

Sundance Institute Documentary Fund Work in Progress Application Guidelines and Checklist

Description

The Sundance Documentary Fund is dedicated to supporting U.S. and international documentary films and videos focused on current and significant issues and movements in contemporary human rights, freedom of expression, social justice, and civil liberties. In supporting independent vision and creative, compelling stories, the Sundance Documentary Fund hopes to give voice to the diverse exchange of ideas crucial to developing an open society, raise public consciousness about human rights abuses and restrictions of civil liberties, and engage citizens in a lively, ongoing debate about these issues. Visit www.sundance.org for details.

Eligibility Requirements

The Fund only accepts projects dealing with contemporary issues, and does not accept historical projects, biographies, or series. Individuals from around the world may apply with documentary film or video projects that range in length from full broadcast hour to long format feature. Applicants must have creative and budgetary control over the proposed documentary. The Sundance Documentary Fund is extremely competitive and only a fraction of submitted proposals will be funded. Quality of work samples, strength of proposal, potential for broad international distribution, and the issue's significance are elements heavily weighed during the review process. As the SDF works on a rolling submissions basis, we do not have any deadlines.

Filmmakers who are awarded grants for their specific projects may also be invited to participate in Sundance Institute's Documentary Edit and Story Lab and/or Documentary Composers Lab. The Labs are open only to those filmmakers receiving grants from the Fund.

Two distinct project categories will be considered for funding:

- Development Funds
- Work in progress (production or post-production) Funds

Development Funds

Development funds are available for projects in the research or preproduction phase. Grants in this category range up to \$15,000. Grantees receiving development funds may reapply for additional support upon completion of at least a rough cut of their documentary. Past Sundance Documentary Fund grantees are not eligible for development funds. Please note that the new application must be accompanied by a work in progress VHS tape or DVD and a comprehensive project update.

Work-in-Progress Funds

Work-in-Progress projects must be in production or postproduction. These submissions are eligible for the maximum grant award of \$75,000, but generally, awards in this category will range from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Please note that applicants are required to submit a rough cut or fine cut of their work in progress.

How to Apply for Work-In-Progress Funds

Work in progress projects must be in production or postproduction. These submissions are eligible for the maximum grant award of \$75,000, but generally, awards in this category will range from \$20,000 to \$50,000. Please note that applicants are required to submit a rough cut or fine cut of their work in progress.

Please note: Tapes will not be returned.

Checklist of required information and materials for Work in Progress Funds:

A project treatment/synopsis in English that includes: a statement of objective, narrative summary, explanation of the project's current status, the project director's filmography, a list of project's key personnel and their filmographies, and a comprehensive distribution/marketing strategy.

A comprehensive budget in U.S. dollars that includes the amount of funds secured to date and a complete list of funding sources.

A completed prior work by the project's director on VHS (NTSC, PAL or SECAM) or DVD, with English subtitles, or accompanied by a dialogue transcript in English. If no video sample is available, a creative work indicating the director's artistic point of view and the ability to tell a story using a visual medium is required.

A VHS tape (NTSC, PAL, or SECAM) or DVD of the work in progress, either rough cut or fine cut, with English subtitles, or accompanied by a dialogue transcript in English.

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If applying for Work in Progress funds, please print out and complete the following checklist, and make this the first page of your proposal. If you are unable to print this out, or have any questions or concerns, please send an email to: sdf@sundance.org.

Please send completed proposals to:

Attn: Sundance Institute Documentary Fund
8530 Wilshire Blvd, 3rd Floor
Beverly Hills, CA 90211-3114
310-360-1981