Screenwest (Australia) Ltd
ABN 43 620 492 300

Documentary Development Investment Fund Guidelines

This fund invests in the development of documentary programming to support and grow a sustainable Western Australian screen industry.

Screenwest funding is a partial contribution to the next stage of development.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically under-represented groups.

Funding Available

- Up to $25,000 per project application.
- There will be a minimum of two competitive rounds per financial year.
- Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.
- Screenwest may approve funding less than the requested amount, as guided by the recommendations made during the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.
- An applicant can access a maximum of $50,000 per financial year through all Screenwest project development programs, excluding the Screenwest Matched Development Investment Fund.

Eligibility

To be considered eligible for this program, the below eligibility criteria applies.

Applicant Eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Screenwest Terms of Trade.

2. Be an individual who is a Western Australian Resident with a registered Australian Business Number (ABN) or be a Western Australian Resident Company, as defined in the Terms of Trade. Non-Western Australian applicants will only be considered where they can demonstrate significant cultural and/or economic benefits to Western Australia.

3. Hold the underlying rights at the time of application. Screenwest project development funding cannot be used to purchase or renew options or rights to a project.

Project Eligibility

The project must be a documentary project in one of the following formats:

- Feature
- Single
- Series
- Large format e.g. IMAX
- Innovative documentary project.

For a list of projects that are not eligible for funding, refer to the Terms of Trade.

Resubmissions

Projects must clearly demonstrate substantial changes (as determined by Screenwest Management) if the project has previously been declined twice for funding.

Application Materials

All applications must include:

1. A log line, one paragraph summary and a detailed synopsis, and information on format and duration.

2. A completed Screenwest development budget template, including a line-by-line rationale for the Screenwest funding request. The applicant is expected to include acceptable rates for fees when preparing the development budget.

3. The latest treatment or a detailed concept document including character outlines and episode synopses.

4. A detailed development plan outlining the objectives of this stage of development, activities to be undertaken and intended outcomes.

5. CVs (one page) of the key creatives and, if applicable, a company profile indicating past success in developing and producing projects.

6. Letters or emails of intent or other documentation giving proof of marketplace interest.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. *Commercial:* the strength of the market interest and likely audience appeal of the concept.

2. *Creative*: the originality, quality, and strength of the concept.

3. *Planning & Delivery*: the strength of the development plan, development budget, and the team's ability/track record to deliver outcomes.

4. *Benefits to WA:* cultural, creative and economic benefits of the project and its ability to deliver outcomes in Western Australia. Projects that have higher Western Australian elements (e.g. locations, talent) will be more competitive.

5. *Diversity*: how the project supports Screenwest's commitment to the creation and growth of diverse representation, including overall diversity of projects funded by Screenwest.

Screenwest will weight the above assessment criteria as it deems appropriate to best serve the purpose and strategic priorities of the organisation.

Application Process

Prior to applying:

- Read these guidelines and the Terms of Trade. The Terms of Trade explain the terms and conditions on which Screenwest does business.

- Review the online application form on the SmartyGrants Portal. Make sure you have all the required documents ready to submit with the application.

- Discuss your application with the Screenwest Program Manager before you apply.

How to Apply

- Complete an online application form through the SmartyGrants Portal.
- Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material. Refer to the ‘Application Materials’ section above.
- Contact the Program Manager if you require accessibility assistance.

After You Apply

- Applications are reviewed to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria.
- A panel consisting of Screenwest Management and experienced industry representatives will assess eligible applications.
- You can expect a decision within 6-8 weeks of the funding round closing date.
- Screenwest will advise applicants of the outcome of their application via email or phone.

Terms of Funding

- Funding is provided as an investment that is repayable if and when the project goes into production, as set out in the Terms of Trade.
- Any Screenwest project development investment repayment obligations must be met.
- Successful applicants will enter into a Development Investment Agreement (DIA) with Screenwest outlining funding conditions, cash flow details and the deliverables required for scheduled payments.

Enquiries

Email: info@screenwest.com.au

Phone: +61 8 6169 2100.

Toll Free: 1800 463 043 (WA regional callers only).

Click here to contact the Program Manager.