC voices. Films, be they animated, documentary or narrative, must be centered around: barriers to education, access to education, leadership, digital inclusion, gender inequality, menstrual health, maternal and mental health, global health, economic inequality and empowerment (including the informal sector), poverty, food access/insecurity, political enfranchisement and power, climate action and environmental issues, refugees/IDPs, and the impact of war and conflict. These themes align with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting our commitment to address urgent global women's issues through film.

Judge's Choice

The Judges' Choice Award is our top recognition given to an outstanding narrative, documentary, and/or animated film, carefully chosen from among all categories by our esteemed panel of judges. Our judges single out this film for its exceptional qualities, making it stand out for its overall excellence in storytelling, creativity and cinematic achievement. Winners will receive \$5,000 and 1st runner up will receive \$2,500.

Best Narrative

Introduced in 2024, the Best Narrative Award acknowledges outstanding fictional storytelling in film. This recognition celebrates a film that crafts a scripted narrative through compelling characters. The winning film will receive \$2,500 by exemplifying narrative excellence and the craft to weave engaging stories within the specified themes listed above.

Best Animation

Introduced in 2024, this award acknowledges the best animated film that addresses issues and solutions impacting women and girls within the specified themes listed above. The award celebrates creativity and skill in any form of animation or stop motion, highlighting innovative storytelling and visual artistry. Winner will receive \$2,500.

People's Choice

A top ten films across all categories will be determined by online voting in the audience gallery. And the ultimate winner will be chosen from three finalists handpicked by our judges. Winner will receive \$2,500.

Global Impact

The Global Impact Award was created to recognize a film that identifies inequalities and injustices affecting women and girls around the world. We are looking for films and address the issues listed above while also shining a light on an innovative solution- a local leader or a community-based solution. ConnectHER Film Festival is unique in that we prioritize films that are making an impact. Typically, the most successful films in this category introduce a problem or issue by focusing on an innovative solution and/or the resilience of the subject(s). The winner will receive \$2,500.

Stand Up Men

The Stand-Up Men Award recognize a film that celebrates men as a subject or filmmakers themselves who are taking a stand for women's rights. We want to start a conversation about men who are going above and beyond by taking a stand against the oppression of women globally by addressing the above issues. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Women & Work

The Women and Work Award recognizes a film that shines a light on women's livelihood and workplace issues. These are stories about how women relate to work – in both formal and informal sectors. This category covers issues such as: equal pay, livelihood training, financial independence, historic and cultural barriers to women in the workplace, childcare, STEAM careers and education, and women's underrepresentation in the top ranks of leadership. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Educating Girls

According to the UN, there are 129 million girls out of school around the world, and only 49% of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education. The Educating Girls Award recognizes a short film that tells a story about educating girls and women – from barriers to successes. This award is presented by WomenServe. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Women & Health

Through this award, we aim to spotlight filmmakers whose work contributes significantly to advancing dialogue and understanding around vital global health issues and health equity. This category covers issues such as: maternal health, infant mortality, barriers to healthcare access in remote or underserved communities, eradicating infectious diseases, ending FGM, water quality and sanitation, and malnutrition and food insecurity. This award is presented by invest in Her Foundation. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Women & the Environment

The Women & the Environment Award recognizes a short film that shines a light on Environmental issues that impact women and girls globally — and considers solutions, be they climate adaptation, indigenous practices or women cultivating the land and sustaining the oceans, and displacement and migration strategies. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Creative Capital Award

https://creative-capital.org/about-the-creative-capital-award/

Creative Capital is committed to groundbreaking ideas that challenge what art can be. As Creative Capital Awardees have demonstrated, socially impactful ideas are embedded in a myriad of artistic forms and practices such as: Visual Arts, Film/Moving Image, Technology, Performing Arts, and Literature We invite artists to select a primary discipline for their proposals based on which experts are most suited and qualified to review the project proposal, with the understanding that radical art is often by nature interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, or interdisciplinary. By choosing to apply within a certain disciplinary category, we are asking you to choose how you want to frame the discussion around your work so we can determine which experts are most qualified to evaluate your project

proposal. Creative Capital provides grants from \$15,000 up to \$50,000 to individual artists to support the creation of groundbreaking new projects.

Disney Entertainment Television Directing Program

https://sites.disney.com/ctdi/directingprogram/

Creative Talent Development & Inclusion (CTDI) Directing Program at Disney Entertainment Television is a one-year program that guarantees the opportunity to direct on a Disney series, as well as offering professional mentorship, on-set shadowing experiences, and unparalleled access to Disney's creative executives for learning and networking. Categories include Primetime Scripted, Daytime Scripted and Unscripted/Alternative programing.

Disney Entertainment Television Writing Program

https://sites.disney.com/ctdi/writingprogram/

The Disney Entertainment Television (DET) Writing Program is a highly selective, annual TV staffing program. The goal is to staff emerging and diverse television writers on DET scripted series. Program Writers are contract employees of Disney for one year (or until they staff on a show), and receive mentorship, professional development, and unprecedented access to the company and its creative executives, producers, showrunners, and program alumni. Each year, one writer receives the Eunetta T. Boone Comedy Writers Scholarship and special staffing consideration on a Disney Branded Television series. The Program has had a 100% staffing rate each year. It also has a long history of being the only staffing/writing initiative in the entertainment industry to employ its writers contractually as full-time employees prior to staffing.

Femme Frontera Film Grant

https://www.femmefrontera.org/eplc

As part of an on-going initiative to increase, inspire, and support short form content made by filmmakers from and currently residing in El Paso, Las Cruces, Juarez, and Chihuahua, Femme Frontera will fund new works made by emerging and established women and gender-expansive filmmakers. The funds will assist these filmmakers in the creation of their short films in the Borderland region. One grant of \$4000 will be awarded to each country. \$4,000 USA El Paso, Texas OR Las Cruces, NM. \$4,000(USD) Mexico Ciudad Juarez OR surrounding areas in the state of Chihuahua.

Femme Frontera Screenwriting Grant

https://www.femmefrontera.org/screenwriting-grant

As part of an on-going initiative to increase, inspire, and support short form content made by filmmakers from and currently residing in El Paso, Las Cruces, Juarez, and Chihuahua, Femme Frontera will fund new works made by emerging and established women and gender-expansive filmmakers. The funds will assist filmmakers in the creation of a 15-30 page script. Three grant winners will be awarded \$750 to use towards the development of their screenplay, funds may not be used for marketing or distribution. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to workshop their scripts. Workshops will consist of a digital table reading and feedback session. Applications may be submitted in English or Spanish.

Film Independent Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grants

https://sloan.org/grants/apply

In selecting projects for funding, the Foundation seeks proposals for original initiatives led by outstanding individuals or teams. We are interested in projects that have a high expected return to society, exhibit a high degree of methodological rigor, and for which funding from the private sector, government, or other foundations is not yet widely available.

Film Independent Project Involve Fellowships

https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/grants-and-awards/

The following Fellowships are available to select Fellows who participate in our signature program, Project Involve, which offers career opportunities to filmmakers from communities typically underrepresented in film & entertainment.

Amazon MGM Studios Film Fellowship

The Amazon MGM Studios Film Fellowship provides a \$10,000 grant to a visionary filmmaker in Project Involve.

The Climate Entertainment Commissioning Grant

The Climate Entertainment Initiative will award a \$25,000 commissioning grant to a screenwriter accepted into Project Involve, to write a new climate-focused fiction feature script.

LAIKA Animation Track

The LAIKA Animation Track in Project Involve provides a production grant to five filmmakers to create a stop-motion animated short film during a two-year period. Additionally, each of the five LAIKA

Animation Fellows will receive a cash stipend in recognition of their commitment to the program.

Los Angeles Media Fund Fellowship

The Los Angeles Media Fund Fellowship provides a \$10,000 grant to a remarkable Project Involve Fellow.

Panavision Fellowship

The Panavision Fellowship provides an outstanding cinematographer in Project Involve with a camera rental package valued at \$60,000 for use on a future project produced in the US.

Sony Pictures Entertainment Fellowship

Now in its 10th year, the Sony Pictures Entertainment Fellowship provides a \$10,000 grant to an outstanding filmmaker in Project Involve.

Film Independent Screenwriters Lab

https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/artist-development/screenwriting-lab

The Screenwriting Lab is a two-week workshop held in the first quarter of the year, designed to provide individualized story and career development for emerging screenwriters with a fiction feature screenplay. Each Screenwriting Fellow will be paired with a Creative Advisor, with whom they'll work one-on-one and in group sessions to further develop their project over the course of the program. The Screenwriting Lab also helps to further the careers of its Fellows by introducing them to film industry veterans who can offer guidance on both the craft and business of screenwriting. A variety of guest speakers may screen and discuss their own films and offer career insights, and a final pitch event offers further opportunity for individualized feedback and discussion with industry executives. At this time, documentary, short film and television projects are not eligible to apply.

Film Independent Production Grants

https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/grants-and-awards/

In collaboration with various industry partners, Film Independent supports filmmakers with production services, equipment and permits. Current production grants are available to our alumni via application.

Picture Shop Feature Film Grant

The Picture Shop Feature Film Grant is open to all fiction and nonfiction filmmakers (director, producer, cinematographer or editor) with a feature-length project in post-production. Film Independent will select a qualified filmmaker who will receive up to \$50,000 in color correction and digital intermediate services for their feature film. View application dates and info.

Film Independent Spirit Awards Emerging Filmmaker Grants

Each year, Film Independent recognizes exceptional emerging film talent with three Spirit Awards Filmmaker Grants that carry unrestricted cash prizes of \$25,000. Potential grant recipients are nominated by committee.

Film Independent Spirit Awards Submissions

https://www.filmindependent.org/spirit-awards/submissions/

Every year at the Spirit Awards, Film Independent gives out four Filmmaker Grants. The awards are by nomination only. Spirit Awards-related grants are only provided to the recipients of the Emerging Filmmaker Awards.

Frameline Film Completion Fund

Completion Fund - Frameline

The Frameline Completion Fund accepts completed projects in all categories, from documentary and narrative works to experimental, animated, or episodic projects, so long as the films are about LGBTQ+ people and their communities. The program provides grants to emerging and established filmmaker, seeking to provide a much-needed source of financial contributions to artists who often struggle to secure funding to complete their works. Grants up to \$5,000 are available for the completion of films that represent and reflect LGBTQ+ life in all its complexity and richness.

From the Heart Productions Roy W. Dean Grant

https://fromtheheartproductions.com/how-to-apply-for-grants/

The Roy W. Dean Film Grant funds short films, documentaries, and independent features, and web series that are budgeted under \$500,000. They must be films that are unique and contribute to society. We fund compelling stories about little known subjects, historical films, and films that touch hearts. We like films that expose, and bring, important information to light; as well as films about

little known people when there is a good story. We are storytellers, and that is the main criteria for entering and winning our grants; stories that can change, heal, and enrich, our lives.

International Film Festival Rotterdam

Tiger Competition

https://iffr.com/en/awards-competitions/tiger-competition

The Tiger Award is accompanied by a €40,000 cash prize, to be shared between the up-and-coming director and producer of the winning film. Two Special Jury Awards worth €10,000 will also be presented for exceptional artistic achievement within the competition. Equally important is the international recognition for the nominees and their works that a Tiger Competition nomination brings with it. The Tiger Awards are an indispensable backdrop for many filmmakers: it can be the final step to convince financiers to allow a next project.

Tiger Short Competition

Any film between 1 and 63 minutes long, from all over the world are invited to participate in the Tiger Short Competition. Filmmakers of any experience level complete for the honor of being one of the three winning projects and awarded €5,000 each.

Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant

https://www.nywift.org/fund-for-women-filmmakers/the-loreen-arbus-disability-awareness-grant

Through the generosity of Loreen Arbus, New York Women in Film & Television has established the Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant. The film completion grant for \$6,500 will be awarded to a woman filmmaker for a film of any length or genre concerning physical or developmental disability issues. Directors and producers are eligible to apply. Films must have completed principle photography, be in the post production phase, and be US based to be eligible.

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation Grants for Artists

https://www.midatlanticarts.org/grants-programs/grants-for-artists/#usartists-international

Mid Atlantic Arts is committed to the development and expansion of both the careers and artistic goals of U.S. performers by providing connections to audiences, presenters, curators, and their peers through the USAI program. By elevating the voices that reflect a vibrant array of creative expression, we are able to celebrate and share the diversity and imagination of the United States. Grant support range: Matching grants of up to \$11,000 toward eligible travel expenses.

Nantucket Film Festival Tony Cox Screenplay Competition

https://nantucketfilmfestival.org/tony-cox-competition/

Tony Cox Screenplay Competitions recognize emerging writers in four unique categories: Feature Screenplay, Short Screenplay, 30-Minute Episodic Screenplay, and 60-Minute Episodic Screenplay as the best from the pool of submissions each year. Finalists in each competition are read by prestigious juries, receive top industry recognition, and participate in a Festival focused specifically on screenwriting that includes cash prizes for all competitions and a Mentors Brunch with a prominent screenwriter (past mentors include Noah Baumbach, Oliver Stone, Robert Towne, David O. Russell, and Nancy Meyers).

Feature Script

Winners receive, a space in the October Colony, Almanack Screenwriters' month-long, all-expenses-covered writer's retreat on Nantucket, a \$5,000 cash prize from the Nantucket Film Festival with an complimentary pass to all the festival's programming and events, a spot in the 2027 Screenwriter Sessions Cohort, a custom-bound copy of the script given at an award reception during the festival, and the winner's name will be included in an official press release and on the Festival website as a competition winner and finalist. Prizes for finalists, semi-finalists, and quarter finalists can be found on the website.

Short Script

Winner receives a \$1,000 cash prize from the Nantucket Film Festival, with an complimentary pass to all the festival's programming and events, a spot in the 2027 Screenwriter Sessions Cohort a custom-bound copy of the script given at an award reception during the festival, and the winner's will be included in an official press release and on festival website as a competition winner and finalist. Other finalist will receive an invitation to the awards reception, a festival pass, and their name included on the festival website as a competition finalist.

60 min Pilot Screenplay

The winner receives a \$2,000 cash prize from the Nantucket Film with an complimentary pass to all the festival's programming and events, a spot in the 2027 Screenwriter Sessions Cohort a custom-bound copy of the script given at an award reception during the festival, and the winner's will be included in an official press release and on festival website as a competition winner and finalist. Other finalist will receive an invitation to the awards reception, a festival pass, and their name included on the festival website as a competition finalist.

30 min Pilot Screenplay

The winner receives a \$2,000 cash prize from the Nantucket Film with an complimentary pass to all the festival's programming and events, a spot in the 2027 Screenwriter Sessions Cohort a custom-bound copy of the script given at an award reception during the festival, and the winner's will be included in an official press release and on festival website as a competition winner and finalist. Other finalist will receive an invitation to the awards reception, a festival pass, and their name included on the festival website as a competition finalist.

National Endowment for the Arts: Film & Media Arts Grant

https://www.arts.gov/grants/grants-for-arts-projects

https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/fy26-gap-film-media-arts-instructions-july.pdf

The NEA supports projects that contribute to a healthy and thriving arts ecosystem that is responsive to the dynamic, diverse, and evolving nature of the film and media arts field. This includes support for artists and audiences to engage with a spectrum of media arts genres and practices, such as traditional or expanded forms of storytelling, visual expression; and performance using film, cinema, audio, broadcast, new media, creative code, and related formats at the intersection of arts and technology.

Applicants may request cost share/matching grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

All grants require a nonfederal cost share/match of at least 1 to 1. For example, if an organization receives a \$10,000 grant, the total eligible project costs must be at least \$20,000 and the organization must provide at least \$10,000 toward the project from nonfederal sources. Our grants cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project.

National Hispanic Media Coalition Series Scriptwriters Program

https://www.nhmc.org/writers/

During the five-week, virtual intensive program participants of any race and ethnicity create a mock writer's room led by an entertainment executive to develop at least one 30min or 60mintelevision pilot script. This script(s) will be reviewed by SSP studio partners, including The Walt Disney Company, NBCUniversal and Netflix. The workshop-style setting provides a collaborative environment where participants pitch story ideas and engage in notes sessions – training them how to incorporate others' notes into their writing, as well as preparing them for writing program submissions, creative meetings and potential series staffing.

NBC Launch

TV Writers Program

https://www.nbcuniversallaunch.com/tv-writers-program

The NBC TV Writers Program is our premier program for emerging diverse episodic television writers with the goal of creating the next generation of showrunners and content creators. During the Los Angles based, eight-month program, writers develop an original pilot to which they retain all rights. They are paired with NBCUniversal programming executives from the NBCU Television and Streaming portfolio and Universal Studio Group who mentor them, as they write their original pilot and polish samples for staffing consideration.

Writers also attend weekly evening workshops to enhance their creative and professional skills, including branding, pitching, and interviewing, as well as expand on their knowledge of the everchanging television landscape. Additionally, they have opportunities to learn from and build relationships with industry professionals, including network and studio executives, showrunners, agents, and managers. At the conclusion of the program, participating writers will be considered for available staff writer positions on NBCU Television and Streaming as well as Universal Studio Group series.

TV Directors Program

https://www.nbcuniversallaunch.com/tv-directors-program

The NBCU LAUNCH TV Directors Program is NBCU's groundbreaking scripted directing program created with the goal to increase authentic storytelling by providing opportunities for experienced directors (with one or less directing credits on a broadcast, cable, or streaming project) who have distinct points of view that inform their creative vision. This program builds on the company's success as the first episodic directing initiative in the entertainment industry to guarantee that participants will helm at least one episode in the same season that they shadow. Each participant shadows on up to two episodes of an NBCU scripted series before directing an in-season episode of the same series.

Nickelodeon Animation Writing Program (Currently On Pause)

https://www.nickanimation.com/programs/writing-program/

Founded in the year 2000, the Nickelodeon Writing Program is a full-time, paid, yearlong development Program for television comedy writers with unique voices and from underrepresented communities. Join us at the studio in Burbank for classes and workshops to sharpen your skills, executive mentorship and networking to build your professional relationships, and the opportunity

to work in the iconic live action and animation writers' rooms at Nick. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to dedicate yourself to the craft of writing and build your career from the ground up.

The Nick Writing Program is not a writing contest – It's a launching pad for emerging creatives. If you bring the unique voice and innovative ideas for kids' and family content, we'll help you launch a career with all the tools you'll need to succeed in the industry for years to come.

Pacific Islanders in Communication

Shorts Fund

https://www.piccom.org/pages/shorts-fund

PIC provides funding of up to \$25,000 for of fiction and nonfiction short films of untold stories and fresh perspectives on the indigenous Pacific Islander experience. Our Shorts Fund selects projects for public media digital distribution and television broadcast with the hopes they might encourage a more informed, equitable and inclusive society. Producers that are US citizens, holds artistic, budgetary, and editorial control and owns the copyright to the proposed project, and have previous film or television experience and has at least one completed short may apply. The proposed fiction or non-fiction project may be in pre-production, production or post-production as long as they have the ability to be completed within 18 months of receiving PIC funds. The specific parameters for each kind of script are on the website.

Media Fund

https://www.piccom.org/pages/media-fund

PIC provides funding up to \$50,000 to \$65,000 for 30min to 60min non-fiction projects that are engaging and artistically innovative on subject matter that covers issues important to indigenous Pacific Islanders. Producers that are US citizens, holds artistic, budgetary, and editorial control and owns the copyright to the proposed project, and have previous film or television experience and has at least one completed short may apply. The proposed non-fiction project may be the production or post-production phases with specific stipulations for each listed on the website.

Panavision Camera Equipment Grant

https://www.panavision.com/resources/new-filmmaker-program/equipment-grant

The Panavision New Filmmaker Program equipment grant provides the use of Panavision film or digital camera packages to aspiring filmmakers at little to no cost. All equipment requests are subject to availability. We will always do our best to provide for the specific

creative and technical demands of your project, but cannot guarantee availability of specific cameras, AKS, or optics.

Paramount Writers Mentoring Program

https://www.paramount.com/writers-mentoring-program

There are many different paths writers can follow to get their first foothold in being hired in television.

As part of its ongoing commitment to create additional access for writers of diverse backgrounds Paramount's Office of Global Inclusion has launched a different kind of writer's program which highlights one of those paths. The focus of this eight-month program is on opening doors: providing opportunities to build relationships with network and studio executives and show runners; to support new and emerging writers in their efforts to improve their craft; and to develop the interpersonal skills necessary to break in and succeed.

Screencraft Fellowship

https://screencraft.org/fellowship/

The ScreenCraft Fellowship is a 3 month program filled with consultations and 5 days of intensive virtual meeting with award-winning screenwriters, studio executives, and literary agents. The program is designed to provide career guidance with personalized plans of action and thoughtfully curated industry meetings. Fellows expand their network through virtual industry meetings. Past fellows have met with companies like Warner Bros., Blumhouse, Bad Robot, and have landed representation with Good Fear, Gersh, Brillstein, CAA, 3 Arts, UTA, and others.

To apply, simply submit your feature film script or original television script online, along with an optional cover letter that expresses your vision and background as an emerging writer.

Screencraft Screenwriting Competitions CLOSED

https://screencraft.org/screenwriting-contests/

Our competitions intended to discover the best writers out there in twelve genre and formats including TV pilot, feature film, comedy, horror, true story, animation, drama, stage play, action & adventure, family, sci-fi & fantasy, short film, and cinematic prose. To choose the winners, we handpick the managers, agents, and producers that are the right fit for our winning screenwriters and foster meaningful relationships with entertainment industry executives.

Script Pipeline Screenwriting Contest

https://scriptpipeline.com/shop/screenwriting-contest

The ScriptPipeline Screenwriting Competition seeks talented writers to connect with production companies, agencies, and managers. As one of the longest-running screenplay contests, we focus specifically on finding representation for writers, supporting diverse voices, championing marketable, unique storytelling, and pushing more original projects into production. Finalists receive immediate circulation to ScriptPipeline partners, in addition to \$20,000 to the winner and \$1,000 to each finalist. The five finalists receive:

- Introductions to managers, producers, agents, directors, and other execs searching for screenplays
- Development assistance and mentoring from Script Pipeline's team
- Additional script reviews and consideration of other material
- Long-term script circulation to industry and continual guidance connecting with companies
- Supplemental mentorship from partners, including the team at Cinestory

Scriptapalooza Script Competition

https://scriptapalooza.com/home/

From choosing our judges to creating opportunities, our top priority has always been the writer. We surround ourselves with reputable and successful companies, including the many producers, literary agents, and managers who read your scripts. While over \$50,000 in prizes awarded is exciting, the most important prize of all is: Scriptapalooza will promote, pitch, and push the Semifinalists and higher for a full year. No other competition in the world does that.

SFFILM Rainin Grant

https://sffilm.org/rainin-grant/

The SFFILM Rainin Grant program is the largest granting body for independent narrative feature films in the US. Grants support films that address social justice issues—the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges—in a positive and meaningful way through plot, character, theme, or setting and benefit the Bay Area filmmaking community in a professional and economic capacity. Awards are made to 15-20 projects once a year in the fall, for screenwriting, development, or post-production. In addition to a cash grant of up to \$25,000, recipients secure a one-month residency at FilmHouse and benefit from SFFILM's comprehensive and dynamic artist development programs.

Current SFFILM Rainin Grants are as follows:

- Screenwriting Grant: These grants are open to filmmakers anywhere in the US, as well as
 internationally, and are up to \$25,000. The funds allow filmmakers to devote dedicated
 time to furthering their work, and the grant includes a FilmHouse residency in the Bay Area
 to further develop the screenplay, and have access to both peer and established
 mentorship engagement.
- Development Grant: These grants are up to \$25,000 for producers of narrative features
 tackling social justice issues who demonstrate a need to engage with the Bay Area to
 develop and package their films. The grant includes a FilmHouse residency with peer and
 established mentorship engagement. Successful projects will be at a stage to pursue
 financing, casting, location scouting, and/or other key activities to package the film before
 production. Major screenwriting work should be complete by this stage.
- Post-production Grant: These grants are up to \$25,000 for filmmaking teams of a narrative feature. Projects should have significant creative work remaining in the editorial process or have a specific need related to sound or color in post-production. There is no Bay Area residency commitment required for this stage.

Slamdance Screenplay Competition

https://slamdance.com/screenplay/#about

https://slamdance.com/screenplay-submit/

The Slamdance Screenplay Competition is dedicated to discovering and nurturing emerging screenwriters. This year a total of \$18,000 in cash prizes will be awarded, with \$10,000 of that going to the Grand Prize Winner. Since 1997, the competition has established a strong track record for introducing writers to members of the entertainment industry who have gone on to produce, option, and represent submitted work. Like the Film Festival, the Screenplay Competition is a place for new, bold, and raw voices. We are looking for scripts that take risks, refuse compromise, and go places where Hollywood hacks fear to tread.

Feature Film (\$2,000 prize in cash)

- 41-140 pages.
- All narrative genres welcome.

TV Pilot (\$2,000 prize in cash)

- Up to 80 pages.
- Half-hour, one-hour, or webisode.
- All narrative genres welcome.

• Entries may include a show bible (up to 5 pages) at the end of the script.

Horror/Thriller (\$2,000 prize in cash)

- 41-140 pages.
- Scripts featuring menacing situations, heightened feelings of suspense, or imminent danger.

Short (\$2,000 prize in cash)

- Up to 40 pages.
- All narrative genres welcome.

Sundance Institute Support for Independent Storytellers

https://www.sundance.org/apply

The Sundance Institute's artist programs provide dynamic support at every step of the creative journey for individuals with distinct voices in film and episodic storytelling. Each program consists of labs, grants, intensives, sessions, and ongoing resources for artists to nurture their projects and sustain their careers. Through year-round activities, we provide the space for artists to create and share their stories with the world. The current labs, grants, and fellowships offered by the Sundance Institute, are Artist Accelerator, Catalyst, Documentary Film, Episodic, Feature Film, Ignite, Indigenous Program, Equity-Impact-and Belonging, Producers Program, Women at Sundance Institute, and 2026 Merta Mita Fellowship.

The David Ross Fetzer Foundation for Emerging Artists

https://daveyfilm.org/Davey-Grants

The Davey Foundation supports emerging filmmakers with financial and gear grants valued up to \$5,000 each. Grantees also receive mentorship from experienced filmmakers

The Film Fund

https://www.thefilmfund.co/contests/#.Y aH2nbMJaQ

Craft and submit one sentence with a compelling premise that also conveys why you need this funding to achieve your vision. Funding up to \$10,000 available for various categories and genres.

Tribeca Film Institute Filmmaker Programs

https://www.tfiny.org/program/filmmaker

Tribeca Film Institute provides funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities for entry-to-mid level filmmakers. There are programs for scripted, documentary, and interactive projects.

Vision Maker Media- Creative Shorts Fellowship

https://visionmakermedia.org/creative-shorts-fellowship/

The Creative Shorts Fellowship supports Emerging Native filmmakers to produce a short film:

documentary, drama, experimental, or animation piece; and supports a mentorship with a career professional film producer or director. Native or non-Native, may also submit a proposal—following criteria and eligibility but topic ideas may be about Native cultures, values, histories, contemporary life, environmental justice, social justice, youth, elders, and/or Native empowerment.

Vision Maker Media- Public Media Fund

https://visionmakermedia.org/public-media-fund/

VMM seeks public media film and television projects that are intended and appropriate for Public Media Television Broadcasting, including Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) digital and streaming platforms, that represent the cultures, experiences, and perspectives of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

At times, Vision Maker Media may offer additional distribution opportunities to funded film and television programs such as educational and home, as well as possible theatrical, non-theatrical, television (free, pay syndicated and video-on-demand), multimedia and internet broadcasting (including podcasting and streaming). Categories for accepted media: Research and Development (\$5,000-\$25,000), Production (up to \$150,000), and Post-Production (up to \$30,000).

WB Television Workshop - Discovery Access Directors Program

https://www.warner-access.com/programs/warner-bros-discovery-access-directors-program

Formerly known as the Warner Bros. Television Directors Workshop, the Warner Bros. Discovery Access Directors Program provides historically excluded directors a pathway into the episodic television directing space. Selected directors will shadow on up to two episodes of a WBD show then direct an episode later in the same season.

WB Television Workshop - Discovery Access Writers Program

https://www.warner-access.com/programs/warner-bros-discovery-access-writers-program

Participants learn about the television business from internal executives, attend master classes on storytelling and collaborative creative writing with showrunners, as well as other established special guests. The Warner Bros. Discovery Access Writers Program provides underrepresented writers a pathway into the episodic television writing space. Selected writers will undergo an extensive creative and business curriculum before being put up for staffing opportunities across the WBD enterprise.

Participants required to attend an in-person bootcamp in Los Angeles during weeks in January (plus additional TBD weeks in Q1 and Q2), as well as attend virtual curriculum throughout the program, which will run throughout the winter/spring. Dates are subject to change and travel costs for those located outside of Los Angeles will be covered by the program.

U.S. Documentary

Catapult Film Fund

http://catapultfilmfund.org/

Catapult Film Fund is dedicated to supporting nonfiction filmmakers with critical early-stage funding and mentorship to launch distinctive, story-driven, and cinematic films. Launched in 2010, the Catapult Development Fund provides early-stage support to documentary filmmakers when funding is hardest to find. For this cycle, we will offer fifteen (15) grants of up to \$25,000 USD to filmmakers in development with a documentary feature or short. We do not support docuseries at this time. Our flagship program is geared toward independent filmmakers who have a strong story to tell, have secured access, and are ready to unlock critical production funding. This grant can be used for a variety of development needs and must result in the creation of a fundraising piece as the final deliverable. We prioritize artful, moving storytelling and are not tied to any specific social issue agenda.

Center for Asian American Media

https://caamedia.org/for-mediamakers/get-funded/

CAAM Documentaries for Social Change Fund

The CAAM Documentaries for Social Change Fund, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, offers grants for social issue documentary films that highlight Asian American narratives. This Fund will provide much needed resources to projects for research and development and in early production.

CAAM Documentary Fund

With support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, CAAM provides production funding to independent producers who make engaging Asian American works for public television. Documentaries are eligible for production or post-production; awards typically range between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

Building Bridges Documentary Fund

The Building Bridges Documentary Fund is supported by the Building Bridges Program of the Doris Duke Foundation and intended to fund independent documentary films about the Muslim experience in the United States. The goal is to support U.S. Muslim filmmakers and/or works that

contribute to a fuller spectrum of unseen narratives in the context of what it means to be Muslim in the United States.

Chicken & Egg Films

https://chickeneggfilms.org/programs

(Egg)celerator Lab

Through generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, this program supports women and non-binary nonfiction filmmakers or filmmaking teams working on their first or second feature-length documentary. In this year-long program, filmmakers receive:

- \$40,000 USD in grant funding to produce their feature-length film
- Mentorship with Chicken & Egg Films team members
- Two creative retreats focused on career building and creative development
- Travel stipend for director and producer upon acceptance to a forum during program year
- Tailored industry meetings and funder connections
- Peer support from their cohort

Research & Development Grant

Thanks to the generous funding from Netflix, this program supports women and non-binary filmmakers who are in the research or development phase of their feature documentary. We acknowledge that this is an often-underfunded stage of filmmaking so many use their personal resources to get their projects off the ground to get future funding, yet producing material without external funding can be almost impossible. Our grant addresses this "chicken or egg" challenge through the listed resources:

- A total of \$450,000 USD is awarded in the following amounts
 - \$10,000 USD grants for Research
 - o \$20,000 USD grants for Development

Chicken & Egg Award

Women and gender-expansive filmmakers are behind all our films. While great strides have been made for gender equity in the documentary field, it's not enough. The Chicken & Egg Award consists of a \$75,000 USD and a year-long mentorship program for eight individual women and non-binary documentary directors at advanced stages of their careers. Of the total award, \$50,000 is an unrestricted cash sum that allows filmmakers to decide how they will use the funding to support their individual creative and business practices, and \$25,000 is a grant for the project(s) that the filmmaker will work on during their Award year.

ConnectHER Film Festival

https://connectherfilmfest.org/awards/

The ConnectHER Film Festival welcomes submissions that focus on issues that affect the lives of women and girls with a special emphasis on amplifying BIPOC voices. Films, be they animated, documentary or narrative, must be centered around: barriers to education, access to education, leadership, digital inclusion, gender inequality, menstrual health, maternal and mental health, global health, economic inequality and empowerment (including the informal sector), poverty, food access/insecurity, political enfranchisement and power, climate action and environmental issues, refugees/IDPs, and the impact of war and conflict.

Best Documentary

The Best Documentary Award recognizes exceptional filmmaking that skillfully captures true and impactful stories about individuals influencing the lives of women and girls. This award celebrates the power of documentaries to shed light on compelling stories, contributing to a broader understanding of the issues at hand. The winners will receive \$2,500.

Judge's Choice

The Judges' Choice Award is our top recognition given to an outstanding narrative, documentary, and/or animated film, carefully chosen from among all categories by our esteemed panel of judges. Out judges single out this film for its exceptional qualities, making it stand out for its overall excellence in storytelling, creativity and cinematic achievement. Winners will receive \$5,000 and 1st runner up will receive \$2,500.

People's Choice

A top ten films across all categories will be determined by online voting in the audience gallery. And the ultimate winner will be chosen from three finalists handpicked by our judges. Winner will receive \$2,500.

Global Impact

The Global Impact Award was created to recognize a film that identifies inequalities and injustices affecting women and girls around the world. We are looking for films and address the issues listed above while also shining a light on an innovative solution- a local leader or a community-based solution. ConnectHER Film Festival is unique in that we prioritize films that are making an impact. Typically, the most successful films in this category introduce a problem or issue by focusing on an innovative solution and/or the resilience of the subject(s). The winner will receive \$2,500.

Stand Up Men

The Stand-Up Men Award recognize a film that celebrates men as a subject or filmmakers themselves who are taking a stand for women's rights. We want to start a conversation about men who are going above and beyond by taking a stand against the oppression of women globally by addressing the above issues. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Women & Work

The Women and Work Award recognizes a film that shines a light on women's livelihood and workplace issues. These are stories about how women relate to work – in both formal and informal sectors. This category covers issues such as: equal pay, livelihood training, financial independence, historic and cultural barriers to women in the workplace, childcare, STEAM careers and education, and women's underrepresentation in the top ranks of leadership. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Educating Girls

The Educating Girls Award recognizes a short film that tells a story about educating girls and women – from barriers to successes. This award is presented by WomenServe. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Women & Health

Through this award, we aim to spotlight filmmakers whose work contributes significantly to advancing dialogue and understanding around vital global health issues and health equity. This category covers issues such as: maternal health, infant mortality, barriers to healthcare access in remote or underserved communities, eradicating infectious diseases, ending FGM, water quality and sanitation, and malnutrition and food insecurity. This award is presented by invest in Her Foundation. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Women & the Environment

The Women & the Environment Award recognizes a short film that shines a light on Environmental issues that impact women and girls globally — and considers solutions, be they climate adaptation, indigenous practices or women cultivating the land and sustaining the oceans, and displacement and migration strategies. The winner will receive \$2,500.

Film Independent Documentary Lab

https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/artist-development/documentary-lab/

Through a series of meetings and workshops, the Documentary Lab provides creative feedback and story notes to participating filmmakers, while helping them strategize for the completion, distribution and marketing of their films. The program advances the careers of its Fellows by

introducing them to film professionals who can advise on both the craft and business of documentary filmmaking.

The Documentary Producing Lab, held during the Fall, is designed for producers working in the nonfiction space. For one week, Fellows will be paired with creative and business consultants, learning strategies and practices that will benefit them not only on their current projects, but throughout their careers. With the generous support of The Harnisch Foundation, each Fellow will also receive professional coaching by Renee Freedman & Company as part of the program, positioning participants for success as they continue to grow professionally. The Documentary Producing Lab also includes multiple case studies with notable nonfiction producers and concludes with a networking day with industry professionals.

Ford Foundation's JustFilms Grant Program

https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/our-grants/justfilms/justfilms-application/

This grant supports documentary films that shine a light on pressing social justice issues and fight inequality. This funding helps documentary feature film (running time of at least 50 minutes) tell stories aligning with intersectional representation, innovation in storytelling, and production viability & independence, as well as social and cultural impact. We welcome applications for direct content development, animation, production, or post-production. But the open call does not support student films, narrative films, short films, commissioned films where the filmmaker is not the rights holder to the project, episodic series, new media (AR, VR), podcasts, films that have already premiered or broadcast, or impact or outreach campaigns.

From the Heart Productions Roy W. Dean Grant

https://fromtheheartproductions.com/how-to-apply-for-grants/

The Roy W. Dean Film Grant funds short films, documentaries, and independent features, and web series that are budgeted under \$500,000. They must be films that are unique and make a contribution to society. We fund compelling stories about little known subjects, historical films, and films that touch hearts. We like films that expose, and bring, important information to light; as well as films about little known people when there is a good story. We are storytellers, and that is the main criteria for entering and winning our grants; stories that can change, heal, and enrich, our lives.

GoodPitch by Doc Society Program

https://goodpitch.org/about/#national

Each cycle, a new group of documentary filmmakers is selected to take part. These are exceptional storytellers and independent journalists, capturing urgent global issues, who are all working with feature length documentary film. Over a year, the film teams receive creative mentorship to help develop their film, devise their impact strategy and identify potential partners.

IDA Pare Lorentz Documentary Fund

https://www.documentary.org/parelorentz

Made possible by the New York Community Trust, the Pare Lorentz Documentary Fund supports feature-length documentary films that reflect the spirit and nature of Pare Lorentz's work, exhibiting objective research, artful storytelling, strong visual style, high production values, artistic writing, and outstanding music composition, as well as skillful direction, camerawork, and editing. The Fund provides production and post-production grants to be used in the creation of original, independent documentary films that illuminate issues in the United States.

The Pare Lorentz Documentary Fund began in 2011, making it the International Documentary Association's oldest fund, and has granted \$1,360,000 to 72 projects. Starting in 2023, the Fund began accepting Immersive Nonfiction projects as part of the Pare Lorentz slate. Now, the Fund accepts applications from all over the world. In order to be eligible your film must be intended for wide audiences, be enough into production or post-production to compile a 10min sample, and address that year's theme

IDFA Bertha Fund

https://professionals.idfa.nl/training-funding/funding/about-the-idfa-bertha-fund/

As part of IDFA's Filmmaker Support department, the IDFA Bertha Fund supports independent, critical, and artistic voices from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania (IBF regions) with the aim of stimulating and empowering the creative documentary sector in these regions. The Fund provides development and production grants through two funding schemes. Filmmakers from and living in the above-mentioned regions can apply for IBF Classic. European co-producers of documentaries from these regions can apply for IBF Europe.

Japan Foundation New York Grant for Arts and Culture

https://ny.jpf.go.jp/grants/grants/

This grant accepts applications on a rolling basis for projects from non-profit organizations that take place within the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains plus Washington D.C. to support projects that will further understanding of Japanese arts and culture. Chosen project can receive up to \$5,000 to be used on Publicity, Printing costs of programs, leaflets, and catalogs, Honoraria for artists and lecturers, Domestic/international travel expenses for artists and lecturers (including per diem and accommodation expenses), Shipping costs, Online related costs, and Screening rights fees. Priority will be given to those projects that have secured additional funding from sources other than the Japan Foundation as well as projects that take place in areas where access to Japanese cultural events are relatively limited.

Latino Public Broadcasting- Public Media Content Fund

https://lpbp.org/public-media-content-fund-guidelines/

This fund is an open invitation to independent filmmakers or producers to submit proposals for a program, limited series, or short web-based digital new media video projects for distribution to PBS.org or another public media web platforms. Subjects can be related to the genres of the arts, history, science, biography, health, personal storytelling, current events, social issues, or mixed genre but should primarily be about representing the Latino American experience. All subject matter is required to follow LPB's guidelines and be appropriate for public television and/or one of its platforms. Grants average \$5,000-\$100,000 for programs of most genres.

Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant

https://www.nywift.org/fund-for-women-filmmakers/the-loreen-arbus-disability-awareness-grant

Through the generosity of Loreen Arbus, New York Women in Film and Television has established the Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant. The film completion grant for \$6,500 will be awarded to a woman filmmaker for a film of any length or genre concerning physical or developmental disability issues. Directors and producers are eligible to apply. Films must have completed principal photography, be in the post production phase, and be US based to be eligible.

MountainFilm Commitment Grants

https://www.mountainfilm.org/mountainfilm-initiatives/commitment-grants/

Mountainfilm is committed to supporting documentary filmmakers in telling stories that support our mission to inspire audiences to create a better world. We seek non-fiction stories celebrating adventure, activism, social justice, culture, environment and indomitable spirit. The Commitment

Grants are focused on supporting documentary filmmakers in production or post-production stages. Mountainfilm promotes and encourages diversity behind the camera. We welcome applicants from any country. Grants range from \$1000-\$5000.

MountainFilm Emerging Filmmaker Fellowship

https://www.mountainfilm.org/mountainfilm-initiatives/commitment-grants/

Emerging Filmmakers are individuals from any country (must be currently living in the US) who are early in their creative career. These filmakers and are selected from the pool of Commitment Grant applicants. The fellowship provides one filmmaker with a yearlong mentorship, including editing, story consultation, networking opportunities, and a cash award. In addition, the fellowship includes a trip to Telluride during the festival over Memorial Day weekend, covering travel, lodging and a Mountainfilm pass*.

National Endowment for the Arts-Film & Media Arts Grant

https://www.arts.gov/grants/grants-for-arts-projects

https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/fy26-gap-film-media-arts-instructions-july.pdf

The NEA supports projects that contribute to a healthy and thriving arts ecosystem that is responsive to the dynamic, diverse, and evolving nature of the film and media arts field. This includes support for artists and audiences to engage with a spectrum of media arts genres and practices, such as traditional or expanded forms of storytelling, visual expression; and performance using film, cinema, audio, broadcast, new media, creative code, and related formats at the intersection of arts and technology.

Applicants may request cost share/matching grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Designated local arts agencies eligible to subgrant may request from \$30,000 to \$150,000 for subgranting in the Local Arts Agencies discipline. Additional eligibility, documentation, and reporting requirements for subgranting applications are detailed in the Local Arts Agencies section of the guidelines.

All grants require a nonfederal cost share/match of at least 1 to 1. For example, if an organization receives a \$10,000 grant, the total eligible project costs must be at least \$20,000 and the organization must provide at least \$10,000 toward the project from nonfederal sources. Our grants cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the project.

National Endowment for the Humanities- Media Projects

https://www.neh.gov/program/media-projects

The Media Projects program supports the development, production, and distribution of radio programs, podcasts, documentary films, and documentary film series that engage general audiences with humanities ideas in creative and appealing ways. Projects must be grounded in humanities scholarship and demonstrate an approach that is thoughtful, balanced, and analytical. Media Projects offers two levels of funding: Development and Production: funded up to \$75,000 for Development and \$700,000 for Production

Pacific Islanders in Communication

Shorts Fund

https://www.piccom.org/pages/shorts-fund

PIC provides funding of up to \$25,000 for of fiction and nonfiction short films of untold stories and fresh perspectives on the indigenous Pacific Islander experience. Our Shorts Fund selects projects for public media digital distribution and television broadcast with the hopes they might encourage a more informed, equitable and inclusive society. Producers that are US citizens, holds artistic, budgetary, and editorial control and owns the copyright to the proposed project, and have previous film or television experience and has at least one completed short may apply. The proposed fiction or non-fiction project may be in pre-production, production or post-production as long as they have the ability to be completed within 18 months of receiving PIC funds. The specific parameters for each kind of script are on the website.

Media Fund

https://www.piccom.org/pages/media-fund

PIC provides funding up to \$50,000 to \$65,000 for 30min to 60min non-fiction projects that are engaging and artistically innovative on subject matter that covers issues important to indigenous Pacific Islanders. Producers that are US citizens, holds artistic, budgetary, and editorial control and owns the copyright to the proposed project, and have previous film or television experience and has at least one completed short may apply. The proposed non-fiction project may be the production or post-production phases with specific stipulations for each listed on the website.

PBS POV Call for Entries

https://filmfreeway.com/POVCallforEntries

https://www.pbs.org/pov/

https://www.pbs.org/about/producing-pbs/open-call/

To further amplify the voices of emerging and diverse/BIPOC content creators across public media, PBS has issued an open call for proposals to support long and short form documentaries in the production stage or near completion that explore a broad range and collection of experiences, perspectives, and points of view. Proposals may be submitted across a range of genres/themes that resonate with a U.S. audience, including (but not limited to) personal history, arts, culture, science, and democracy/civics. Chosen projects will be eligible for distribution across select PBS platforms (linear or digital), which will be determined at PBS's discretion.

Broadcast Long Form

- 30, 60, or 90 minutes
- Eligible for up to \$50,000

Digital Short Form

- 8-25 minutes
- Eligible up to \$15,000

Points North Pretty Wild Fellowship

https://pointsnorthinstitute.org/artist-programs/pretty-wild-fellowship/

The Pretty Wild Fellowship at Points North will provide financial and creative support for four cinematic, character-driven short documentary films that shine a light on the beauty, grandeur, and vulnerability of the outdoors and the people and stories that live there. The fellowship will seek to support both emerging and established filmmakers and will welcome a wide range of creative approaches and styles, amplifying the voices, stories, issues, and narratives from historically underrepresented regions. Whenever possible, the Fellowship will support filmmakers who are from the region they are covering.

SFFILM Documentary Film Fund

https://sffilm.org/documentary-film-fund/

The SFFILM Documentary Film Fund (DFF) supports engaging documentaries in post-production (within 3 months of the final deadline) which exhibit compelling stories, intriguing characters, and an original, innovative visual approach. Since its launch in 2011, the SFFILM Documentary Film Fund has distributed more than \$900,000 to advance new work by filmmakers nationwide. DFF grants are awarded once each year to documentary feature projects (60min or more) and are open to filmmakers internationally. Individual grant amounts and the number of grants made will be

determined on an annual basis but generally support 3-4 projects each year with grants of \$10,000 – \$20,000. As with all SFFILM grants, in addition to the cash awards, recipients will gain access to numerous benefits through the comprehensive and dynamic SFFILM Makers artist development program.

Sundance Institute Support for Independent Storytellers

https://www.sundance.org/apply

The Sundance Institute's artist programs provide dynamic support at every step of the creative journey for individuals with distinct voices in film and episodic storytelling. Each program consists of labs, grants, intensives, sessions, and ongoing resources for artists to nurture their projects and sustain their careers. Through year-round activities, we provide the space for artists to create and share their stories with the world. The current labs, grants, and fellowships offered by the Sundance Institute, are Artist Accelerator, Catalyst, Documentary Film, Episodic, Feature Film, Ignite, Indigenous Program, Equity-Impact-and Belonging, Producers Program, Women at Sundance Institute, and 2026 Merta Mita Fellowship.

The Fledgling Fund for Documentary Film Outreach and Engagement

https://www.thefledglingfund.org/

The Fledgling Fund is a private, family-run foundation supporting initiatives that improve the health of communities in Palm Beach County and Martha's Vineyard. There are a handful of available grants, some of which invitation only, all focused on innovation and growth in the listed geographic focus areas.

Tribeca Film Institute Filmmaker Programs

https://www.tfiny.org/program/filmmaker

Tribeca Film Institute provides funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities for entry-to-mid level filmmakers. There are programs for scripted, documentary, and interactive projects of various lengths.

Vision Maker- Media Creative Shorts Fellowship

https://visionmakermedia.org/creative-shorts-fellowship/

The Creative Shorts Fellowship supports Emerging Native filmmakers to produce a short film: documentary, drama, experimental, or animation piece; and supports a mentorship with a career professional film producer or director. Native or non-Native, may also submit a proposal—following criteria and eligibility but topic ideas may be about Native cultures, values, histories, contemporary life, environmental justice, social justice, youth, elders, and/or Native empowerment.

Vision Maker- Media Public Media Fund

https://visionmakermedia.org/public-media-fund/

VMM seeks public media film and television projects that are intended and appropriate for Public Media Television Broadcasting, including Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) digital and streaming platforms, that represent the cultures, experiences, and perspectives of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

At times, Vision Maker Media may offer additional distribution opportunities to funded film and television programs such as educational and home, as well as possible theatrical, non-theatrical, television (free, pay syndicated and video-on-demand), multimedia and internet broadcasting (including podcasting and streaming). Categories for accepted media: Research and Development (\$5,000-\$25,000), Production (up to \$150,000), and Post-Production (up to \$30,000).